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THE VARSITY

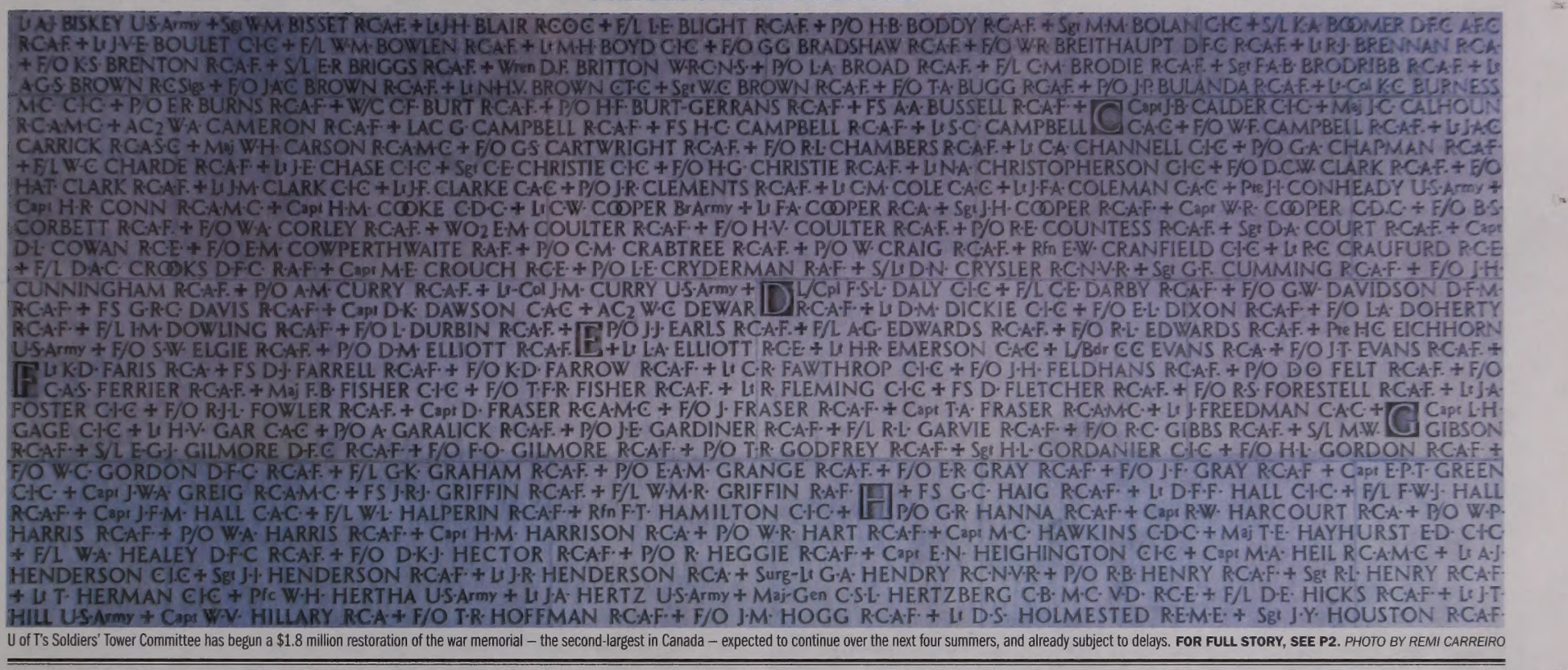
University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"Yet for a twenty-year-old middle-class girl like Niusha, her concerns don't involve politics – western headlines don't define her Iran." – Mahsa Alimardani **p12**

Vol. CXXXI
No. 4
6 September 2010

SOLDIER'S TOWER RESTORED



U of T's Soldiers' Tower Committee has begun a $1.8 million restoration of the war memorial – the second-largest in Canada – expected to continue over the next four summers, and already subject to delays. **FOR FULL STORY, SEE P2.** *PHOTO BY REMI CARREIRO*

TRAGEDY IN MANILA

UTSC mourns death of fellow student

Doris Leung one of eight victims in Manila hostage tragedy

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Flags are flying at half-mast in memorial of a student killed in the recent bus hostage massacre in the Philippines.

Doris (Chung See) Leung, 21, was killed along with her 14-year-old sister Jessie and father Ken Leung. The family, which holds dual Canadian and Hong Kong citizenship, was on a tourist bus in Manila that was hijacked by a former policeman. After a 12-hour standoff, eight victims were killed.

"[Doris] was an amazing individual; full of ambition and determination. She was involved in various events around the campus and always put others' needs far ahead of her own," said Almas Sultan, a fourth-year Health Studies student. Sultan is volunteer coordinator at the UTSC Health and Wellness Centre, where Leung volunteered.

"I am still in shock that a fellow student from our campus has passed away so soon," said Sultan.



Leung graduated from an international high school in Hong Kong that follows the academic curriculum of the province of Alberta. She enjoyed piano and Pictionary and was part of the UTSC Concert Band.

UTSC Principal Franco Vaccarino sent a statement of condolence to all UTSC e-mail accounts this afternoon

"Miss Leung was an active member of our community, regularly

SEE **'DORIS LEUNG'** – PG 2

SALARY SCANDAL?

U of T has widest salary gap between genders in Canada

U of T calls figure 'very blunt analysis'

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A recently released Statistics Canada report showed U of T to have the widest gap in average salaries between male and female full-time faculty members in Canada, amounting to some $20,158.

The research paper was based on figures from the 2008-2009 academic year, surveying "full-time teaching staff in degree-granting institutions who are under contract for twelve months or more," including all ranks and disciplines.

Sara-Jane Finlay, director of Faculty and Academic Life at U of T, called the $20,000 figure "a very blunt analysis," arguing it was not representative of the effective difference in male and female salaries.

"The biggest problems are that there isn't a distinction made by discipline where there are vastly huge variations in average starting salaries, and in rank, so when you clump all those things together and you're including in your analysis someone who's in the humanities who's just starting out and someone who's been here for 30 years, is a full professor and works in engineering, management or law, you'll end up with a massive difference," says Finlay.

"... the market salary in male-dominated disciplines tends to be significantly higher than the market salary in female-dominated disciplines."

There are two mechanisms by which salaries get increased at U of T. One is an "across the board" increase, usually between 2-3 percent, and the other is "based on merit" — faculty reviews, publications, and the like. "There is no gender dimension to merit," said Finlay — she therefore attributed the wage discrepancy to two factors.

"The majority of our senior faculty are men and that reflects the demographics of hiring 30 years ago, and the market salary in male-dominated disciplines tends to be significantly higher than the market salary in female-dominated disciplines."

Finlay stressed that the salaries are "not something [U of T] necessarily sets," but based on "what universities across North America would offer."

"Those ones that tend to have higher salaries tend to be in disciplines that are male-dominated: engineering, computer science, management, business, law; those sorts of areas, and the disciplines that traditionally have lower salaries tend to be the ones that are dominated by women, so the humanities, education, some parts of the health sector. So that's a huge difference right there and that's an effect of the market," said Finlay.

Though Finlay couldn't say why the higher-paid disciplines are male-dominated, calling it "a huge

SEE **'GENDER GAP'** – PG 3

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
18°C to 25°C	20°C to 29°C	16°C to 21°C	13°C to 21°C	10°C to 21°C

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL
Fall 2010 By-Election
Call for Nominations

There are two vacant seats on the Graduate Education Council; one Faculty, one Student. The Graduate Education Council is responsible for establishing policies and procedures concerning the administration and quality of graduate studies at the University of Toronto.

The Graduate Education Council considers:
- policies affecting graduate studies
- new degree program proposals
- changes in admission and major program requirements
- other matters, as appropriate

Nomination forms are available from:
- SGS Website (address below)
- School of Graduate Studies

Eligibility:
Nominees must be full members (non-Emeritus) of the graduate faculty or registered graduate students in the SGS division in which they have been nominated.

Vacant Seats (2):

1 Faculty Member of a graduate unit in Humanities

1 Graduate Student in Humanities

Terms of Office:

Terms begin July 1, 2010. The first meeting of the academic year is usually held in October.

Faculty members normally serve for three years.

Students may opt for a one- or two-year term of office, to a maximum of three consecutive years.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 5:00 PM TUESDAY, September 21, 2010

For more information contact: Governance Officer, School of Graduate Studies, 65 St. George Street, Toronto, ON, M5S 2Z9
www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/gec/elections.htm • sgs.governanceofficer@utoronto.ca • Tel: 416 946 3427 • Fax: 416 978 1649



Soldiers' Tower begins four year restoration project

World War memorial is second largest of its kind in Canada

Aakanksha Tangri
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Soldiers' Tower has begun a $1.8 million restoration project expected to continue over the next four summers. The iconic structure, built in 1924, is a memorial to the 1,185 members of the University of Toronto who lost their lives during the two World Wars.

"The aim and objective of the Soldiers' Tower Committee is to honour those who gave their lives in the service of Canada and to support those presently serving," says Brigadier-General H.E. (Ted) Brown, a Woodsworth alumnus and WWII veteran. "Age and weather damage require periodic renovations such as those now taking place."

This summer's work focused on the stabilization of the two western pinnacles that were suffering from weathered mortar as a result of rain and snow. The mortar is being replaced and the pinnacles are going to be reinforced with steel.

"An assessment by ERA architects in 2006 determined that critical restoration is needed to the pinnacles [...] and the upper masonry of the Tower," said University Advancement representative Kathy Parks in an e-mail to The Varsity. "Among other things, the pinnacles have moved off-centre. The northwest pinnacle is the most affected. Some other repairs are needed to other areas of stone on the tower that have degraded or been damaged."

The first stage of the project was expected to be completed by the end of August but has been delayed to September 24. The estimated budget for this stage of renovations is $260,000.

Construction scheduled for 2011 will include the dismantling and rebuilding of the two eastern pinnacles while 2012 and 2013 will focus on the lower reaches of the walls including the Tower arch.

The restoration efforts any of the engravings on the tower. Etchings of those lost during the Great War were previously damaged during past restoration efforts.

"... [the] lightening of the names resulted from a separate cleaning to remove dark staining of the entire wall and was recognized as a mistake after its completion," says David Platt, the vice-chair of the Soldiers' Tower Committee, in an e-mail to The Varsity.

Parks suggests that a graffiti incident several decades ago may have further impacted etchings on the Tower.

"... a student some decades ago spray painted graffiti on the Memorial Screen," said Parks in an email to The Varsity. "We cleaned off the graffiti but the cleaning job made the names more difficult to read."

The tower has had no major structural repairs for the past 85 years save for the selective replacement of sandstone masonry 10 and 40 years ago. After the current, multi-year restoration, no major structural repairs are expected to be completed for the next 85 years.

Soldiers' Tower is the second tallest war memorial in Canada, after the Peace Tower in Ottawa. The 51-bell carillon is the only University-based carillon in Canada and is the site of the University's annual Remembrance Day service.

"We promised there would be a place of honour for the fallen at U of T," says Chair of the Soldiers' Tower Committee Malcolm McGrath. "The Soldiers' Tower is that place."

The tower was originally built through a fundraising drive by the University of Toronto Alumni Association, which raised funds to build the tower and establish loans and scholarships for homecoming soldiers.

There will be free concerts held at the Soldiers' Tower Sunday afternoons in September featuring reputed guest carillonneurs. A table will also be set-up at the UTSU Clubs Fair on September 10 where students can sign-up for the Carillon Training Program.

To learn more about the Soldiers' Tower visit alumni.utoronto.ca

'DORIS LEUNG' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

volunteering to assist at events," the message read. "There will be a memorial service and book of condolence during orientation festivities in September." Counselling services are being offered to the UTSC community.

A Facebook group has been started by UTSC students in memorial of Doris.

"I personally did not know Doris, but I found about her passing away a few hours ago," said Rupom Rahman, a third-year International Studies and Political Science student who created the group "to help fellow students appreciate the type of individual that Doris was, and to convey their condolences to the rest of her family."

"I was shocked and saddened to hear that a fellow student from the same campus had lost her life so suddenly during a crucial period of time in her life," said Rahman.

Leung's mother, Amy Ng, said her 58-year-old husband stood up and charged at the gunman, trying to defuse the situation.

"He sacrificed himself. I wanted to embrace my husband and die with him. But then I thought of my children," Ng told Hong Kong Cable TV yesterday. Pictures of the father and husband, printed on national newspapers, can be seen in hallways throughout campus.

Jason Leung, 18, is in critical condition in a Hong Kong hospital after a severe head wound. Ng told Chinese media the gunman did not intend to kill people and that the deaths could have been avoided.

With files from The Associated Press *and* The New York Times.

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U of T Bookstore now offering textbook rentals

Rent-a-text program could result in up to 40 percent savings for students

Amanda-Marie Quintino
VARSITY STAFF

University of Toronto students can look forward to some savings when shopping for textbooks this semester.

Over the summer, the U of T Bookstore launched a pilot program which gave students the chance to rent their textbooks as opposed to purchasing them. The test run was so successful that the bookstore decided to increase the number of texts available through the program.

"The pilot was very positive in that the response overall has been quite positive from students and faculty and that we learned how to best handle the process so we are ready to get it right on a larger scale in September," Chad Saunders, the U of T Bookstore's VP Retail, told The Varsity.

In September 2010, the U of T Bookstore conducted a student survey that showed 66 percent of students were interested in renting textbooks. Many American colleges and universities currently offer this option to their students, but U of T is the first Canadian post-secondary school to do so. Also, the U of T Bookstore researched what students don't like about rental programs in the U.S. and will now be applying these lessons to their own program.

"The inspiration for the program was simply that we are embracing innovation and listening to students," said Saunders. "The one theme that continues through all of our student survey results is that students want better value."

"Rent it, use it, return it. Rent your textbooks and save," reads the U of T Bookstore's website: and save they will. According to Saunders, the rent-a-text program has the potential to save students approximately 40 percent off each textbook, which makes for substantial savings, considering how many textbooks the average student carrying a full course load is required to purchase each semester. This program is an especially cost-effective option for students who do not anticipate keeping their books once their courses are completed.

For now, only new books will be rented. At the end of the semester, the student will return the textbook (some highlighting and note-taking is acceptable) and the U of T Bookstore will either offer the used book for sale if it is still being used in the upcoming semester's curriculum or will sell it to used-book wholesalers.

And this is where recent U of T English and history graduate Tara Wells thinks the program may be flawed.

While Wells believes offering students the opportunity to rent textbooks is a good idea, she also believes the U of T Bookstore may end up losing money in the long run.

SEE 'TEXTBOOKS' – PG 4

Province awards U of T $6.7 million

Healthcare optimization and neurotoxicology among programs to be funded

Christine Jeyarajah
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The provincial government has presented U of T with $6.7 million through the Ontario Research Fund-Research Infrastructure Program (ORF-RI) and the Early Research Awards (ERA). A total of $4.2 million is awarded through the ORF-RI and $2.5 million through ERA to support projects dealing with matters of health, science, environmental issues and social issues.

"Here in Toronto, and across Ontario, our researchers are making breakthroughs in health care, tackling climate change through alternative energy and clean technologies, and expanding digital media and communications," said Glen Murray, Minister of Research and Innovation and MPP for Toronto Centre. "The McGuinty government is proud to be helping them discover new ideas, build new businesses, and create the kind of future we want for Ontario."

The government is funding close to $18 million through the ORF in research infrastructure projects at universities and research hospitals across Ontario. The allotted investment will contribute to the success of 104 projects undertaken by more than 1,300 researchers at 14 institutions in 11 cities throughout the province.

The University of Toronto's researcher Dr. Dionne Aleman has been awarded $91,324 to implement the use of mathematical modelling to solve healthcare problems. Aleman does research in modelling the spread of pandemic diseases in urban environments.

"We use mathematical models to simulate the unique movements of individuals in large urban areas, specifically, the GTA, in order to better predict the spread of a pandemic disease and to help determine effective public policy mitigation strategies," says Aleman, who also conducts research in the field of radiotherapy, which is often used as a treatment for cancer.

"If a brain tumour needs to be irradiated, a big concern is the proximity to the brain stem. We don't want to deliver too much radiation, which will leave the patient in a very bad state, but at the same time we also want to treat the underly-

SEE 'PROVINCIAL AWARD' – PG 4

'GENDER GAP' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

societal question," she claimed it was changing, with young women entering higher education at unprecedented rates, "so there are more women to become faculty members than there ever were before. I don't know why there weren't more women in engineering 20 years ago," said Finlay. "Now there are."

As the university has expanded its faculty, they have hired more women — last year, some 50 percent of new faculty hires were female — and Finlay claimed "we're doing really well in that regard," maintaining that "if you were to compare like with like — looking at those assistant professors with their starting salaries in the same discipline — you wouldn't find that kind of difference. If you were to look at man and women in the humanities with same rank there would be very little difference in their salaries."

Finlay attributed the increased proportion of female faculty to a wider pool of applicants, reflecting U of T's "proactive recruitment" — trying to ensure they have applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds.

She also noted U of T's "family-friendly policies," such as year-long parental leave, childcare and eldercare benefits, and the university's Family Care Office as contributing elements in the increasingly female faculty.

"It makes it possible for women to work in academia, and we don't see the opting-out that you do in other industries, or off-ramping it's called — where women leave in order to have some time for childcare and rarely come back, either at rank or the level or responsibility that they had before. We don't see that. People leave for childcare and continue to move through the ranks."

Finlay attributes U of T having the widest discrepancy in Canada to its size and variety of disciplines. "I believe we offer the most varied mix of courses in Canada," said Finlay, "and so we have the widest range, so other universities that may not have the full range will have a narrower band of salary difference ... People who don't have engineering and law or management won't have the salary differences we have."

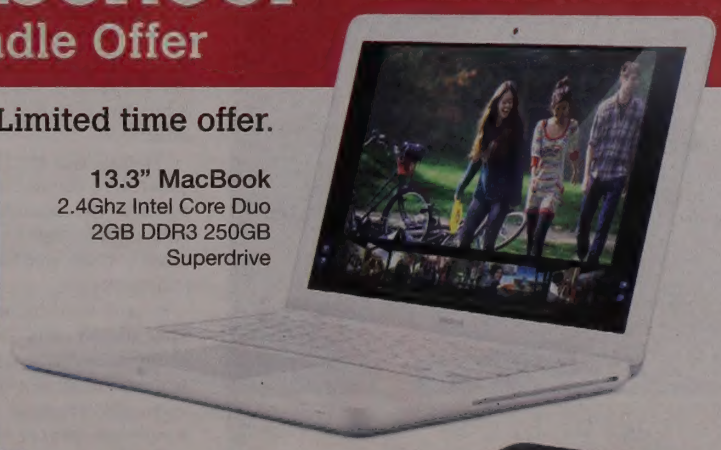


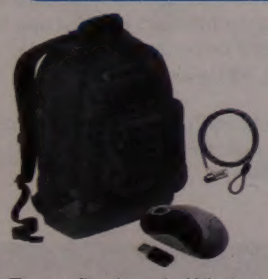
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Full and Part-Time Students who wish to opt-out of the OPIRG-Toronto can claim a fees refund with proof of enrolment for the 2010-2011 academic year and with Student Identification on the following dates:

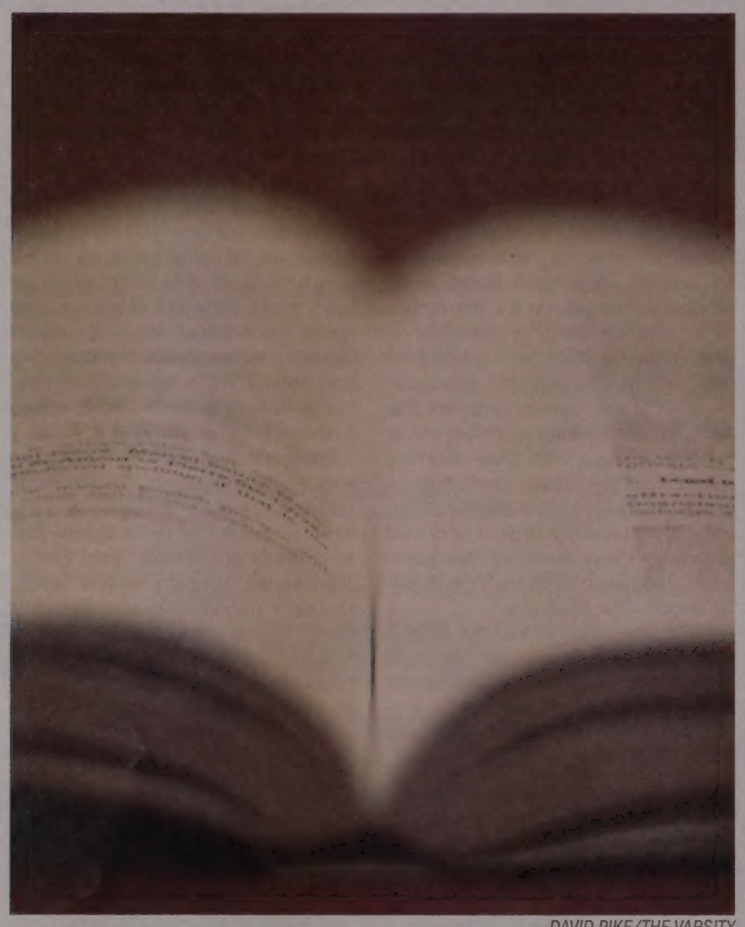
St. George Campus: September 7-17 at the Ontario Public Research Interest Group Office during regular office hours. (North Borden Building, Room 101, 563 Spadina Crescent, Toronto, ON)

Scarborough Campus: Monday, September 20 outside the Scarborough Campus Student Union Office between 12:00PM-6:00PM. (Student Center, near room SL-108, Scarborough Campus, 1265 Military Trail, Scarborough, ON)

Mississauga Campus: Thursday, September 23 outside the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union office between 12:00PM-6:00PM. (Student Center, near room 100, Mississauga Campus, 3359 Mississauga Road North, Mississauga, ON)

Contact OPIRG-Toronto for further information: opirg.toronto@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-7770.

'TEXTBOOKS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

"Oftentimes I've come across a book or two on my reading list that I know I will never refer to again and that I may only end up reading a quarter of so renting would be far more economical," explained Wells, 23, who also acquired a post-graduate Certificate in Marketing from U of T. "But I'd say that a downside is that if it is a textbook that gets updated every few years, it would be questionable as to whether the bookstore would invest in this program, since they would eventually have a surplus of outdated textbooks on their hands."

Saunders was unable to inform The Varsity of the general profit margin on these rentals.

"This is very difficult to say today as there are many factors involved that make it quite different from selling a book," he said. "The truth is, we are committed to bringing as much value as we can so if we can find a way to lower prices even further, we will do it. We are leading in Canada in offering this solution to students and we will work hard to continue to do that in the near future."

Although textbook sales are a large component of the Women's Bookstore's profits, manager Victoria Moreno remains confident that the store will not suffer at the hands of the U of T Bookstore's textbook rental program.

"The fact that the University of Toronto Bookstore is offering textbook rentals could affect textbooks sales here, but what will determine that is primarily whether or not the professors order through the us or them," said Moreno, who took over the store at the end of July and is currently in the crunch of textbook orders.

"I've only had good feedback from the professors and many of them say it has always been important to them to support the Women's Bookstore as an independent and they intend to continue doing so," she said.

Moreno has been receiving textbook orders consistently over the past few weeks and expects the support to continue despite the discounts the U of T Bookstore is offering students.

Michele Nikolov, who will be beginning her first year in psychology at UTM in September, is looking forward to the savings and is definitely planning to rent her textbooks from the U of T Bookstore.

"This way, what I save on textbooks I can put towards the trip I take to get away from them," she said.

Nikolov gives U of T kudos for listening to and recognizing the needs of students.

"I'm glad U of T is looking out for the students," said Nikolov. "The economy is still rough and it's nice to know that the university I'm going to be attending is on my side, trying to save me money where possible."

Textbooks in all subjects will be available for students at all campuses. To confirm availability of a certain textbook and to rent, students are advised to visit the U of T Bookstore website at uoftbookstore.com

TTC reduces prices for students

New idea required to receive university student rate

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

Student unions across U of T have started selling new post-secondary discounted Metropasses. The discount is applicable to college and university students currently enrolled in a diploma or degree program, regardless of course load.

In November 2009 the TTC decided to implement a fare increase beginning January 2010. Following this decision, the Canadian Federation of Students launched the Fair Student Fares campaign, proposing the TTC extend the high school Metropass rate to post-secondary students. The campaign garnered over 6,000 signatures.

Passes were available to post-secondary students last year for $96 under the Volume Incentive Program administered by student unions. This figure rose to $107 following the TTC fair increase, although SCSU managed to keep the price down at $96 as of January.

In addition to purchasing the post-secondary Metropass from UTSU and the SCSU, students can also buy it from TTC collectors in subway stations.

In order to purchase the post-secondary Metropass, a new post-secondary TTC photo ID is needed. Students can purchase the ID from U of T student unions at either the St. George or Scarborough campus.

The St. George campus held photo sessions from August 25 at Hart House and August 30 to September 3 at University College. The Scarborough campus is holding photo sessions in the SCSU Alumni Lounge on the last Wednesday and Thursday of August, September, and October.

Students are required to pre-register on a website provided on the student unions' pages, with an included access code. The confirmation printout is needed in addition to a T-card, $7 cash, and, in Scarborough's case, a copy of their timetable.

Alternatively, TTC photo IDs are available for purchase from the TTC photo ID facility at Sherbourne station photo ID facility for $5.25. Applicants should bring their T-card and an acceptance or enrollment letter – available for a fee of about $8 from a college registrar's office – or a current timetable to confirm they are an eligible post-secondary student. A piece of photo ID is also required.

Purchasing the ID on campus is more expensive because the cards are more readily available. This was agreed upon after a third-party card provider agreed to make cards on the spot as opposed to sending them back after two weeks, as is done for high school students.

The TTC student photo ID can only be used with a post-secondary metropass. Both are required on every journey otherwise an adult fare will be requested. The pass is transferable to another student with a photo ID.

The TTC photo ID cannot be used to purchase tokens at a student price.

'PROVINCIAL AWARD' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

ing condition, hence we can't go too light on the radiation — we try to balance the two."

Mathematical modelling uses equations to examine processes. In the case of radiology treatment, modeling is used to develop optimal directions for radiation beams, positioning of the patient, and distributions of radiation within each beam.

"There are a lot of other sensitive tissues in the area of the tumour, so it is very important to get a dose of radiation that is covering the tumour, but at the same time not going beyond the tumour."

The infrastructure purchased by the grant is used for pandemic research as well as work in collaboration with the Princess Margaret Hospital. Aleman's research team also includes two PhD students, one Master's student and several undergraduate students.

"If you were to actually to look at the specifics of the grant, just about every dollar that is requested from every research group is funding of students, whether they are Master's students, Ph.D. students or even Post-Docs. If we can't pay them, we can't have them doing research."

Dr. Rebecca Laposa, a molecular toxicologist, has been awarded $170,884 to develop safer pharmaceutical drugs.

"The developing brain is incredibly complex and exquisitely sensitive to toxicity — unwanted side effects occur when exposed to drugs and environmental chemicals," said Dr. Laposa. "We want to know why and how neurons, also known as the "thinking" cells of the brain, are sensitive to these agents."

This evolving research field is beneficial to the pharmaceutical industry and the general public, both of whom benefit from new technologies that address health effects caused by chemicals in the environment. Dr. Laposa's research team includes three graduate students, one technician, and three undergraduate students who focus on how to protect neurons from toxicity, but also study another, more immature, cell type in the brain: neural stem cells.

"These cells are important for the emerging field of regenerative medicine," says Laposa. "We think DNA damage and the unique ways that neurons and neural stem cells deal with DNA damage are important in the mechanism of brain toxicity initiated by drugs and environmental chemicals."

Award funding will allow the research team to grow specialized cells like neurons and neural stem cells and study them with a new state-of-the-art microscope that will let them see how these cells change in subtle but critically important ways when exposed to drugs and environmental chemicals.

"Without a doubt, the new equipment will enable us to design studies and make discoveries that we could not even dream about otherwise."



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U of T has started a textbook rental program where students can save up to 40 percent on their books. Would you take advantage of this program?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY LAURA KATHLEEN MAIZE



Jenny

3rd Year English,
"Possibly. I suppose it's good since we're all on a modest income. It's good that this option is available."



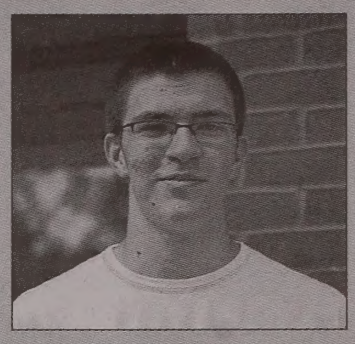
Jill

1st Year Graduate Studies in Occupational Therapy,
"Yes, considering how much I just spent on textbooks for this year!"



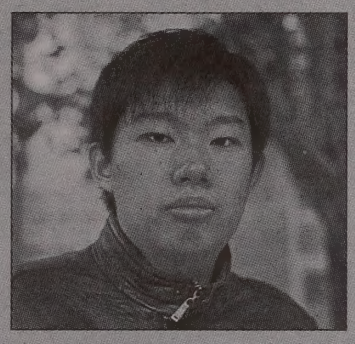
Dan

1st Year History and Political Science,
"Probably. I need to save as much money as I can on books. I think I speak for most students when I say I am broke as fuck."



Dylan

1st Year Social Sciences,
"Maybe, but first I'd want to know if I could get them cheaper used."



Frank

1st Year Life Sciences,
"I doubt it. I have a friend in second year who is going to give me all his old textbooks."



Cathy

2nd Year Life Sciences,
"Yeah, definitely. Textbooks cost so much money, especially for life science students. A discount would really help."



Vidya

1st Year MASc Aerospace Engineering,
"Probably not. I reuse my textbooks for several courses and like to own them myself."

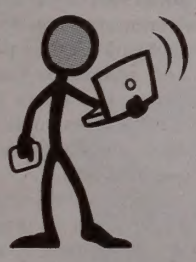


Alice

2nd Year Art History,
"Yeah, because you don't need a textbook for certain sections and some classes. Sometimes you don't end up using the text that often."

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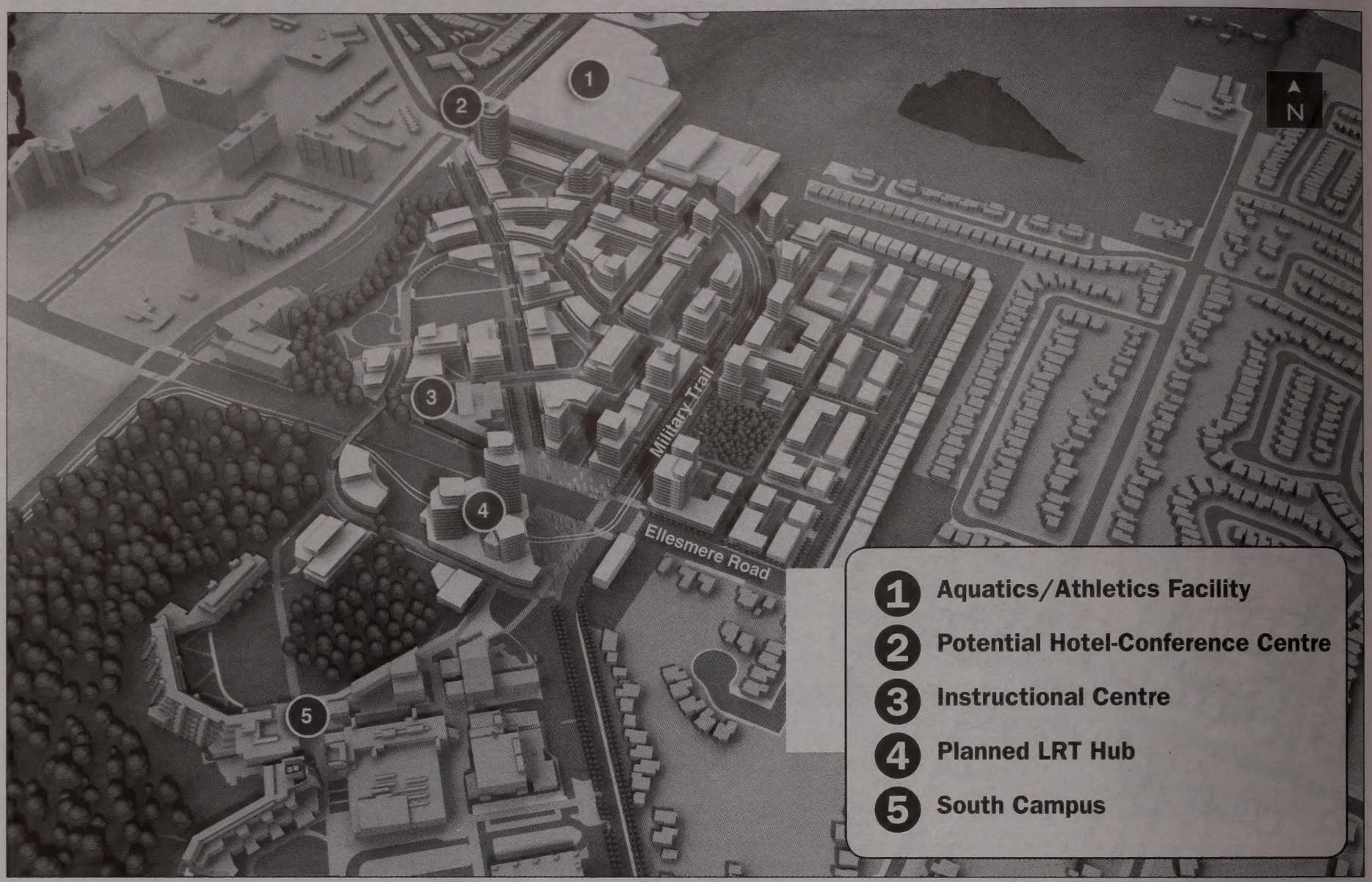
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UTSC makeover in the works

Possible plans include hotel and convention centre, promenade, new academic and residential space.



Visual representation of a potential development of UTSC's master plan. *OFFICE OF THE DEAN AND VICE-PRINCIPAL (ACADEMIC)*

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

"It's a very exciting time to be at UTSC," said U of T Scarborough principal Frank Vaccarino.

Plans for expansion of the crowded campus of roughly 10,000 students have been given a boost by the coming 2015 Pan Am Games.

Ideas under consideration include more academic and residence buildings, an extension to the TTC's light-rail plan that reaches campus, a performing arts centre, and replacing a section of Military Trail with a pedestrian walkway, complete with cafés and trees.

But the largest idea under review resulted from the coming Pan Am Games athletic centre. Vaccarino's office has commissioned Pannell Kerr Forster consulting firm to complete a feasibility study on a hotel and convention centre. Results are expected within a month.

"We're being real careful with this," said Vaccarino. "It represents a potential opportunity but before we jump to that, it's an area we have to understand well.

"UTSC has a substantial space shortage. We're not able to properly accommodate visitors."

Vaccarino said a hotel and convention centre could be used to house visiting athletes for the Pan Am Games and other sporting events. He noted the area has much less surrounding accommodation than St. George campus, and said the new buildings could host families visiting students, academic conferences, and international speakers.

The closest hotel to the campus is a 10 km drive. At a conference held last year, guests were lodged in some of the unused residence rooms.

UTSC student Kevin Wang said he's concerned about rising student fees. A $30 million escalating student levy was approved by a March referendum to build an athletic centre for the 2015 games.

"We already had the referendum which would shortchange a lot of us for next few years for an athletic facility, so adding to that might be a very bad idea."

"As long as they don't make us pay another levy, I'm fine with it. [It's] nice to have more development in our neighbourhood," said student Martine Lee. "Hopefully we can make use of the hotel or convention centre for student events as well."

Vaccarino stressed that levies are out of the question. "A student levy would not be part of the funding plan for such a project," he said, adding that a campus expansion would enrich the local community.

"This is really an opportunity for UTSC to play a role in the development of this region," said Vaccarino. "When the GTA amalgamated, this area lost some of its self-definition and the UTSC vision is to be an anchor and a catalyst for the region."

All new developments would take place on the north side of Ellesmere Road, a 50-hectare area owned by the campus currently used for parking spaces and parkland. Called the north campus, the area's first building, a $78-million instructional centre, is almost complete and is planned to open in March.

The athletic centre, which will include two Olympic-sized swimming pools and space for multiple sports, is planned to be built at the north end of the area, bordering city land. The proposed hotel and convention centre would likely be placed beside the athletic centre.

With files from The Globe and Mail.

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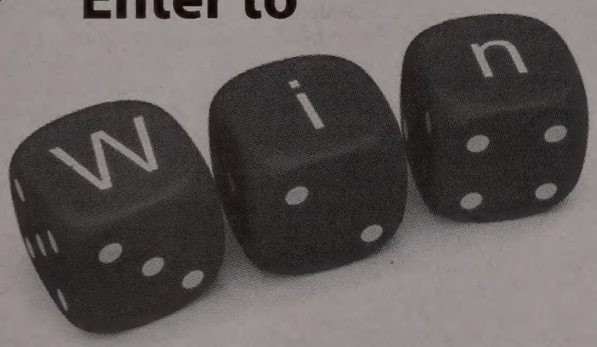
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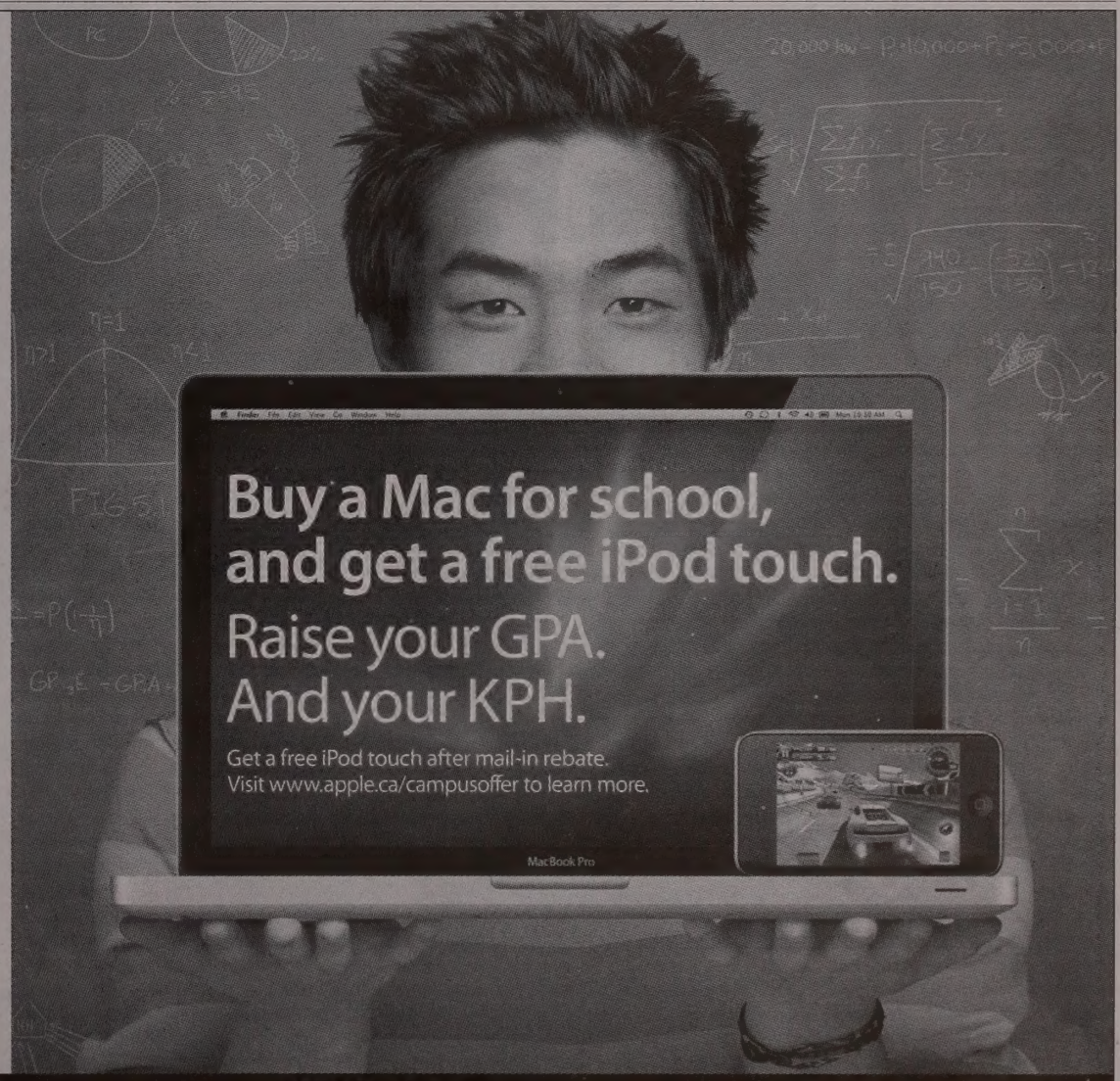
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IRKS & QUIRKS

Are all students treated the same?

Weekly tutorials and teaching assistant communication should be a given, not hit or miss

Charlene Patrick
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

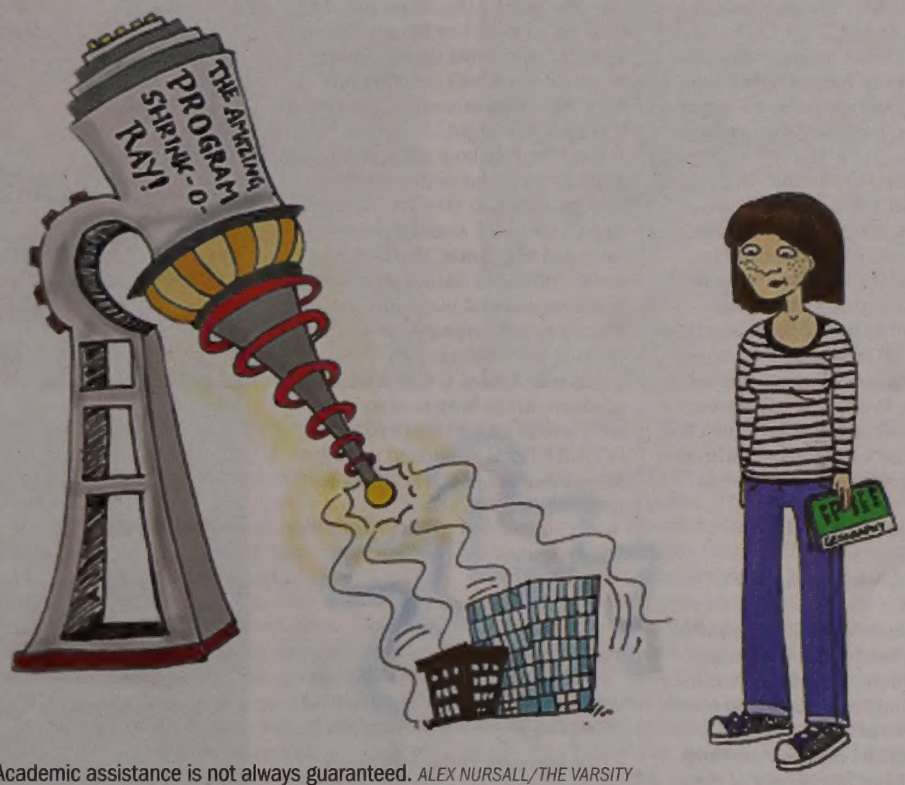
September 13 brings a new semester, new students, and the beginning of another year at the University of Toronto. However, as a third-year human geography specialist, this new year also continues the academic disparities I face compared to my fellow students.

The Geography department is one of the oldest at U of T, having just celebrated its 75th year of existence. However, the realities of being a student in this faculty are not always positive. With over 3000 students in Geography, it is hard for me to understand why I face issues with teaching assistant communication and little to no tutorial time.

When I took a first-year course on ancient civilizations with tutorials bi-weekly, I thought nothing of it and continued my adventure in geography for a second year; this time taking five courses within the field. In each of these five courses I received either no tutorials, tutorials once a month, tutorials every third week, TAs whose purpose was only to mark, or TAs students were not able to contact.

Compare this to a fellow student specializing in political science. In his five full year courses he received on average one tutorial per week. Over the course of one 12 week semester, this student had received more than triple the tutorial time I had. Furthermore, a student studying history claimed that even in a course where TAs were set up strictly for the purpose of marking, a class request led the professor to schedule hour long tutorials each week.

Overall, this unevenness has led to specific occasions where my academics were compromised. For example, while taking an urbanization course offered through Innis College the class was given a difficult assignment. Typically, students could speak about the assignment in a tutorial setting, e-mail the professor (or in this case sessional lecturer) or teaching assistants. However in this particular case, with no tutorials and specific instruction not to contact the teaching assistants, fellow students and I received unfair grades on a vague assignment without a platform to ask questions and seek answers. This outcome seemed inevitable.



Academic assistance is not always guaranteed. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

These disparities have led me to investigate just why my overall university experience is poorer than the experience of some others. It is certainly not the case that I am paying less for my courses; I paid the same $494.30 course fee in the 2009/2010 semester as my political science and history counterparts.

It is also not the case that the geography faculty is smaller or receives less funding than other arts and science departments. For example, the political science department contains approximately 2000 undergraduate students, nearly a thousand less than the geography department. Perhaps then, it is the case that human geography is a smaller stream within the greater geography umbrella? Under closer inspection, this is also not the case. U of T divides them equally.

I am not alone in facing academic disparity. Equity studies students within New College have also faced inequalities. Recent funding cuts to the department created problems with course availability and shortages of professors. With fewer courses offered the demand was higher and so were the waitlists. Furthermore, the university almost decided not to renew the contract of Equity Studies Professor Rod Michalko, which would have severely weakened the department. However, student outcry led to the extension of his contract.

It should not be the case that some students have their academics compromised by such arbitrary decisions. It comes down to students to push for the equity and fairness they deserve. After all, the 2010 financial review states that salaries related to teaching and research are paid for predominantly by student fees and government grants. We all pay the same price for the education we get: shouldn't we all be getting the same?

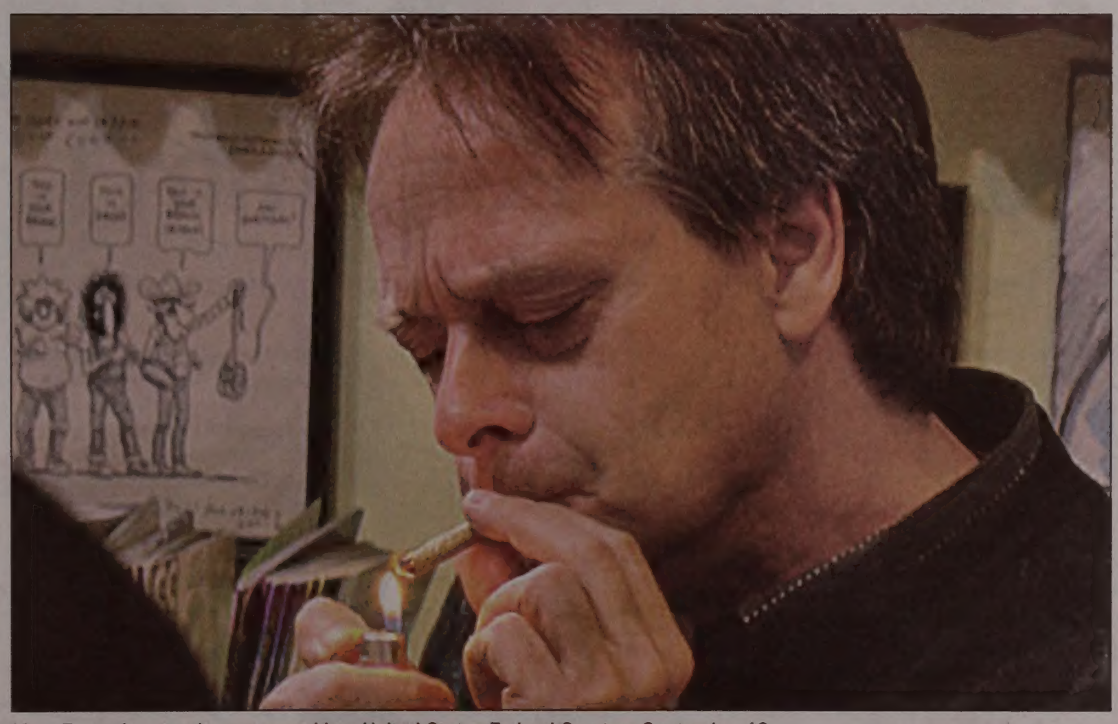
Broken borders

Marc Emery's extradition a violation of Canada's sovereignty

Maria Cichosz
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR

Marc Emery, Canada's self-proclaimed "Prince of Pot," is set to be sentenced in a United States Federal Court on September 10. Emery was extradited to the U.S. on May 20, 2010, to serve a five-year prison term for the sale of marijuana seeds over the Internet. Canadian police worked with the U.S.'s Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to have Emery extradited and charged under America's vastly more severe drug laws rather than having him serve his prison term in his home country. Emery's extradition to a foreign country to serve a sentence for activities that took place on domestic soil raises questions not only about prohibition and drug policy issues, but also about Canada's ability to act as a sovereign nation and protect its own citizens.

Marc Emery Direct Marijuana Seeds openly sold seeds through online mail order from 1994 to 2005. Emery practiced a great deal of transparency in his business, accurately declaring the source of his income and paying all provincial and federal taxes. Though Emery's store was raided for selling seeds on multiple occasions, Canadian courts repeatedly sentenced him only to fines and no prison time. In Canada, seed sellers face a $200 fine and one month in jail. U.S. penalties are much harsher, and if Emery is not sentenced to the five-year prison term agreed upon in his plea bargain, he faces 30 years to life in the American prison system.



Marc Emery is set to be sentenced in a United States Federal Court on September 10.

Though the distribution of seeds is illegal in Canada, no case has been prosecuted for decades and Canadian businesses similar to Emery's are allowed to operate with little state interference. What makes Emery's case unique is the fact that the profits from his business were routinely used to fund anti-drug war and anti-prohibition activism worldwide and within the U.S. The DEA press release issued upon Emery's arrest confirmed that the motivation for his arrest and extradition was mainly political and intended to deal a "significant blow" to "drug legalization lobbyists." Emery's admittedly illegal business had no American branches, no American employees, and he never set foot in the U.S. Despite this and despite being a Canadian citizen, he is being extradited to a foreign country to serve a prison term far harsher than any he would have received in a Canadian court.

Whether or not one agrees with Emery's practices, activism, and drug law reform efforts, it remains clear that his extradition represents our country's failure to protect its citizens and administer its laws within its own borders. Bending under American pressure to make an example of Emery in the political context of a costly, ineffective, and increasingly unpopular war on drugs, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson's extradition order is representative of Canada's inability to stand independently of U.S. policy and pressure. If Emery is to serve time for his seed sales, he should do so on Canadian soil and under Canadian law, not as a "criminal alien" who has limited rights within the U.S. prison system.

Emery's extradition is unnerving because it demonstrates our government's willingness to hand over its citizens to a foreign country when their actions and beliefs are not in agreement with that country's policies. Clearly, the safety of citizens is not as important to the Canadian government as compliance with American ideology and policy. This is a case in which the alleged legality or illegality of Emery's actions is far less relevant than the Canadian government's response to them. Our justice system should not be outsourced on demand.If Emery has committed illegal actions in Canada, he should be prosecuted under Canadian law. Ultimately, Emery's extradition is a gross injustice done to a Canadian citizen who has never harmed anyone, and a clear violation of the rights and protections promised to citizens by our government. At this point in time, only Emery's repatriation can serve as a sign of respect for Canadian sovereignty and the right to choose how laws are enforced within our own borders.

Re: Sweeping changes proposed for Arts and Science, August 23
It seems like Gertler is a reasonable manager for an academic. Even though it makes no sense for teachers to manage a school for once the administration seems to be doing something right. Merging similar departments that teach culture from around the world is sensible. Anything else they teach should already be in the history or anthropology offerings.

As for funding: it is the not university's fault, it is pure negligence of the Government of Ontario. Any other schemes are purely futile in the long run.

Paul Amber

Re: Sweeping changes proposed for Arts and Science, August 23
Gertler hasn't published anything (or updated his Geography CV) since 2003. That's a long enough lapse at this point for him to be considered a bureaucrat straight up.

For the people laying the blame at lack of provincial or federal funding: this university isn't a lobbying university and Towards 2030 plan isn't going to make it one. The administration is perfectly happy to let the ineffectual student ragtag lobbying efforts continue while pressuring the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in the opposite direction to raise or eliminate tuition caps.

Program cuts are about as inevitable as tax cuts. In that it's as heavily motivated in ideology as it might be in practical experience. Rotman's little beautification projects and the Munk School's perpetually continuing bloatage is testament to that. It's prosperous on the one hand to be shrugging and hawing about belt-tightening and then to be skimming

LETTERS

10 percent off of Engineering and A&S tuition intake funding for yet another renovating project.

Jiayi

Re: Mistaken Views, August 23
The Srebrenica Genocide is not a matter of Stephen Harper's opinion; it's a judicial fact recognized first by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and subsequently by the International Court of Justice.

A Jewish Holocaust survivor, Judge Theodor Meron, presided over the Krstic trial when the court established the following undisputable facts:

"By seeking to eliminate a part of the Bosnian Muslims, the Bosnian Serb forces committed genocide. They targeted for extinction the 40,000 Bosnian Muslims living in Srebrenica, a group which was emblematic of the Bosnian Muslims in general... The Appeals Chamber states unequivocally that the law condemns, in appropriate terms, the deep and lasting injury inflicted, and calls the massacre at Srebrenica by its proper name: genocide."

Daniel Toljaga

Re: What are we paying for?, August 23
Awesome article! As a person who never has, but probably should, use the athletic facilities, these fees do seem sharp. I'm surprised there isn't an opt-out.

As far as Hart House, they only generate about 50 percent of their revenue from students, so the fee is necessary for them to continue operation. The alternative is that HH would become only a wedding and reception venue, and that would be to the extreme detriment of all the student activities they host. I kind of wish the HH levy was higher, so we wouldn't have to compete with their private bookings all the time.

Antonin

Re: What are we paying for?, August 23
I think it's understandable that the author's unhappy about being forced to pay for AC and Hart House. Not all schools do this. My sister at Cornell has to pay $200/yr to use the gyms (pools, tennis courts, etc are still free though). Incidental fees are only $300 in total if I remember right.

But I think encouraging students to go to the gyms with a student levy is not a bad idea. If it hadn't been that way, I would have never been to Hart House, learned to swim and got in decent shape. Sometimes, I still make fun of my sister's second measurement being an inch more than mine!

Anyway, I think it's beneficial to students in the long run, so I agree with it in principle. Remember ECO101? Tax is supposed to be for something beneficial but people normally wouldn't do it.

"CS Alumni"

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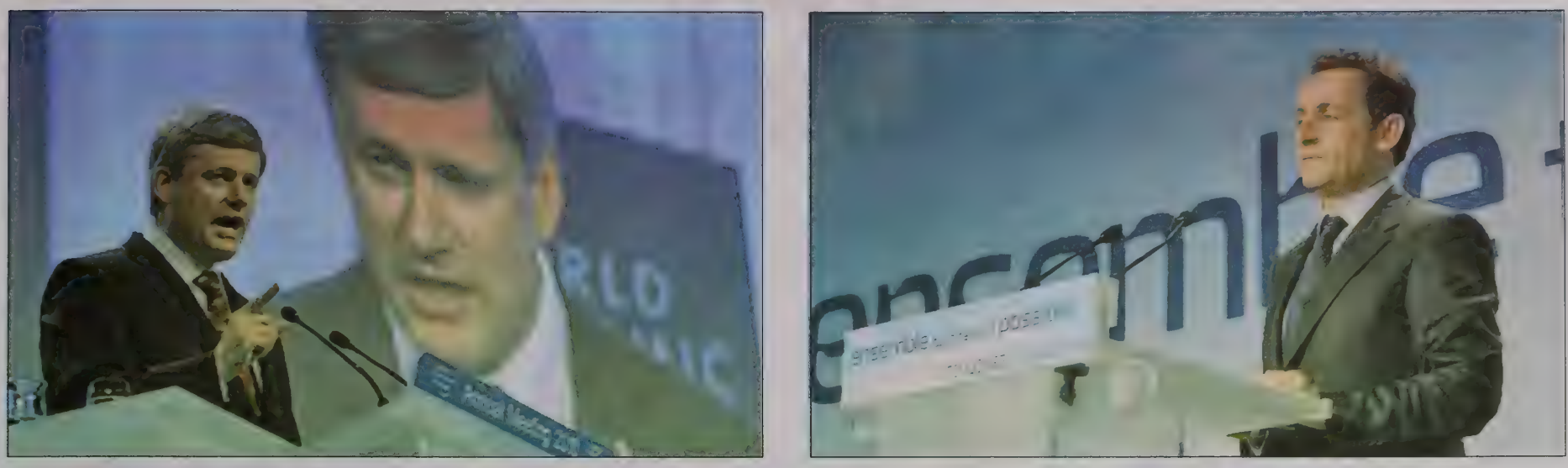
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The politics of fear

France's President and Canada's Prime Minister are exploiting xenophobia for political gain, argues **DYLAN C. ROBERTSON**



France's President Nicholas Sarkozy and Canada's prime Minister Stephen Harper have benefitted from exploiting popular prejudices about immigrants.

When approval ratings are low, some leaders rethink their strategies, come up with practical solutions, and connect with the populace. Others with less integrity seek an easy scapegoat: often in the form of foreigners.

The Roma people, pejoratively known as "gypsies," are Europe's largest minority. Somewhere between 500,000 to a million live in France, mostly coming from Eastern Europe. Many live in encampments: cramped lots on the periphery of cities filled with scores of mobile homes. Poverty, disease, and crime run rampant among the squatters.

Long the pariahs of Europe, discrimination of Romani people is well-documented throughout the continent. Historically known as a nomadic people, their wandering has never ceased as European societies continue to stigmatize and deny the continent's roughly 11 million Roma rightful education and social services.

Five years into the Decade of Roma Inclusion, an initiative backed with $17 billion in EU funding, many remain illiterate and unemployed. A sizable number roam city streets, peddling babies and begging passersby for spare change. Tourists are often pick-pocketed, conned, and sometimes, jumped.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative government has been extraditing Romani to their countries of origin for the past year. But the effort has recently been stepped up.

Facing abysmal approval ratings halfway through his term, Sarkozy has been dealing with a rising deficit, staggering growth and a party funding scandal. This year he's orchestrated unnecessary polemics, with a burqa ban and town hall-style debates on national identity, to distract the electorate and gain the support of France's extreme right-wing factions.

But the distraction hasn't been enough. His plans for EU austerity measures are meeting hostile opposition. The French blogosphere is swarming with rumours of violent uprisings on Labour Day resembling the 2005 and 2007 riots—both of which included scores of torched cars and civilians opening fire on police.

Two weeks ago, Sarkozy started an aggressive campaign of Roma deportation. Feeding off prejudice and fear, he's linked immigration to crime and has begun a program of "voluntary repatriation" for supposed illegal migrants. Adults are offered 300 euros and a seat on a flight to Romania or Bulgaria.

The move has been condemned by both the UN and the Vatican. The EU has questioned the legality of the expulsions, noting that its open-border policies make claims of illegal immigrants difficult to prove.

It gets uglier. Sarkozy even threatened to withdraw citizenship from immigrants convicted of endangering police. The last time French citizenship was revoked from naturalized foreigners was in the 1940s, when Pétain's fascist-collaborative government expatriated Jews to get them into Auschwitz-bound trains faster.

Similar scapegoating has also taken place in Canada. Last October, the Ocean Lady docked at Victoria, B.C. with 76 Tamil men aboard. All were released after the Canada Border Services Agency found no evidence of terrorist connections. The event provoked some debate and editorials, but faded from prominence within days.

Since then, Harper's government has been plagued by scandal: the Afghanistan torture allegations, the long-form census, building more prisons for "unreported crime," the G20 in general.

The second boat of Tamil migrants couldn't have chosen a worse time to arrive.

We were we told that these people were aliens jumping the queue and feeding off our tax system, that the Tamil Tigers are establishing a government in exile and sending more boats.

As the boat came closer, our collective intelligence was increasingly insulted. We were hysterically warned of terrorists on board. Rejecting the concept of innocence until proven guilty, the Conservatives still continue to spread these unsubstantiated allegations.

Not only does this slander those involved, it undermines the trust the public places in their government. The danger in throwing around terrorism allegations is that it opens the door to a boy-cried-wolf situation.

Harper's efforts have largely been successful. With weak media seeking the latest sensationalized story, the Conservatives have gained support from tough-on-crime voters and the pesky Afghan torture scandal is far off the radar.

Terrorism means using fear to coerce. It seems this is exactly Harper and Sarkozy's approach to public debate.

The Tamil migrants deserve the fair process afforded to all claiming refugee status. The Roma in France deserve concrete moves to help them assimilate into society. The Canadian and French electorates deserve governments that don't steep to scapegoating when faced with tough questions.

While the Tamil migrant situation is less elaborate than the French expulsion of Roma people, it sets a shared and dangerous precedent. Using xenophobia as a political tool is dangerous, cowardly, and undermines democracy. I trust Canadians will be smart and courageous enough to see past the fear-mongering and focus on getting answers to our real questions.

From the bottom up

Pakistan needs focused development, not just financial aid

Mehreen Imtiaz
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The recent floods in Pakistan have affected more people than the Indian Ocean tsunami, Kashmir earthquake, Cyclone Nargis, and Haiti earthquake combined. An estimated 20 million people, about twice the population of New York City, have been internally displaced, out of which 70 percent are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. In response to a call by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the international community has delivered a cumulative total of $800 million in foreign aid with more on the way.

Unfortunately, as proven by the 2005 earthquake in the Kashmir region, aid alone cannot ensure long term rehabilitation. Despite an estimated total of $5.8 billion pledged by the international community, thousands of earthquake victims were still living in refugee camps, waiting for the government assistance they were promised to re-build their homes. A similar fate awaits the flood victims if things are not done different this time around.

To ensure the long-term sustainability and effective mobilization of funds, aid needs to take the form of development assistance. As President of the Transnational Project, Imran Ahmed Khan pointed out, "We need to help the Pakistani government fix its own system. By throwing money and aid at Pakistan, we are not solving the problem." Hence, long-term growth and sustainability can only be achieved if donors complement aid with capacity training and technical assistance to local institutions, thereby increasing the ability of local NGOs and CBOs to manage relief and rehabilitation efforts.

However, the widespread distrust of the government means that flood victims and donors alike prefer international organizations to handle funds. Such organizations are often an inefficient means of allocating funds as much of the appropriated funds are used up within, due to the high overheads and costs, and the costs involved in ensuring their security. Recent threats by the Taliban regarding the unacceptable presence of the foreign aid workers may drive up these costs further.

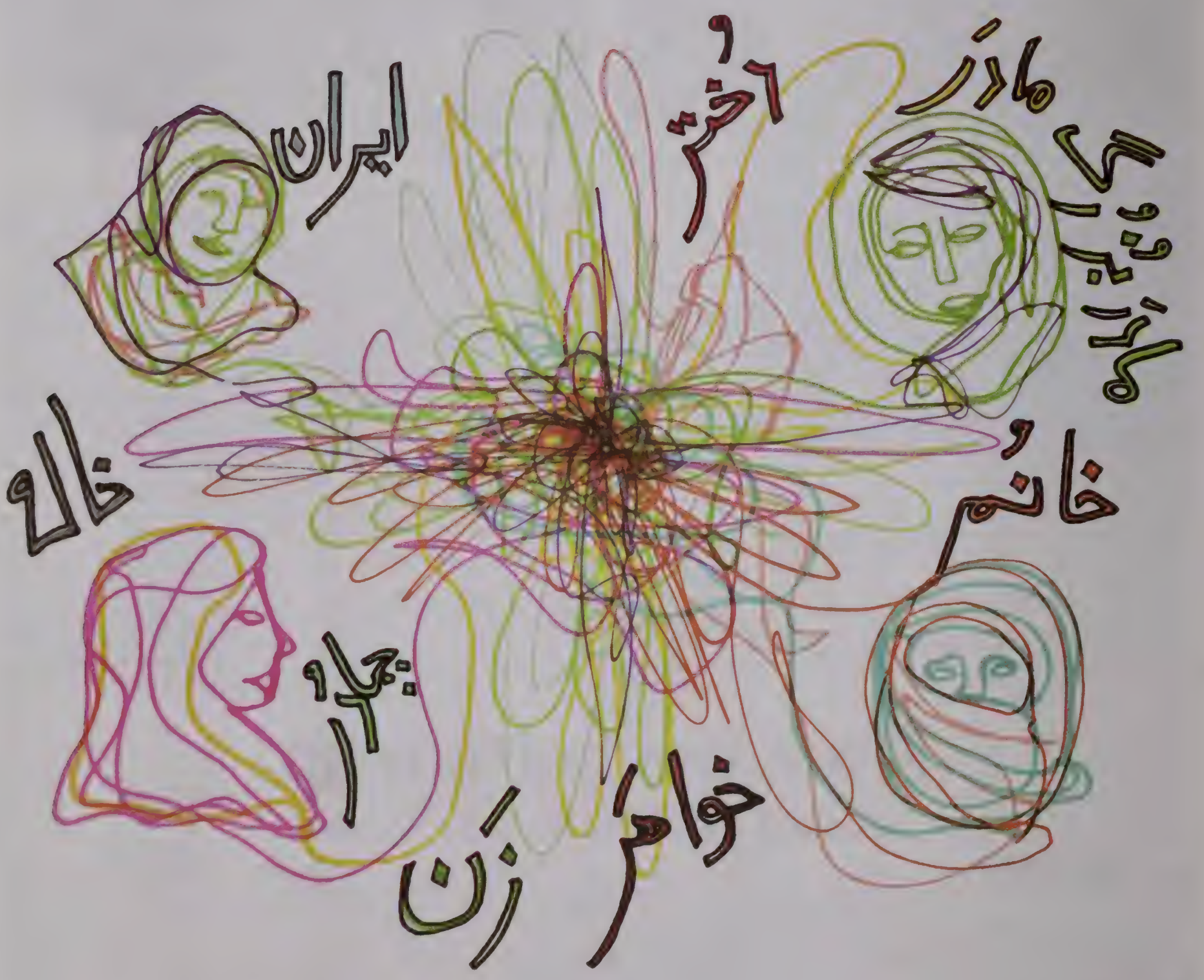
Community-based organizations are a cheaper and more sustainable alternative. One example is the Shahina Aftab Foundation which seeks to help small groups of women and children at a time, providing their initial needs, and creating income-generating projects to ensure their long-term rehabilitation. However, due to their limited resources and technical capacities, organizations such as these cannot operate alone on a large scale. The allocation of funds toward the capacity building and support of such projects should be treated as a key goal, one which will ensure ground-up development in the region.

Another obstacle faced by the country in its mobilization of aid is the widespread corruption inherent in the system. As one political leader in Pakistan warned, competition over international aid could result in corruption and violence, causing instability and social unrest as everyone tries to grab a piece of it. Given the scale of the disaster and the potential for corruption, the transparent transformation of the funds into a fair relief and recovery plan is a difficult task. One suggestion, made by the Interior Minister himself, has been to hire international auditing firms to ensure accountability and transparency of the funds.

This is not a feasible option, as apart from being costly, these firms could only stay for a limited period of time, thereby providing only a short-term solution. A more sustainable, if less scrupulous way of ensuring accountability could be expanding the reach of local chapters of Transparency International. Furthermore, the media's ability to inform the public and thereby influence public opinion can also serve as a powerful watchdog for keeping local politicians and the civilian-elite in check. Unfortunately, media interest tends to fade after the initial stages of a crisis, creating an opportunity for aid to be stolen or misallocated. By encouraging the media to continue its coverage on the affected regions into the long run, some amount of transparency may be ensured.

The rehabilitation and reconstruction of Pakistan is a monumental task, one that will probably take many years. However, as suggested by some American officials, the disaster should be treated as an opportunity for Pakistan to "leapfrog" ahead. Through technical assistance and development programs, new water, and energy systems, better schools and hospitals can be created. The global community can help Pakistan achieve ground-up development, thereby ensuring the stability of Pakistan and the surrounding region.

Iran: beyond the headlines



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Human rights violations, contentious nuclear programs, tense confrontations with the United States: it's no secret that Iran is a hotbed of controversy. But as ***Mahsa Alimardani*** *found, there's more to Iranian society than what you can read on the front page.*

THE NEW, ALL LEATHER INTERIOR, WHITE HATCHBACK French-made Peugeot I'm riding in is one of the many cars zooming through Sari's Khee-abooneh [street], Shoonesh, on a hot and humid April evening. Sari, a few hours north of Iran's capital, Tehran, is a small city with a population of 200,000. If you're young, privileged, and bored in Sari, Shoonesh is the place to be on a Friday night. Racing through the narrow streets, you only need a passing glance of consent from a neighbouring driver to signal you that they're down for a challenge. A black BMW X5 cuts off the Peugeot within minutes of driving down Shoonesh. It's the perfect partner for the girls I'm with this evening.

"Girls, I think he's the one. Let's see if he looks," says Niusha, the driver of the Peugeot. The other girls giggle — there's a rush of excitement. Is he going to race-flirt back? He makes a left turn at the next intersection, and our hopes subside. "Damn, did you see his car though? Dr. Habibi just imported one like that from Dubai."

A moment later an orange Peykan — a common, locally manufactured car that hasn't changed its model since 1960 — honks at us. "Ah-hh [the Persian equivalent of eww], he's straight out of the Da-hat [ghetto]. He's borrowed his uncle's car." Niusha quickly cuts him off, and we lose sight of him.

Niusha is a second-year architecture major at Daneshgaeh Noor, a university one hour north of Tehran. I had met her the night before at a party held by one of my uncle's friends. She's a daughter of one of my uncle's co-workers. "If there's an Enghelab [revolution] tomorrow, believe me, we would be the next Europe," Niusha tells me, in a conversation not about politics, but about shopping. Her black Marc Jacobs dress and black Christian Louboutin pumps definitely help her argument.

The next night when we're in her car, her Chanel headscarf dangles around her neck instead of covering her hair as dictated by Islamic Sharia law. When I ask her if it's fine to be driving around the streets without her hijab, she replies, "I just got these highlights today; I don't want to hide them."

Niusha's frank and free attitude toward life detaches my Western, media-oriented perspective from the reality that ordinary Iranians face. There's a long list of issues brewing in this country: a boorish President, a budding nuclear program, human rights violations, continual unrest after a corrupt 2009 presidential election, and ongoing international sanctions. Yet for a 20-year-old middle-class girl like Niusha, her concerns don't involve politics: Western headlines don't define her Iran.

This is the difference between an Iranian-Canadian like me, and an Iranian like Niusha. When I packed my bags to leave for Iran, I was ready to face the "crude" realities of the country. I had just finished a semester of introductory Persian and had read all I could on Iranian politics and history. I had exhausted every possible conversation related to the future and politics of the Islamic Republic with every single member of my Iranian-diasporic family.

The city of Sari is where I spent much of my trip this past summer. It's a small rural city in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran, where my mother's family lives. Sari is known for a lot of things: scenic mountain ranges, some of Iran's most fertile Shalizars [rice fields], and probably the biggest pool of hospitals and medical doctors in the entire country.

My Dayee [uncle] Homayoun is a pharmacist and medical supplier for Beemarestaneh Shafa [Shafa Hospital], with supply links to the 10 other hospitals that are located in Sari.

My Dayee's medical connections provide my family with many advantages. Any member of our family has access to private suites in Shafa for the treatment of anything more serious than a cold. I learned of these benefits first-hand due to some unfortunate sinus problems that required a minor operation. The only upside to the illness was a rare case of medical VIP treatment, which, for two nights, included my own private nurse and three-course (albeit hospital) meals in the biggest private room at Shafa. I was living the life, or so the generous supply of codeine was telling me.

My Dayee's vast network of business and social ties also worked to my advantage by providing me with an invitation to a party attended only by Sari's medical practitioners. This is where I would meet Niusha. Almost every specialist and surgeon who was not on call in Sari that night was at that party, including my very own anesthesiologist, Dr. Habibi, from my prior week's hospital visit.

My immediate impression of the luxurious marble-floored apartment, where the soirée was held, was reminiscent of an image of the Stepford Wives. The women and men were divided. The men huddled around the bar where the male host urged his guests to drink. In another room, elegantly poised and groomed ladies sat on big French antique chairs while socializing with each other. I felt a little disappointed when the host sat me in the French antique room. The corner with the alcohol looked like it would lead to a much better night!

Once I met Niusha things started to turn around. I got a quick explanation of who all the guests were. It turned out the party was no ordinary gathering of couples, and the stylish women were more than pretty powdered faces. There were a variety of dentists, family doctors, and plastic surgeons among the guests. The most impressive of all was Sepideh Yazdani, dressed head-to-toe in black, in typical Persian fashion. At only 35 years old, she's the head of the Department of Gynaecology at Imam Khomeini Hospital, Sari's largest, and one of the most prestigious medical centres outside of Tehran. Something along the lines of Johns Hopkins, Sari's Imam is the training ground for the country's best medical students. Sepideh is the youngest doctor to reach such a position so naturally; this woman, who seems to have it all, intrigues me. She's happily married with two young daughters and a successful medical career. Not bad in a country that has a codified law that views the worth of women to be exactly half of that of men.

The next night when we're in her car, her Chanel headscarf dangles around her neck instead of covering her hair as dictated by Islamic Sharia law. When I ask her if it's fine to be driving around the streets without her hijab, she replies, "I just got these highlights today, I don't want to hide them."

Further investigation into the matter demonstrates a slight complexity regarding the role of women in medicine. While Sepideh's success is admirable, under Islamic Sharia law, female doctors' fields are quite limited. There is not a conscious effort by the Iranian regime to promote professional female doctors. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, there has been an ongoing attempt to separate men and women in almost every aspect of day-to-day life to minimize their physical contact. As a result of this gender segregation, only about one third of all medical students in Iran's medical schools are women.

The party ended up exceeding my expectations, especially as I discovered huddling around the bar was unnecessary — the alcohol was served to the ladies on silver trays.

However, this is only a glimpse of how a small group of Iranians live. The vodka-cranberries served to me as I marveled at the successful and beautifully groomed the ladies around me, were only a part of my enlightenment process.

While I was reading and listening to music on a swing chair in my grandparents' house, Olliyah, the 20-year-old housekeeper my grandparents had just hired, would join me in her spare time. My grandparents aren't particularly well off, but help around the house is typical for most Iranians who have some money to spare. Needless to say, the Iran Olliyah inhabits is a completely different country than the one Niusha and Sepideh live in.

Our conversations over a shared bowl of Zeyton Parvardeh [tiny Iranian olives] on the porch are the only instances where I see Olliyah without her headscarf. She resembles Niusha and the female doctors in terms of Persian beauty, but Olliyah's style is of a different nature. Her uniform around the house is a long bronze silk skirt, a regular long-sleeved cotton blouse, and a synthetic purple scarf with black beads stitched all over. Olliyah becomes barely recognizable when she removes her headscarf. She tells me it's inappropriate to walk around my grandparents' home without her hijab when a man she isn't married to is present.

She sewed her skirt herself and bought her scarf for 1000 toman [CAD $1]. Our first conversation revolves around how it feels to be 20 years old. I tell her about university and my plans for grad school. She tells me about her husband and her plans to sign up her three-year-old daughter for day care in the deh [village] that's 40 minutes away. It wouldn't seem like we would have much in common, but we manage to find common ground through a discussion of clothes and our opinions on President Ahmadinejad.

She confesses that she doesn't know how to read or write. Her 11-year-old brother died in a highway collision riding on the back of a motorbike when she was 14, and she never recovered from the trauma of losing him. She quit school and stayed at home to help her grieving mother take care of her other brothers and sisters. At the age of 17 she was married off to her husband, Shahban, who was 27. For cleaning my grandparents' house, she and her husband get free room, board, and food. She tells me she's saving up to buy her daughter a new dress for the next party her mother-in-law is throwing.

A recent headline in Western newspapers covered Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, an Iranian woman from the Northwest province of Azerbaijan who was convicted for committing adultery after the murder of her husband. Cases like this certainly expose the sometimes-tragic circumstances of women in Iran. But for others like Niusha, Sepideh, and Oliyah, life goes on in much the same way it does in the rest of the world. There was nothing overtly political about these women's lives. The prospect of new sanctions imposed on their country didn't seem like an immediate concern.

Discussions about Iran often centre on the fact that the country has one of the world's most active civil societies and usually reference the Green Movement that evolved in 2009 to protest the rigged re-election of President Ahmadinejad. None of the three women I met had any particular attachments to the protests.

Sepideh is a doctor at a state-owned hospital — any overt political stance would compromise her job. When I asked Niusha about the protests, she said it was great fun and that she was a supporter of Mir-Hossein Mousavi [Ahmadinejad's political adversary]. The way she talked about taking to the streets of Sari, it seemed like she protested more as a pastime than a political statement. She had little to say about the policies of the candidates.

Part of Ahmadinejad's campaign involved visiting the dehs and giving away money to those in need. Olliyah's parents were among the recipients of these cash giveaways during the months leading up to the June 2009 elections. She firmly believes that Ahmadinejad was the rightful winner of the election, and that the protests weren't anything more than a disturbance of the peace. "People our age are out of control. The way the girls were dressed when they were protesting, they might as well have forgotten about their hijab. It was out of control ... people are upset they threw them into Evin [a prison in Tehran that houses political prisoners], but I'd rather have crazy things happen in the jails than out there on the streets."

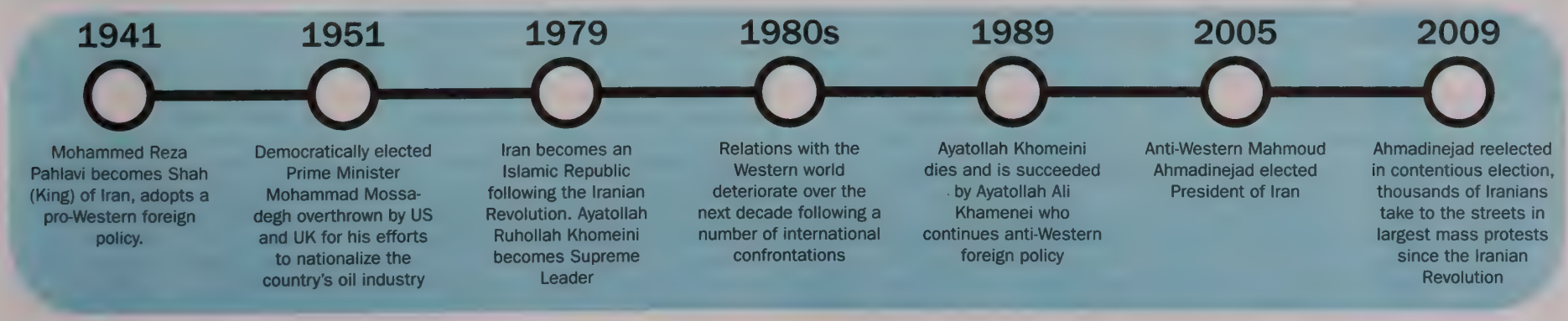
The death of one protester, Neda Agha-Soltan, captured on video and posted on Youtube, was a violent image of political discord. How could we not rally behind the cause of the Green Movement? But that's the point Olliyah was trying to make. Watching news footage from North America distances us from what is actually happening on the ground.

My encounters with these three women this past summer helped me realize something: Niusha, Sepideh, and Olliyah are all products of their socioeconomic backgrounds. The privileged 20-year-old, the doctor, and the traditional-minded housekeeper all had different opinions and concerns about their country.

I had a conversation with my Iranian friend Shervin a couple of weeks after my trip. We were discussing the 2009 elections and I told him about the possibility of Ahmadinejad actually winning the elections fairly, relating Olliyah's experience with campaign donations in the dehs. He immediately jumped at me. "So what do you mean? You're for Ahmadinejad? What has the Green Movement been for then?"

I felt a little taken aback. Was it really that hard to see the situation from a different viewpoint?

I have no definite answer as to who should be governing Iran. I've never lived there, and probably never will. But for those Iranians whose lives depend on the actions of the Iranian government, it's a different story.



THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / SAM FOGARINO



OLIVER PEEL

NAVI LAMBA *talks to Interpol's drummer about their latest album, birthdays, and Ronald Reagan*

Interpol's self-titled and self-produced fourth album sees the New York post-punk revival act once again embracing dark minimalist music washed over with reverb. Interpol is back under the independent label Matador after a less-than-satisfying contract with Capitol Records for 2007's Our Love To Admire. Intentionally or not, 2010 saw Interpol breaking out of their mold after the amicable split of longtime bassist Carlos D. and his replacement with Slint guitarist Dave Pajo. Drummer Sam Fogarino took some time before Interpol's show in Toronto to discuss the all-too-familiar topic of repetition and the form Interpol might take in the future.

The Varsity: *According to Wikipedia, it was your birthday yesterday. Happy belated Birthday!*
Sam Fogarino: Thank you.
TV: *How do you usually celebrate birthdays on the road?*
SF: Pretty much with a bottle of champagne or some other spirits and a birthday cake. Sometimes confetti and strippers. Male and female — you have to keep it balanced. We're all equal here. But that didn't happen last night.
TV: *No? Just kind of subdued?*
SF: There was a little champagne, some maple syrup.
TV: *Because you're in Canada and we have a lot of that here.*
SF: Indeed.
TV: *More seriously, the album, Interpol by Interpol. Did anyone say that yet? I hope I'm the first.*
SF: [laughs] No yeah, that's awesome.
TV: *Did you have a goal or objective in mind while working on this one?*
SF: I think there was definitely an underlying desire to not repeat ourselves, but to keep a certain level of integrity intact. That's kind of a challenge — to change but not change too much.
TV: *I read in an interview that you talked about not fighting that sonic sound.*
SF: Yeah, I personally view a sonic touchstone to be Daniel's guitar. You know, aside from Paul's voice. Paul can implement different techniques, but his voice is his voice. I think at a certain early point in the writing process, there was something to the purity of Daniel's guitar tone that I personally thought, like, Wow, we're getting back to something. And I think that, as opposed to the last record, we kept that mainstay intact and then let everything else be an experimental aspect. I think on this record, with the blending of different textures, the right mix was found in terms of how the very lush instrumental keyboards fit with these very simple guitar tones. That made me very happy.
TV: *Did anything influence your song-writing this time around?*
SF: I really think the main thing that influenced it was our own experience. Every place we've been, literally and metaphorically. We don't discuss other new music while we're writing. I really don't listen to much new music during the process, it seems a little distracting. There might be individual influences from other forms of art like literature or film but for most of us that's a daily occurrence. It's not something we really harp on during the writing process. We try to keep it pure.
TV: *How has the band adjusted with the removal of Carlos D?*
SF: [laughs] The removal was successful. There wasn't too much contamination. There hasn't been much of a hiccup. We have two great musicians supporting us on stage. For this mode of operation, they are integral to Interpol.
TV: *Are the new members going to help write songs in the future?*
SF: Without the record being released yet, it's kind of hard to look into. Anything could happen. Personally speaking, I definitely wouldn't reject that but we have a long way to go. We'll be touring into next year and then there's that obligatory break. We'll see. They have their own projects too so at this point it would be presumptuous of me on all parts to say 'Yeah sure, that would be great!'
TV: *You seem like a flexible band.*
SF: But we're not! We haven't been a flexible band.
TV: *Really? Even with all the changes?*
SF: We're kind of tight-fisted. When you're not given a choice with change then you do have to be flexible but when you do have a choice it's hard to make decisions and get out of your comfort zone. So to bring in two new members to replace one is an adjustment. That's something that will have to reveal itself, no matter how good it looks on paper.
TV: *Another big change was that you went back to Matador as your label. What was the driving factor behind going from a major label to an independent label?*
SF: It's where we come from. We did two records with Matador and we only did one with Capitol and it wasn't a great experience. It was great that Capitol let us go on a handshake. There was no litigation filed, and nothing ugly about it. It was a good lesson learned at the end of the day. We were also fortunate to be able to go back to Matador. It's a great label and a great place to be. To compare the two operations, Matador's office is open. I can walk in anytime, and talk to anybody about anything. I only went to Capitol twice and had to make an appointment, wait in a waiting room and be called upon with a limited amount of time.
TV: *You and Paul had your own solo projects as well. You were in Magnetic Morning and Paul had Julian Plenti. Was it hard to go back into the studio and work on Interpol after Magnetic Morning or was it completely natural?*
SF: With Magnetic Morning there was less pressure and more freedom involved. In comparison, it was playtime. I kind of stepped out of my norm.
TV: *And you got to play the Horseshoe in Toronto as Magnetic Morning, so it must be cool to go from huge venues to touring as a small solo project.*
SF: The funny thing is, when I first played with Magnetic Morning, the first show we ever did was at the Mercury Lounge in 2007. The last show I played in New York was at Madison Square Garden with Interpol. So I went from MSG back to the Mercury Lounge. That was a trip. Interpol does that to a degree. We still have the ability to go from The Kool Haus to the Greek Theatre in L.A. I think it would get boring otherwise to play the same type of venue.
TV: *Yeah, you don't want to be Kings of Leon.*
SF: Yeah, in more ways than one.
TV: *Final question: if you were the real Interpol, who would you arrest first?*
SF: George Bush.
TV: *I didn't see that coming. He's not relevant anymore, but I suppose he should still be arrested.*
SF: He did a lot of damage. He's off skating free, man. Eight years of damage and no ramifications whatsoever.
TV: *People still love him.*
SF: They're crazy.
TV: *He's the new Ronald Reagan, except he wasn't as charismatic.*
SF: And he makes Ronald Reagan look like a good president. At least Reagan was smart.
TV: *Was he?*
SF: At the beginning, then he kind of lost his cookies.
TV: *Most of them do.*
SF: Ronald Reagan kind of screwed my sister, who's older than me, out of financial aid. The year that he became president, there was a very liberal financial aid system in place. We were a lower-middle class family and my sister was going to go to university and be fully funded. Then he cut the budget, so he took a great education away from her. But Bush makes him seem like a fucking god.

Interpol's fourth studio album will be released September 7, 2010.

The Varsity Frosh

Want to get off the Frosh field? The Varsity brings you a day-by-day guide for a crash course on the best of the city



The girls of Chips Ahoy! and Smoke City Betties face off in Toronto's biweekly roller derby match, Saturday. BRUCE LAM

Monday

Could there once have existed a Toronto Labour Day in which the sounds of end-of-summer drunken revelry and/or Jerry Lewis telethons were not obscured by the deafening wail of passing jets? Perhaps, but such a scenario would be too dismaying to linger upon. If you're looking for a real dyed-in-the-wool Toronto perennial, why not drop by Ontario Place, Toronto Island, or any number of nearby viewing spots for the Canadian National Exhibition's annual closing show, 100 percent mandated by Canadian air regulation.

Celebrating their 40th anniversary, the Canadian Snowbirds will deliver the usual display of intricately-choreographed airborn acrobatics, while Torontonians everywhere will be happily reminded that yes, we actually do have armed forces in this country, more or less. High above Lake Ontario. Free. September 6, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

So, you want to be a writer. You've bought the moleskin, and the scratch of your pen on the page sends shivers down your spine. Or maybe you've grown up with dreams of elucidating your views on American transcendentalism in a dark room with a bottle of red wine. The Art Bar poetry series is one of Canada's longest-running reading series, hosted in the dimly lit back room of Clinton's Tavern. Each week, three established "invited poets" start off the program, mingling with young up-and-comers brave enough to sign up for the open mic portion of the evening. The event's inclusive attitude and close-knit community is enough to make any up-and-comer feel like a literary celebrity — at least for their three-minute time allotment at the mic. This week's reading features Betsy Struthers, who won the Lowther Award in 2004 for her book *Still*; Andrea Thompson, a slam poet who was nominated for a Canadian Urban Music Award in 2005; and Merle Nudelman. Clinton's Tavern. 693 Bloor Street West. PWYC. September 7. 8 p.m.

Wednesday

While it may lack TIFF's glitz and glam, the annual Toronto Independent Film Festival is worthy of the same hype. Housed at the Toronto Underground Cinema — a unique theater that opened in 1977 that used to specialize in Kung Fu film screenings — the festival features dozens of low-budget films from around the world. Admission is free on its September 8th opening night. In addition to three short films, the evening's lineup includes the feature film Armless, an off-kilter comedy about a man who goes in search of a doctor who will amputate his arm. There will also be a question and answer session following the screening of *The Red Machine*, a film that centers on the journey of a Depression-era thief who is recruited by a U.S. spy to steal a Japanese coding device. Toronto Underground Cinema, 186 Spadina Avenue, September 8 ongoing until the 18. 6 p.m. Ticket prices vary.

Thursday

Second City is one of the premier comedy troupes in the world and has theatres throughout North America. Toronto's Second City, located at 51 Mercer Street, stages shows seven nights a week and only charges $15 for student tickets. *Something Wicked Awesome This Way Comes*, plays Thursday, featuring a series of sketches and songs all based on the premise that everyone — no matter how strange, silly, or stupid — is awesome. 51 Mercer Street. $15. Ongoing.

Friday

This year, the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA) is offering film enthusiasts the chance to explore another dimension of a classic noir. On September 10, it will present HEAVENHELL, an installation by two Canadian artists that was inspired by Akira Kurosawa's 1963 classic *High & Low*. The film's famed brothel scene could not be shot on location in the slums of Koganecho, Yokohama, where it was too dangerous to bring the cast and crew. Almost 50 years after *High & Low* was originally released, Chris Chong Chan Fui and Yasuhiro Morinaga have restaged the scene in the location where it was originally meant to be shot. Their re-imagining of the scene is presented as a 6 channel audio-visual installation, which is being featured at MOCCA (952 Queen Street West) in collaboration with TIFF. Admission is free to its September 10th opening night, which runs from 7-10 p.m.

Saturday

If sitting in a theatre on a Saturday night doesn't sound kick ass enough for you, check out the Toronto Roller Derby game up at Downsview Park. Odds are you've never been to an all-women's roller derby race before and you may not have realized that these full-contact contests survived since 1970s. However, the sport, which actually dates back to the 1930s, is alive and well in the 21st century and is experiencing a tremendous revival. So if you're looking for a wild way to spend a Saturday evening, head over to The Hangar at Downsview Park to watch Chicks Ahoy! battle the Smoke City Betties for Toronto Roller Derby League supremacy. It's well worth the twenty-five minute subway trip to Toronto's north end to watch these talented and energetic contestants clash in the arena. Downsview Park. 35 Carl Hall Road. $12 in advance and $18 at the door. September 10, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Kevin Quain and the Mad Basterds' "garage jazz cabaret noir" ensemble that has staged an unprecedented 14 year residency at Toronto's original art theatre music bar, the Cameron House. This event feels like traveling to an underground jazz bar in the Roaring Twenties in the wee hours of the night. This supremely laid-back setting, what with its dark mood lighting and richly textured, world-weathered walls is the perfect home for Quain's husky velvet voice and variety of instruments, including a saw. Don't forget to tip generously as they circle the room, serenading each crowd member. Cameron House. 408 Queen Street West. PWYC. September 11, 10 p.m.

I want to [CENSORED] Chromeo: A reflection

The "only successful Arab/Jewish partnership since the dawn of human culture" to play U of T

Evelyn Lee
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Chromeo-oh. CHROMEOoo-OH.

The crowd loudly chants in perfect unison-in feverish anticipation of what is sure to be a night of non-stop bump and grind. The moment the self-proclaimed "only successful Arab/Jewish partnership since the dawn of human culture" emerges from the darkness and Dave 1 utters "Two-step! Two-step! Two-step!" the audience erupts in a wild frenzy and the first wave of cries of euphoric excitement explodes upon the scene.

The splendid yet unlikely pairing of Dave 1, a lanky half-Moroccan hipster god with confidence in spades and P-Thugg, a burly Lebanese G and synth master of groove, is embodied in their unique sound: a deadly combo of 80's old-school funk and new age electro music aesthetics. The venue is quickly transformed from a concert hall to a club in a dizzying swirl of lights and constant motion. Hotties, bodies all around—a smirk here and a look there, all behind the façade of wayfarers, as Dave 1 manages to make every girl swoon, and piss off every guy trying to score.

Such was the atmosphere a few weeks ago at the Phoenix Concert Theatre when Chromeo last graced us humble Torontonians with their dance-funk charisma and talk-box skillz. Once again, they are scheduled to take the stage — but this time at the Engage Orientation 2010 Concert Friday, at Back Campus field with hometown sweethearts ZEUS and Allie Hughes, as the highlight of UTSU's orientation. Hopefully, the concert will make all of that group chanting and those horrible t-shirts that you've worn all week worthwhile.

Chromeo is best known for its eclectic upbeat mix of Dave 1's catchy guitar riffs, P-Thugg's funky synth beats and talk-box magic and their sexy mostly female fan base. This two-some began creating music together at the tender age of 15, while both were in high school and still known as Dave Macklovitch and Patrick Gemayel.

All the while, Dave 1 is earning a PhD in French Literature at Columbia University where he also teaches undergraduate classes in French. One person, two lives: Professor Macklovitch, poring over Laclos and de Sade in the library by day versus donning a flying-V guitar night by night as Dave 1. Not to mention Monsieur Gemayel, with a history as a number crunching accountant that completely disappears once he assumes his gold-toothed guise, would be a travesty considering this couple may just be the closest thing to superheroes I have ever seen.

Who needs capes and X-ray vision when you have instant anthems like 'Needy Girl', 'Momma's Boy and Bonafied Lovin' (Tough Guys)"? Their third LP, Business Casual drops September 14th.

Chromeo will perform alongside Zeus and Allie Hughes at Back Campus field Friday. 4pm.



David Macklovitch (left), aka "Dave 1," lead vocalist and guitarist and Patrick Gemayel (P-Thugg) on keyboards, synthesizers, and talk box.

"We love new talent!" —EMILY, Arts Editor
recruitment@thevarsity.ca
"Dudes, doesn't ANYBODY wanna write about galleries?" —WILL, Arts Editor

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arts' arts







art by Minhee Bae

I will never know the man
Sara Patterson

I will never know the man
who sired me off main street
in a bar with a girl who had snow in her hair
with blue eyes and a smile he
once thought he loved.

I will never know the man
who sat at a dinner table with folded arms
and jokes only I would understand but would
never truly understand humming songs in a
language he didn't speak
but was brought up to appreciate.

I will never know the man
who said that it would be all right
even though it wouldn't be all right
because I still remember sleeping
in a Beauty and the Beast tent in the corner
of a room that was too small for him, let
alone us.

So I took to playing in the ditches and
dirtying my knees and pretending that both
parents had taught me how to ride a bike.
all the while understanding the director
who had said being stabbed was more of a
punch than anything else.
Landing with air lost from your lungs.

With a song half hummed and sung and
forgotten I would hold my aunt's hand and
beg to stay with her so I wouldn't have to
hear him play the piano, wouldn't have to
hear songs that I dimly understood.
Songs for the daughter that were more for
the mother.
The mother he had lost on the street that
bore her name.

So he held my little hand and composed
ballads of father to daughter that were little
more than tear drops in the bath.
A bath that smelled like soap suds and
mosquito juice and marmalade in the
summer.

And drying my hands I'd brush my teeth,
telling stories that never were and speaking
of past yearsthat hadn't happened but oh,
didn't it sound so much better than what
had?
But the stories were pleasant and it was
eucalyptus in the bath coupled with an
avoidance of the city that bore the street
that had born my mother's name before it
had ever born me and the snow in the hair of
a blue eyed girl he once thought he loved.

Actor Entertaining the Idea Of Buying Something That Could, Potentially, Be Very Dear To Him
Nick McKinlay

He could pretty well hear It
Through a dirt
Translucent windowpane, got all
Misty-eyed when he watched
the young woman cough.

He might never hear It again.

It looked real
Sharp-out-of-focus,
Tucked behind fast food songs and
Drive-thru artists.
It's busloads of promise for
Twenty-three dollars; which

he needs for bread.
And
a
fucking
haircut.

"_____"

"_____" was a girl trap & a
"Me" snare.

A grade school collage that had
Glossy lips and cut & paste thighs &
Newsprint hair.
(Plus eyes I could have drawn myself
if I
tried hard enough.)

90 or so minutes with a bouquet of
people I have loved for seconds.
All out of sorts about docile things
Like beards
& collared shirts
(a hot hot mess

or a plot device that) preface
little more than a better drunk &
bad poetry.

When I got home &
tookoff my shoes, the only thing I
could hear was the
"chhhhhhttt."
as the velcro
separated.

Feathers
Stephen Thomas

Q. How many feathers would you say you've owned in your life?

A. In my whole life? Oh my goodness. I don't think I could say. I mean... well, if I consider... oh my goodness. Can we go to the next question?

Q. Have you ever owned a feather?

A. Me? No.

Q. What do you like?

A. Feathers.

Coming attractions

Varsity staffers have the early word on some of the Toronto International Film Festival's high profile offerings



Biutiful
(Alejandro González Iñárritu)

Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Biutiful* follows the life of Uxbal (Javier Bardem), a single father living in poverty. After being diagnosed with cancer he must insure the safety of his children, clear his debt and resolve his sins so that he may pass safely into the afterlife. However, a past in drug trafficking, a career in transporting illegal immigrants and an abusive, unstable ex-wife bring him no end of misfortune. *Biutiful* is gut-wrenchingly dismal from start to finish – even moments of happiness are overshadowed by tragedy. Running just under two and half hours, it is by no means a leisurely watch but, thankfully Iñárritu's film is still worth the effort. Rodrigo Prieto's cinematography gorgeously captures the desolate area of Barcelona, where the film is set, and no member of the cast stumbles in their performance. The narrative at times becomes too intricate, dealing with multiple themes and stories, many of which seem present only to amplify the misery. However, *Biutiful* is ultimately a story dedicated to fatherhood and when matched with Bardem's impeccable leading presence, the two (dare I say it?) work beautifully together.
– ARIEL LEWIS

Buried
(Rodrigo Cortés)

First, the obvious: *Buried* is a formidable, and rather miraculous, technical achievement. The 95 minute film takes place entirely within the confines of a coffin, where independent contractor Paul Conroy (Ryan Reynolds) has been buried by terrorists somewhere in Iraq. Director Rodrigo Cortés' camera swerves dynamically through the seemingly unworkable space, with cinematographer Eduard Gau's shadowy compositions (the character only has a flashlight, a lighter, and a cell phone to work with) looking like striking pen-and-ink drawings. Another obvious point: *Buried* is something of an actor's showcase for Ryan Reynolds, who is called upon to enact each of the seven stages of grief many times, often in close proximity to each other, completely convincing throughout. Here is the surprise: it's a terrific entertainment, social commentary and all, with a race-against-the-clock structure that feels like good, pulsating pulp.
– WILL SLOAN

Good Neighbours
(Jacob Tierney)

In an unassuming apartment building in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood of Montreal, four neighbours play a part in an elaborate crime spree inspired by misguided love, alcoholism, and the cats. Victor (Jay Baruchel) stars as a needy and painfully clueless elementary school teacher who moves into the apartment above waitress-by-day cat-lady-by-night Louise (Emily Hampshire) and the seemingly charming, decidedly unsettling, wheelchair-bound Spencer (Scott Speedman). As Victor clumsily attempts to ingratiate himself among his new neighbours, an eerie connection to a string of violent murders emerges. And as tensions run high between Louise, and their cat hating, francophone, alcoholic neighbour, it becomes clear that this connection can only end in gratuitous and uncomfortably hilarious bloodshed.

Director Jacob Tierney's follow-up to last year's *The Trotsky*, creates a tense and claustrophobic thriller/comedy that, despite the looming prospect of a serial killer on the loose and the desolate backdrop of Montreal in early winter, creates a thrilling movie that is not so much plot-based, as it is a study of unlikeable people. Through spot-on performances and brief but pointed dialogue between characters, murder and mayhem become the backdrop to an uncomfortable clash between unrequited love and Louise's lack of interest in anything besides her two cats. Interactions between neighbours build in intensity with perfectly paced, and methodically repeated scenes of nightcaps and dinner-parties, and Tierney's reliance on shock value (the crime scenes are caricatures, tempered by almost robotic characters) makes the painful movements of individuals who never seem to leave their somewhat dingy apartment building, interesting.
-EMILY KELLOGG

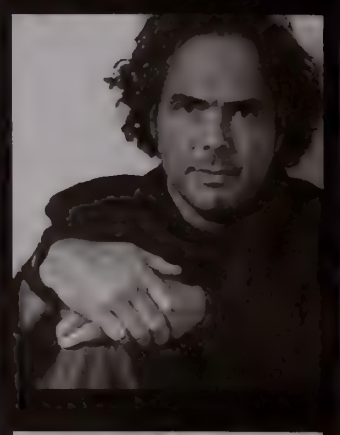
Heartbeats
(Xavier Dolan)

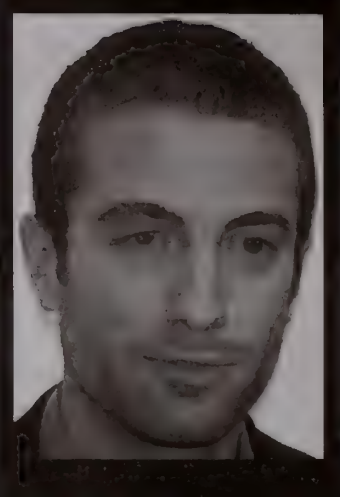
When an early scene of Xavier Dolan's *Heartbeats* features a young man and woman dressing, applying makeup, then walking towards each other in slow motion while one blows cigarette smoke, set to a Spanish cover of "Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)," it is easy to deduce that Dolan is a fan of Wong Kar-wai circa *2046*. But when his camera also lingers fetishistically on the woman's backside, pressing tightly against her vintage dress, that homage turns into plagiarism. Ditto Jean-Luc Godard, a well-known influence on 21-year-old Dolan's first film *I Killed My Mother*, who is quoted not just in a series of self-consciously verité faux-documentary interludes in which several millennials talk about their love lives, but also in four separate dreamy post-coital interludes where the characters are bathed in primary colours (red, green, yellow, blue) in a way not exactly dissimilar to Brigitte Bardot in *Contempt*. Dolan throws plenty more visual styles into this film about two hipster best friends (Monika Chokri and Dolan – his camera loves him so) whose relationship is complicated by a mysterious, magnetic third wheel (Niels Schneider), but these selfish, shallow characters never seem like more than pretty faces to pout, and walk in slow motion. It's tempting to say that Dolan at least has a good eye, but he's stolen it from someone else.
– WS

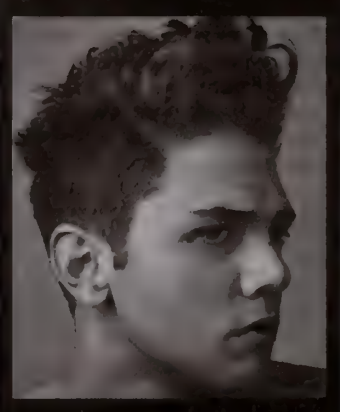
You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger
(Woody Allen)

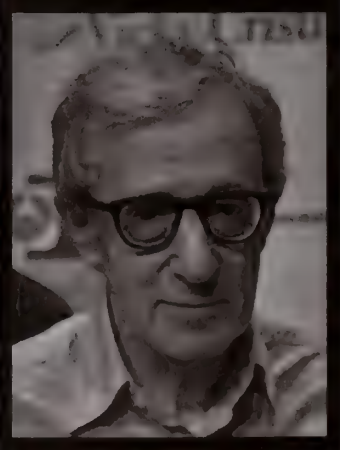
If you believe that life is filled with sound and fury and ultimately signifies nothing, then Woody Allen's latest effort, *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*, might be your kind of film. The plot revolves around the lives of two married couples, Alfie (Anthony Hopkins) and Helena (Gemma Jones), and their daughter Sally (Naomi Watts) and husband Roy (Josh Brolin). Being of a ripe age himself, it's surprising to see Allen's portrayal of elderly divorcees reduced to one-dimensional stereotypes: Helena has an emotional breakdown and becomes obsessed with the occult while Alfie deals with forlorn bachelorhood by courting a streetwalker named Charmaine. Sally is a constant point of irritation throughout as she fills her days droning about her husband's lack of success and the emotional state of her mother. The one plus side is Brolin, who is able to play a neurotic writer/part-time chauffeur without becoming a bumbling mess. Greg (Antonio Banderas) and Dia (Freida Pinto) act as hollow eye candy when Sally and Roy need a distraction from their deteriorating careers. Banderas' performance is rigid and lifeless while Pinto, referred to as an "exotic, beautiful creature" proves to be an extremely awkward muse. The story slithers its way to a climax and ends just when things get interesting. Viewers are left grasping at thin air for any sense of attachment. While the bouts of boredom and bellowing may be part of Allen's overall view of life, it's all so facile and unpersuasive that getting past the first hour proves to be a daunting task.
– DAMANJIT LAMBA

DIRECTOR'S CUT









From top: Alejandro González Iñárritu, Jacob Tierney, Xavier Dolan, and Woody Allen premiere new films at TIFF 2010.

ARTS'ARTS

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Martian mystery

U of T team contributes to tackling the age-old question of life on Mars

Jordan Rivera
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

University of Toronto researchers will be working with NASA and the European Space Agency in developing an instrument for methane detection in the Martian atmosphere. The Mars Atmospheric Trace Molecule Occultation Spectrometer, an instrument known as MATMOS, will be attached to the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, a satellite set for launch in early 2016.

Methane was first detected on Mars in 2003 in greater abundance than expected. The origin of the gas has since stood as a mystery for planetary researchers.

"Methane can be produced both biologically (for example, by fermentation and respiration by microorganisms under the surface and by decomposition of organic matter) and geologically (by volcanic activity, hydrothermal processes, and comet and meteorite impacts). By simultaneously measuring the spatial — both vertical and horizontal — distribution of methane and other gases that are involved in methane chemistry, we hope that MATMOS and ExoMars will provide a clear answer regarding the mystery of Mars methane," says Kimberly Strong of U of T's physics department.

When asked whether she hopes the source of methane is geological or biological in nature, Strong laughs, "It would be interesting if the source were to turn out to be biological." Her statement sarcastically understates the significance of a scientifically credible confirmation of life on Mars. The implications of verifying the source of Martian methane would reveal important revelations regarding our most intensely explored extraterrestrial body, providing greater insights into the biological and geological history of the planets.

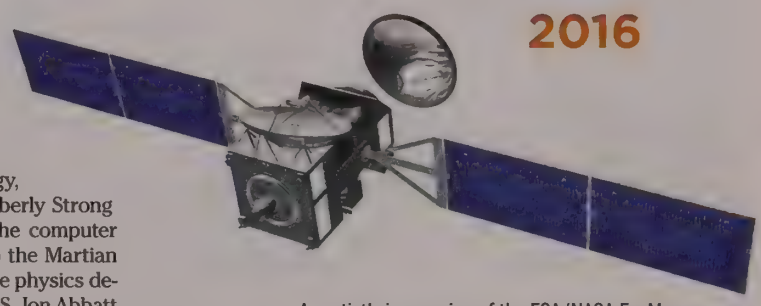
There is little doubt about the weight of the ExoMars mission and the cruciality of the MATMOS instrument, which is being developed in partnership between the Canadian Space Agency, the California Institute of Technology, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. MATMOS also draws on Canadian expertise previously used in similar technologies used to study ozone depletion in Earth's atmosphere since 2003.

"MATMOS is an infrared spectrometer with a telescope. As the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter orbits around Mars, the sun will appear to rise and set on each orbit. The satellite points the telescope at the sun during each sunrise and sunset, allowing the MATMOS spectrometer to record spectra of sunlight that has passed through the Martian atmosphere on its way to the instrument. These spectra contain absorption features due to gases and dust in the atmosphere. Computer programs (retrieval algorithms) are used to measure the vertical distributions of many gases, as well as their distribution around the planet," says Strong.

MATMOS will be the result of the combined efforts of several of the leading minds at U of T's geology, chemistry, and physics departments. Physicist Kimberly Strong will be the main Canadian contact for retrieving the computer algorithms sent by MATMOS that will translate into the Martian atmospheric composition. Kaley Walker, also from the physics department, will be involved with the testing of MATMOS. Jon Abbatt of the chemistry department will be involved in interpreting the methane reactions occurring in Mars's atmosphere. And Barbara Sherwood Lollar of the geology department will be the main Canadian contact in determining if the source of Mars's methane is biological or geological.

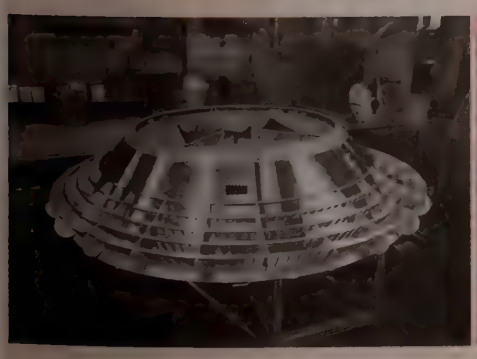
The CSA will fund the conceptual phase of the Canadian contribution to MATMOS, and has selected ABB Bomem of Quebec City as its prime contractor. Canada's contribution to MATMOS will include the heart of the instrument: the critical subsystem of a detection instrument known as an interferometer, a solar imager, and optical components that will collect light interacting with the Martian atmosphere. The project will not only involve researchers from other Canadian universities such as Dalhousie, York, and the University of Winnipeg, but will consist of an international team of experts from Europe and the United States — a team incorporating experts in every related discipline, a factor Strong believes will ensure the success of the ExoMars mission.

2016



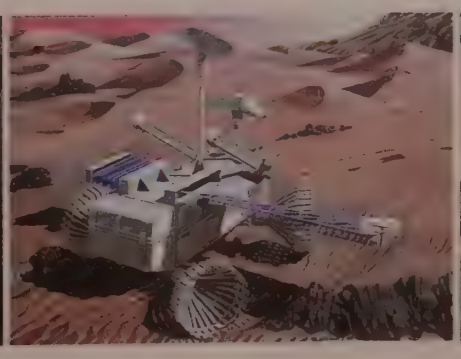
An artist's impression of the ESA/NASA ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter. The MATMOS infrared spectrometer designed by U of T researchers will be one of the science instruments on board the orbiter, and was designed to detect low concentrations of molecular constituents of the Martian atmosphere.
ESA

1975



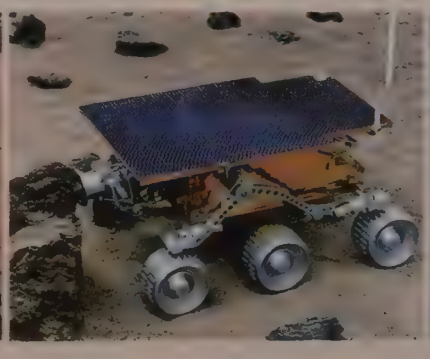
NASA's Viking program involved sending two space probes to the red planet. Each probe was made up of an orbiter to photograph the Martian surface, as well as a lander to study its geological characteristics and composition. The Viking program was a huge step toward establishing current scientific knowledge on Mars.
NASA

1990



An artist's rendition of the Mars solar powered rover, designed for the Mars Exploration Rover Mission, an ongoing robotic mission for the exploration of the Martian surface.
NASA

1996



The Sojourner rover was on board the Mars Pathfinder lander, later renamed the Carl Sagan Memorial Station. The project was designed to execute experiments on the Martian surface.
NASA

2003



The Mars Exploration Rover mission was launched in 2003 when MER-A Spirit and MER-B Opportunity were sent to explore Martian geology. The mission's objective was to discover and categorize rocks and soils on the Martian surface that would provide evidence for past water activity on Mars.
ESA

When cultures collide



EMILY SMIT-DICKS

The information breakdown between science and the media

Roberta Bell
VARSITY STAFF

Scientific fact or fiction can be hard to differentiate in this day and age.

According to Erene Stergiopoulos, the Science Editor here at The Varsity, the trouble begins when a journalist starts trying to translate research that they barely understand themselves for a general audience.

Says Stergiopoulos, "There is a big problem with communication between academic science and the media. They speak different languages.

"It's not rare that science articles miss the point entirely. As a science student myself, I can definitely sympathize with researchers who have borne the face-palm frustration of having their work misrepresented because of the media's headline-deadline driven work-scheme."

To demonstrate just how convoluted science reporting can get, let's take a look at Exhibit A: an issue that has been making headlines in mainstream media — and quite contradictory ones at that.

The chiropractic treatment of children has created quite a stir amongst practicing professionals and story-seeking journalists alike.

Is it good? Is it bad? Do we even really know?

According to the Ontario Chiropractic Association, children and youth benefit from chiropractic care to treat muscle and joint problems. Yet there are far too many media rebuttals out there for the average reader to ignore.

Recently, the Centre for Scientific Inquiry published an article titled "Keep Chiropractors Away From Children." If that isn't an attention-grabber, it's hard to say what is.

University of Toronto graduate and chiropractic researcher Dr. Jason Busse attributes some of the inconsistency in the media reports to the disconnect between the journalist and the scientist.

Explains Dr. Busse, "There is often a more complicated answer even if it seems simple."

"When there are many different levels of quality of study out there — as with anything — some are better than others. I think it can be difficult in certain cases even for educated consumers to differentiate."

A scientific review conducted by Dr. Kim Humphreys of the University of Zurich in Switzerland found the likelihood of adverse, or negative effects on children who have received chiropractic treatment to be slim to none.

The three studies that comprised the review dealt with nearly 2,000 pediatric patients — which is quite a substantial number — and unfavorable side-effects resulted just over two percent of the time.

"When a reporter has to take a sound bite for their article it becomes very easy to misconstrue information," says Dr. Busse.

Typically there is little controversy surrounding the chiropractic treatment of conditions such as sprains, strains, and sports injuries in children, but when looking at conditions that are not as well understood, like ear aches or colic, it is far less clear.

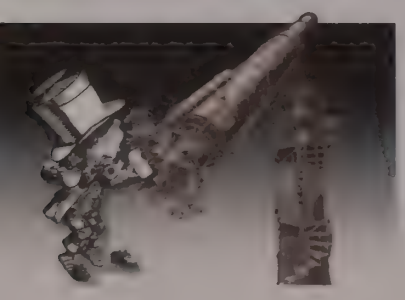
Infantile colic, where an infant has periods of uncontrolled crying, tends to be treated with what is known as a diagnosis of exclusion.

Explains Dr. Busse, "Your child is crying, we don't know why, we're going to say it's colic."

"The situation right now is that when parents have tried some of the more conventional approaches towards the management of colic without success, they have branched out to look for other options. They look at a trial of therapy with a chiropractor to see if it provides some relief for their child."

Now here's where the media might go into an unjustifiable frenzy: if the chiropractic treatment helps some children, an inference is made that the treatment may be addressing the cause.

"I think there's a high risk that scientific research can take a life of its own once it gets into the media," says Dr. Busse. "Controversial stories are exciting and they sell. Shocking headlines move newspapers. There's no doubt about it."



WONDERLAND
venturing in space

Accelerating to Andromeda

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

The naked eye can see a long way. In fact, on a clear autumn night in the northern hemisphere you will be able to see our nearest neighbouring galaxy, Andromeda, just 2.5 million light years away. Initially observed as a "small cloud" in 964 AD by Persian astronomer Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi, Andromeda was named M31 in 1764 by French astronomer Charles Messier.

Unlike the Milky Way, Andromeda possesses a dual core, which is believed to be the outcome of M31's collision with the smaller elliptical galaxy M32 about 200 billion years ago. Its dual core has contributed to the sheer size of Andromeda, making its diameter twice that of the Milky Way. This collision process is believed to have occurred due to Andromeda's "galactic cannibalism," whereby the galaxy absorbs smaller galaxies.

Recent studies of the galactic cannibalism hypothesis have observed that Andromeda is not only indulging itself in dwarf galaxies, but has also set course for our own galaxy. Andromeda's blue shift light has led astronomers to conclude that due to the Doppler Effect, the galaxy is moving towards our own, and could eventually collide with the Milky Way. Since Andromeda is 2.5 million light years away and its velocity is largely unknown, such a collision can only be speculated to involve multiple sideways swipe impacts, eventually merging M31 and the Milky Way into a larger elliptical galaxy. If such an event were to occur, the fate of our solar system would teeter between being ejected from the Milky Way entirely, remaining intact while encountering ever-increasing solar radiation, or having the sun exit the Milky Way by resettling in M31 during the initial impacts.

While Andromeda possesses a similar spiral shape to the Milky Way, one of its prized possessions is a giant outer ring consisting of many young and luminous blue stars. Astronomers believe this ring was created by the passage of dwarf galaxies through the center of Andromeda, which compressed the interstellar dust and gases to induce star formation. It is hypothesized that if M31 continues to devour small galaxies, the outer ring will increase in significance and change Andromeda from a spiral to a ring galaxy.

In the night sky, Andromeda Galaxy is the farthest object visible to the naked eye and is situated within its own constellation, aptly named Andromeda. In mythology, the constellation represents the Greek princess Andromeda, who was condemned to be sacrificed to a sea creature as payment for her mother's conceited behavior — only to be saved by the Greek hero Perseus, who would later become her husband.

The galaxy can be best observed during the month of October, positioned to the north-west of the Square of Pegasus, which is similar in shape to the commonly known Ursa Major, yet it contains stronger right angles unlike the Big Dipper's recognizable trapezoidal characteristics.

This week's venture brought us 2.5 million light years away into the depths of Andromeda. Next time we will be waltzing through a mythical Greek hunter, stationed a little closer than our cannibalistic neighbor. Until then, the night sky remains a glance away, awaiting your adventures.



A 1869 painting by Edward Poynter depicts Andromeda, a figure in Greek mythology who was chained to a rock to be devoured by a sea monster after her mother insulted the god Poseidon.

Decoding network coding

U of T researcher Hassan Shojania explains the ins and outs of P2P networks

Charlotte Tombs
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

As a member of the iQua group, PhD Hassan Shojania has been a researcher in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at U of T since 2006. His novel research could have a direct impact on the technologies that we use every day — from Iphones to iPods to personal computers.

Born in Iran, Shojania graduated with a degree in Computer Engineering from Tehran Polytechnic. He moved to Canada in 1998 and found a job as a software engineer with ATI Technologies. He worked there for a number of years and took some courses before deciding to pursue graduate studies at Queen's University in 2003. He started his doctoral degree in January 2006 and has been with the iQua group since.

Comprised of seven PhD and two Masters candidates, the iQua group conducts research on large-scale peer-to-peer and wireless networking under the supervision of Professor Baochun Li, a 2009 recipient of U of T's prestigious McLean prize in Engineering. Since 2003, the group has focused primarily on network coding to improve the performance of networked systems.

In computer networks, when there are multiple paths between the senders and the receivers, some intermediate links between the nodes can become bottlenecks. This results in extra delivery time as the messages have to be scheduled sequentially across the bottlenecked links. With network coding, however, the messages can be combined and sent in coded forms, reducing the overall delivery time. Obviously, the encoding process in the senders and the decoding process in the receivers require extra computation. Network coding effectively achieves faster network delivery by trading the extra computation cost of coding. Some applications of network coding include media and content delivery systems.

Despite its benefits, network coding has not gained popularity in the computing industry, mainly because of its extra computational load (extra computation that has to be performed to encode or decode processes) on the device. Shojania's past research focused primarily on coming up with efficient implementations of network coding, like low computation overhead, such that they can be used in practical applications across various devices. The first stop was the Central Processing Unit, which handles all computations of your typical desktop or laptop computer. After achieving good performance with the CPUs, high-performance servers became the next target. In many network applications like Youtube, hundreds of servers are employed, each serving thousands of clients. As a result, achieving significantly higher performance was necessary for such demanding servers.



Hassan Shojania's research involves optimizing P2P networks for applications like iPhone and iPad.

While multi-core CPUs of modern servers improved the coding performance, the gain was not enough for real-life applications.

As an alternative, Shojania turned to Graphics Processing Units for better performance. Although primarily designed for displaying the computer output on a monitor, GPUs have significantly improved their computational capability to handle increasingly complex computer games. More recently, GPUs have also become capable of general-purpose computation. In his 2009 paper titled "Nuclei: GPU-Accelerated Many-Core Network coding" and in another follow-up paper, Shojania noted that computing cores of commodity off-the-shelf GPUs could perform network coding much faster than multi-core CPUs. GPU-based systems prove to be a more suitable alternative for high-performance servers.

In his setup for a "media-streaming server" (a server that provides a number of different computers with media), the GPU is dedicated to network encoding while the CPUs handle the rest of the work. This includes grabbing the media files, and then sending the coded media to thousands of clients simultaneously.

After the servers, the last stop was smartphones. Shojania's 2009 paper titled "Random Network Coding on the iPhone: Fact or Fiction?" expanded on the research by focusing on the first implementation of random network coding in the iPhone and iPod Touch. Because of less capable computing cores in these devices, compared to the CPUs in computers, the computational load was a big concern. Furthermore, it had a direct effect on the energy consumption. However, Shojania recognized that in order to make network coding more appealing in the mobile devices, faster processors would be needed. Fortunately, iPhone 3GS, Google's Nexus One, and the recently released Ipad use more advanced processors, making the use of network coding even more practical.

In his most recent work, Shojania has put together his previous research by creating a toolkit called Tenor which makes efficient network coding possible on different hardware platforms — GPUs, CPUs, and smartphones. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the toolkit, this work has also included real-world video streaming experiments in client-server and P2P setups.

In P2P networks, for example, each peer (a computing device participating in the application) is receiving data from multiple senders. A computer with a higher network bandwidth, like the server, is able to serve more peers in this network. Each intermediate compute, or intermediate node, helps to forward the content through the network. Therefore, a peer serves two purposes in a network: it is a recipient of data as well as a sender of data. Network coding helps P2P systems by simplifying the send protocol.

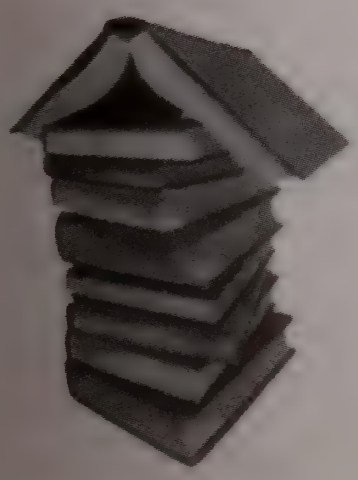
This recent paper — a culmination of work conducted over three years — also shows how a GPU-based server can serve thousands of clients in a client-sever streaming system in a setup similar to YouTube. Shojania will be completing his doctoral degree this year and hopes that his research will contribute to the future content delivery systems.

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With some of the most talented athletes in the country raring and ready to go, this year will be one to remember for the University of Toronto's Varsity Blues. *JING LING KAO (LEFT & RIGHT); PETER JEWETT (MIDDLE)*

No rest for the wicked

Daniel Tsiokos & Rachella Valdez
VARSITY CONTRIBUTORS

The Varsity Blues are already back at it and are expected to deliver once again this year

While many of us were lazing around during our final days of freedom before returning to the University of Toronto for the fall semester, athletes from The Varsity Blues were on campus training hard for the 2010-2011 season.

Here's an exclusive sneak peek into what can be expected in the upcoming weeks.

Baseball

A mid-season surge after a slow start gave the U of T men's baseball team their first playoff appearance since 2006 last year. Despite losing superstar pitcher Jake Gallo, the Blues' pitching is still the strongest part of their lineup. Three out of the last four years, and five out of the last nine, a Varsity Blue has been named OUA pitcher of the year. Hall of Fame Coach Dan Lang has stepped in as General Manager and former assistant coach Charles Pascal will be taking over the duties as this season's skipper.

Football

With new recruits and a few transfers, this year's football team has a roster loaded with strong players. There is plenty of competition at each position, ensuring that players will push themselves to the limit to secure a starting spot, and also providing the team with a useful pool of talent so it won't get burnt out in the second half of games. "If you look at our games last season," said Coach Greg DeLaval, "we lost most of them in the third and fourth quarters." Tom Gretes has been brought on staff as the new defensive coordinator and the Blues' defense is full of experienced players this year. Defensive backs Hugo Lopez and Brad Morton, who have transferred to U of T from the University of Waterloo, are expected to provide a big contribution. John Engel is the new offensive coordinator and will be taking on a very young offense eager to prove itself to the OUA. Running back Chris Weiland, a former member of the University of Toledo program in the NCAA, has committed to U of T and is also expected to compete for a starting position. This mixture of new faces and veteran leadership will be turning some heads—and hopefully some losses into wins.

Men's Water Polo

The men's water polo team is ready to start a brand new season and will be working hard for a third consecutive OUA championship. The team this year is strong and will be welcoming back a slew of players from last year's roster when practices begin on September 8. Led by Head Coach Vlad Tasevski and Assistant Coach Som Seif, the Blues are anticipating an exciting season. The biggest competition is expected to come from the Carleton Ravens, the McMaster Marauders, and the York Lions.

Men's Soccer

Most of the old starting lineup of the men's soccer team is still intact, despite the team losing six players. With the addition of highly-touted recruit Ezekiel Lubocki, a centre-midfielder, expect this team to exceed last season's tremendous accomplishments. The experience gained en route to the OUA Finals, and subsequently a berth at the CIS Championships last season, is going to speak volumes on the field, particularly with the pressure of hosting this year's CIS Championships. "We put the pressure on ourselves, we welcome it," said Coach Anthony Capotosto. Toronto FC Academy coaches Jason Bent and Stuart Neely have been involved in this season's training camp, and it is expected that this will give the Blues an edge. "Having these coaches help out is a luxury that most teams don't have," said Capotosto.

Women's Soccer

Last season's women's soccer team posted a record winning 11 games, tying one and losing just four, and Coach Eva Havaris expects an improvement after having lost only three players and recruiting well. Kate Crowley, a transfer from Western, and rookies Fatima Braimoh, Caroline Murphy, and Lisa English have Coach Havaris looking for immediate contributions from them. U of T hosted last year's CIS Championship, and Coach Havaris hopes to see the Blues make an appearance again this year. "Being part of nationals last year gave our young squad the experience they needed to compete at the national level with top programs in the country," said Coach Havaris. "I expect that we will do as well as last year and look to make our mark in the OUA post-season and qualify for nationals in P.E.I." Her expectations may seem high, but they are warranted as the team has recently been ranked fifth in the CIS prior to this upcoming season.

Women's Field Hockey

The women's field hockey team will be in for a rough ride this season after losing four starting defenders from last season's squad. Coach John De Souza is confident that his new recruits will fill the voids nicely though, particularly Lauren Mansfield and Frankie Vondrejs, a third-year transfer from York. Rookies Alex Thicke and Heather Hughan, both of whom attended Junior National Camp, will be big contributors as well. "I am excited about the recruits and what they have to offer," said Coach De Souza in a statement, "They make us a faster team and allow us the versatility to change the style we play." For the past three seasons the road to the OUA Championships has featured a match-up between U of T and Guelph, with the Blues winning once. "I'm not sure how that will pan out this year—I think the league has a lot of parity," said De Souza.

Women's Lacrosse

Last year the women's lacrosse team had an outstanding regular season, setting a perfect record of 12 wins and zero losses. The team also finished first, second, and third in the OUA scoring race. This seasonwill be one to watch, with Tory Wasson, a transfer from an NCAA Division I school in Vermont added to the roster, and Jeska Eadens, who was awarded Most Valuable Defence Player by the OUA, returning. The team is led by Head Coach Todd Pepper, who was the 2009 OUA Coach of The Year,

Tennis

OUA bronze medals were snatched up by both the men's and women's tennis teams last season. The women will be relying on two-time OUA all-star Daria Zakharchenko to lead them to victory this year. On the men's team, second-year standout talent Stefan Srnic is a talented player expected to be on the prowl, having been named an OUA all-star this past year.

Golf

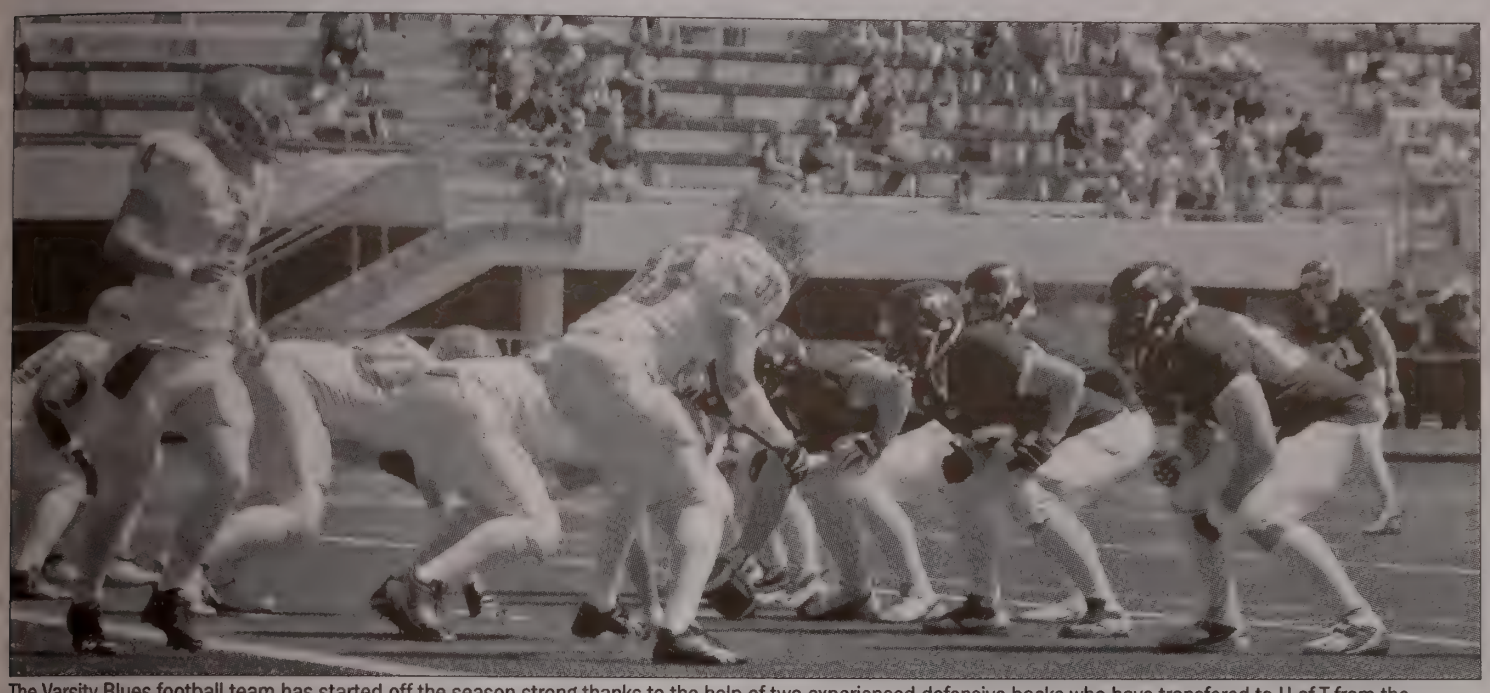
The men's and women's golf teams will once again be led by veteran coach Chris Tortorice. Scott Samuel, a 2010 individual silver medalist who also finished in 13th at the Cañadian University/College championship, is expected to give a strong showing this season. The women's team was comprised of four rookies last year and came out on top and won the OUA championship. They are led by 2010 OUA individual silver medalist and 2009 OUA all-star, Laura Upenieks. Na Eun Park was a first-time OUA all-star in 2009 and Christine Ho received the honour for the second time.

Cross Country

Both the men's and women's cross country teams boast some of the best runners in the country. Despite losing four-time U of T athlete of the year Meagan Brown, the women's team looks strong and will be relying on the leadership of Tamara Jewett, who established herself as one of the top contenders in the country in her early days at U of T. Incoming recruits include Tamara Jewett's younger sister Rachel and Colleen Hennessy, who was gold medalist at last year's OFSAA track and field meet. The men's team will be led by Michael Del Monte, a two-time OUA all-star who helped the team to a fourth-place finish at the OUA championships in 2009. Veteran Head Coach Ross Rissucia has delivered a solid team in the past, and this season should be no exception.

Warriors at heart

Two former Waterloo Warriors have transferred to U of T after their football program was suspended



The Varsity Blues football team has started off the season strong thanks to the help of two experienced defensive backs who have transfered to U of T from the University of Waterloo. *HANNAH LIU*

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Two members of the Waterloo Warriors football team that was rocked by a steroid scandal this summer have transferred to the University of Toronto and will be gearing up as Blues this season.

Brad Morton, who is in his fourth year and Hugo Lopez, who is in his third, have obtained visiting student status at U of T for the 2010-2011 academic year and will still receive their degrees from the University of Waterloo.

The University of Waterloo suspended its football program for the 2010-2011 season after it came underfire in the biggest steroid investigation in Canadian university history and nine players were confirmed to be involved in "doping-related infractions."

Eligible players, like Morton and Lopez, however, were able to transfer schools in order to play football this season.

Morton and Lopez, who are both defensive backs, were shocked, saddened, and surprised by the events that led to their football program's suspension, but are happy to have the chance to be playing at all this season.

"We're just trying to make the best of it by moving on. U of T has accepted us and I couldn't be happier to be here," said Morton.

Lopez and Morton both acknowledge U of T's proximity to their families and its outstanding facilities as their reasons for choosing to transfer here.

Morton, a resident of York Region, said, "I can live at home and there's a comfort level there. U of T's got a great program and is building up a lot like Waterloo. There's a beautiful stadium here, great coaches, good players."

Lopez, who is also from York Region added, " I've got to be close to family this year. I'm going through some rough times with family and being close is a huge thing for me. And there are unbelievable facilities here."

Morton and Lopez admit, however, that transferring teams has been difficult.

"I miss all those guys and the coach back at Waterloo. The coaches here and the players have made the transition easy, but it's just a hard thing to get over. Every day is just trying to move on, but there are ups and downs," said Morton.

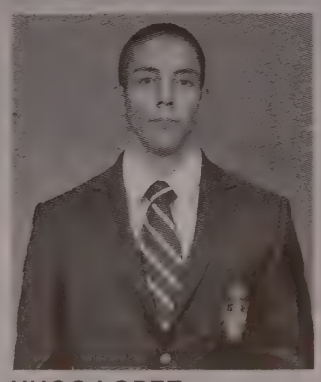
"We've just got to continue and adjust and be grateful for where we are right now," said Lopez.

Morton and Lopez, although both proud Warriors, plan to play just as strongly while donning the white-and-blue uniform as Varsity Blues.

Lopez said, "Football is like a brotherhood. Any player knows the brotherhood code. You look out for one another and it doesn't matter who you are, what size you are or where you come from. You treat everyone equally.

"I was built a Warrior and I'll finish off as a Blue, proudly. I'll do the best I can here. The goal is for us to have a winning season like any other team. I'm going to come out strong just like I would for the Warriors as hard as I can and be my best to all my ability."

SPOTLIGHT ON:



HUGO LOPEZ
Position: Defensive Back
Height: 6ft 3"
Nickname: Huey, Hughes, Trini
Eligibility year: 4
Program: Spanish/Business
Hometown: Newmarket, ON

Hugo was a starter for all three seasons that he played as a Warrior at Waterloo from 2007-2009. He made 48 solo tackles (22 as a rookie, and 13 each year afterwards) in 22 games as a Warrior.



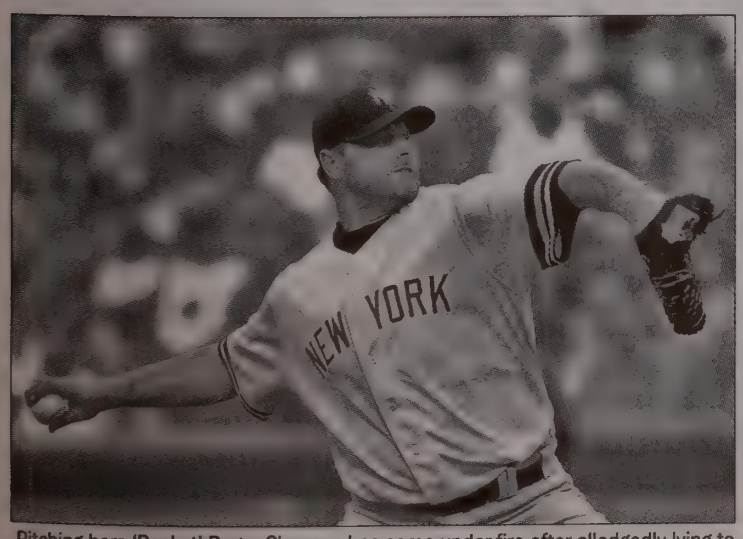
BRAD MORTON
Position: Defensive Back
Height: 5ft 11"
Nickname: Morty
Eligibility year: 3
Program: History
Hometown: Markham, ON

Brad played for the Warriors during the 2008 and 2009 seasons. He recorded seven solo tackles over five games in the 2009 season.

A good sport

Its not 'Rocket' science

The future looks bleak for all-star pitcher 'Rocket' Roger Clemens after being caught in a lie about steroid use



Pitching hero 'Rocket' Roger Clemens has come under fire after alledgedly lying to U.S. congress about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Kevin Draper
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Early next April, as Major League Baseball teams prepare for the 2011 playing season, one of the greatest pitchers ever to throw a ball will be finding out the date that he will be tried for lying to Congress about using performance-enhancing drugs.

It's been a long, slow, public and painful fall from grace for 'Rocket' Roger Clemens, a seven-time winner of the Cy Young Award for his seemingly supernatural pitching skills.

The cat came bouncing out of the proverbial bag with a vengeance in December 2007 when former Senator George Mitchell published the Mitchell Report. The Mitchell Report was an exhaustive study was requested by embattled MLB Commissioner Bud Selig to provide a vestige of transparency into baseball's steroid era.

Clemens was heavily implicated in the report. His former trainer Brian McNamee informed Mitchell that he had injected the 'Rocket' with illegal, performance-enhancing drugs on numerous occasions over several playing seasons.

Through his all-star legal team, Clemens slammed back against the accusations, called McNamee a liar, and argued that he made it all up to avoid prosecution for refusing to co-operate with Mitchell's investigation.

Although fans looked back on Clemens' career numbers and noticed abnormalities in performance that made no sense for a player of his age, Clemens was unrelenting. He demanded and got a day before Congress where he and McNamee exchanged testimony under oath. Many observers expected that someone would eventually be charged with perjury and most assumed it would be Clemens.

Sentencing guidelines suggest he could go to jail for as long as a year and a half if he is convicted.

It's hard to fathom what could have made Clemens deny what, in the court of common sense, has to be considered slam-dunk evidence. Always a bit of a megalomaniac, Clemens could have felt insecure that his place as one of the best ever pitchers, and a sure-fire Hall of Famer, would disintegrate with his golden-boy image if he admitted to illegal drug use.

Others, like Alex Rodriguez, who will go to the Hall of Fame, have admitted to steroid use and come away unscathed for their honesty. It's tough to imagine that the baseball writers who will vote on which players make the Hall of Fame will forgive Clemens for dragging out a profoundly traumatic period in baseball history.

The odds of the 'Rocket' making it into the Hall of Fame are not likely given the path he's chosen to take, and its probably a safe bet to say that if he ever does, a detour through the American prison system will come first.



CBC's Elliotte Friedman was one of the guest speakers that Perry Lefko brought in to talk to the students of Freelance Sports Writing last year. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

Get in the game

Veteran sports journalist Perry Lefko to lead workshop at U of T

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Perry Lefko of Rogers Sportsnet will be teaching a sports writing course at the University of Toronto.

Freelance Sports Writing, which is offered U of T's School of Continuing Studies, will take place on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. starting on October 4 and will run for eight weeks.

Lefko, a veteran in the business of sports journalism, will be teaching this course for a second consecutive year at U of T.

Specifically designed it to help students find their forte and build on their technical writing skills, the curriculum is both innovative and packed full.

Writing techniques for newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and blogs will be covered in the course.

"It's important for students to realize that there are a lot of people out there who like to write and write about sports. You must be able to understand how to combine both of them. If you want to write a blog, you may have all the knowledge but your writing may not stand up that well, and people will notice that,"Lefko explained.

"You have to know how to write. People will want to read what you have to say."

Through the Freelance Sports Writing course, students will get first-hand opportunities to impart knowledge from well-known professional journalists and athletes in the business.

Last year Lefko brought in Elliotte Friedman from CBC Sports and Spider Jones from CFRB's Newstalk and the students got the chance to ask them questions about how to get a story, how to write a story, and how to present a story to their editors. He also managed to nab CFL legend Damon Allen to come in and speak to the class about his view of the media.

Lefko is looking to enlighten students who have a passion for writing and sports, and to push them forward, separating themselves from others in what has become a very saturated business.

Lefko said, "I encourage the people who take the course to be very interactive and take the opportunity to make the most of what they are learning.

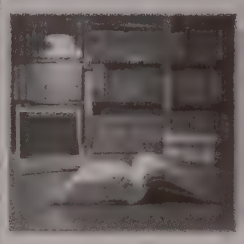
"I want the students to learn the importance of writing and enjoy what it is that they are being taught."

More information is available online at http://learn.utoronto.ca/scshome.htm.

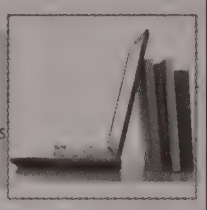
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The many shades of Varsity Blues

With an almost overwhelming array of options out there for the sporting enthusiast, what's a poor student to do?

Pamela Bautista
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Pamela Bautista investigates the choices for students looking to become involved in athletics at U of T. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Going to check out the athletic facilities here at U of T is a task I have avoided for years. Although I've always known my tuition fees included a membership to both the Athletic Centre and Hart House, I've never taken advantage them.

As a fourth year, soon to be graduate, however, I'm now experiencing some regrets. Not only does U of T offer some of the finest facilities in the country, but also a variety of great options to get active and play the sports you love with your friends and fellow students.

I realized that to make the most of my last year here, it was definitely worthwhile to explore the numerous athletic programs that always were and still are available to me as a U of T student.

To my amazement, I learned that the Athletic Centre hosts 44 intercollegiate teams, and multi-tiered intramural leagues in 26 sports, while Hart House offers numerous classes in movement, fitness, and dance.

The opportunities available to me seemed almost overwhelming and it was then and there that I decided that a full fledged investigation into the vast world of U of T athletics was a must, not just for my own sake, but for anyone who might be looking to get involved.

I decided to start at the top with the Varsity Blues Program.

The Varsity Blues athletes are the bluebloods around our campus and play against other universities at the intercollegiate level.

Dustin Yu is a member of men's Varsity Blues badminton team. He is returning for a fifth year with the team and will be finishing up his triple major in political science, sociology, and psychology.

"U of T takes pride in sports. The décor of the Athletic Centre reflects the history of our athletic accomplishments," said Yu.

Besides possessing both brains and brawn, the Varsity Blues athletes are friendly and down to earth.

"We strive to promote an inclusive environment. We welcome everyone and encourage everybody to participate," said Yu.

But don't let Yu's easygoing manner and humility fool you. The Varsity Blues are some of the hardest working athletes on campus. All varsity players practice five to six times a week for three hours each session. Every two out of three weeks they participate in either an all day or weekend long tournament.

Kristine Drakich, who has been the coach of women's Varsity Blues volleyball team since 1989, told me that although "it takes a significant amount of experience to be able to play varsity level sports," students should not give up.

"To the risk-takers go the rewards. We have had people walk in and become starters," said Drakich.

I began to realize that the Varsity Blues Program might not be what I'm looking for as a novice athlete just looking to have some good, clean fun.

Fortunately, as I was about to find out, there are even more options out there.

Intramural, intercollegiate, and tri-campus athletics are offered to all students through their colleges at the St. George Campus. U of T Scarborough and U of T Mississauga both have programs of their own.

At this level, recreational sports such as flag football, broomball, and ultimate frisbee can be foundm among the more mainstream sports like basketball and volleyball.

Rachella Valdez, a fourth year student in media studies and international studies at U of T Scarborough is a member of Intramural Division A volleyball there.

"It's just for fun. It's a way for everybody to be active in their own community," said Valdez.

But for the eager amateur not quite ready to play for the Varsity Blues, the Tri-Campus Program is his or her best bet.

"The Tri-Campus Program is between the intramural and intercollegiate and the Varsity Blues Program. It is more competitive than the intramurals, but less extreme than the Varsity Blues," Valdez explained to me.

This wonderwoman also plays women's basketball through the Tri-Campus Program.

"Playing sports has made university so much better. In working with my teammates I have learned to be patient and to trust others.

"If you love it that much, you are going to make time. Who needs a boyfriend anyway?" Valdez laughed.

Although I'd say I'm pretty decent at managing my time, I acquiesced to the fact that I might not be able to dedicate quite enough of it to the rigorous demands of being on an intramural team at U of T. What I was looking for was a bit more low key; maybe a once a week type deal.

The instructional classes at Hart House vary in skill level and intensity and provide students with the opportunity to stay fit in a laid-back and comfortable environment.

"We offer movement-based, non-sport specific programs to all U of T students and staff," explained Tom Moss, a former U of T student and the current the Manager of Recreation and Wellness at Hart House.

Hart House has a long list of free drop-in classes ranging from cardio sala to stretch works and core fusion to aquatics lessons.

Moss said, "Unlike the AC, we are not Varsity-based. The Hart House is historically the gym for the U of T community. By providing programs for all levels from basic to high intensity we aim to promote fitness and well-being to everyone."

The facilities at Hart House are impressive as well. There's an upper gym, a lower gym, air conditioned work out rooms, activity rooms, a suspended running track, and a pool.

But what really caught my eye when I was wandering around Hart House was the beautifully manicured garden in the quad complete with tables and chairs where students were reading and drinking coffee. According to Moss, I was "welcome to relax in it."

That was more like it.



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NOTICE TO MEMBERS
FALL 2010 ELECTIONS
U.T.S.U., YOUR STUDENTS' UNION
LOCAL 98, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

U.T.S.U. is YOUR Students' Union. We are governed by a Board of Directors elected by YOU. Our campaigns and services are shaped by YOU. Our aim is to provide services and events that save you money and enrich your university experience.

The University of Toronto Students' Union is holding its Fall 2010 by-elections to fill the following positions:

POSITION	SEAT(S)
DIVISION I	
Transitional Year Program	1
DIVISION II	
Faculty of Dentistry	1
Faculty of Medicine	1
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering	1
Ontario Institute of Studies in Education of the University of Toronto	1
Toronto School of Theology	1
At-large Professional Faculty Representative	2

To run for a position, pick up a nomination package during the nomination period at the U.T.S.U. office. Please keep in mind the dates and deadlines.

	DATES
Election Nominations (All Positions)	Monday, September 27, 2010, 09:00 - Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 17:00
Election Campaign Period	Friday, October 1, 2010, 12:00 - Thursday, October 14, 2010, 19:00
Election Voting Period	Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 09:00 - Thursday, October 14, 2010, 19:00

For more information, visit our students' union website at www.utsu.ca or contact the Chief Returning Officer at cro@utsu.ca

U.T.S.U. St. George Office:
12 Hart House Circle

Monday – Thursday
09:00 to 17:00
Friday
09:00 to 16:00
Weekends
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EVENTS LISTINGS

EXHIBITS:

Being Scene

Workman Arts has teamed up with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to put on this visual arts show. The presentation consists of CAMH patients using art to heal, as well as shedding light on the tribulations one goes through when dealing with mental health and addiction issues.

- *On till November 13th*
- *Various locations (Currently at Gladstone Hotel, at 5 p.m. daily)*
- *Free!*

Double Gold Exhibit

Check out the last two days of the exhibit, which showcases hockey memorabilia from the 2010 Vancouver Olympic games. As a special treat, visitors have the opportunity to get up close and touch the puck that Sidney Crosby used to score the gold medal for Canada.

- *On till September 7th*
- *Hockey Hall of Fame (30 Yonge Street)*
- *$15*

Private Pleasures

No, it is not a burlesque exhibit. It is actually the Gardiner Museum's new exhibit of Japanese porcelain. It explores the place in culture of geisha and samurai during the Edo period. Also on display are screen and scroll paintings, woodblock prints, lacquers and textiles, many of which are very rare and seldom seen because of light exposure restrictions.

- *On till September 12th*
- *Gardiner Museum (111 Queen's Park)*
- *$6 with Student ID (Fridays half-price between 4 and 9 p.m.)*

MOVIES:

Jonathan Demme Exhibit and Screening

World renowned Silence of the Lambs director Jonathan Demme invites Toronto to an exclusive screening of his latest documentary, "Agronomist." The film is about the life of Jean Dominique, a prominent Haitian activist. Demme's personal collection of Haitian and Jamaican art will be on display at the Gladstone Hotel for free until September 16th.

- *September 12th at 2 p.m.*
- *The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. West)*
- *$20*

Julian Schnabel: Art and Film

Julian Schnabel is best known as a filmmaker, having directed such films as "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly." He is also an accomplished painter, however. His new exhibit, which debuted at the AGO on September 1st, examines the connectedness of his work in the fields of art and film. Over 25 works are featured in the exhibit, and the showings of four films will occur on Saturdays.

- *On till January 2nd*
- *Art Gallery of Ontario (317 Dundas St. West)*
- *$11 with Student ID*

Toronto Independent Film Festival

Have you always dreamed of going to the TIFF but never had the sometimes exorbitant money to spare? Well, you're in luck. You could always go to the 'other TIFF' which takes place at the same time. The Toronto Independent Film Festival showcases films from across North America, high-budget to no-budget. And opening night is free!

- *September 8th to 18th*
- *Toronto Underground Cinema (186 Spadina Ave.)*
- *$8 for General Admission*

SHOWS:

Something Wicked This Way Comes

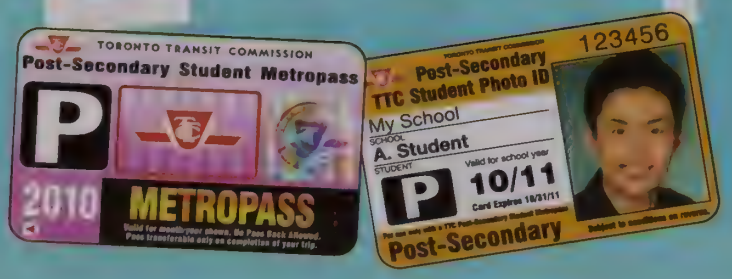
The Second City's newest show, Something Wicked Awesome This Way Comes is filled with hilarious sketches, that sheds a new light on people who can be irritating at times, like family members and neighbours. With original songs, it is about embracing one's awesomeness. Remember to bring Student ID!

- *Various showtimes (check website for details)*
- *The Second City (51 Mercer Street)*
- *$15 with Student ID*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

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www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO (4636)

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Editorial

Reforming rugby at the University of Toronto p24
Sports

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"I've become more convinced that [the P vs. NP problem is] really hard and probably not going to be solved soon. Yet, it will be solved eventually." — Prof. Stephen Cook **p20**

Vol. CXXXI
No. 5
13 September 2010

WHILE YOU WERE GONE

Welcome back!



University College Frosh stop for a breather at the Bay and Bloor intersection. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

NATIVE REPATRIATION

Native remains held in U of T basements

U of T prefers to not tell anyone about 'skeletons in their basement'

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

U of T's anthropology department is being asked to repatriate thousands of Huron-Wendat ancestral remains to their descendents. The skeletal remains, dug up between the 1950s and early 1970s by archaeologists, currently lie in the basements of U of T's St. George and Mississauga anthropology buildings.

Attorney David Donnelly has been representing the Huron-Wendat Nation since 2006, when he "got a tip" about the existence of the bones in U of T's lying in the Anthropology buildings' basement. "The University of Toronto had skeletons in their basement and preferred not to tell anybody," he said. "It is profoundly tragic."

"There are different ways [in which] people have approached excavations for analysis," said U of T anthropology professor Susan Pfeiffer, who is also involved in the negotiation with the Huron-Wendat. Before the early 1970s, Pfeiffer said there was no framework to regulating archaeology. "We reflect on the impact of our actions and we get better."

Pfeiffer said the skeletal remains have not been used for a long time and that the university's Department of Anthropology "has no reason to be reluctant to return them."

The Ontario Heritage Trust has retained responsibility for the remains at the Mississauga campus. According to Pfeiffer, the land the remains were dug up from was owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust, which permitted the excavations.

A representative from the Ontario Heritage Trust could not be reached to confirm this statement.

LINK TO HURON-WENDAT LONG KNOWN

Pfeiffer said the Department of Anthropology has always known, through research analysis, that the remains were linked to the Huron-Wendat, but added that the current location of the Huron-Wendat has been a barrier in returning the remains. "Heritage is a provincial responsibility and not [a] federal [one]. The fact that the Huron-Wendat live in Quebec has slowed us down quite a bit."

SEE **'REMAINS'** – PG 4

GREEN CAMPUS

U of T goes car free

Pedestrian only roads include tables, chairs, and Wi-Fi

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Willcocks Street between Huron and St. George, and Devonshire between Hoskin Avenue and south of the Varsity Centre is closed to cars as part of a program to create a pedestrian-friendly environment.

The closure is part of a pilot project that will last until Sept. 30, 2011. After the year is over, a decision will be made concerning the future of the streets.

"The pilot projects will be unique features on the St. George campus providing a new student amenity with the potential to enhance and enrich the student experience," said Elizabeth Sisam, assistant vice president of campus and facilities planning.

"They can be seen as a first step in the process of planning, observation, design, and implementation of a longer term transformation of the Willcocks and Devonshire areas. The most basic measure of the project's success will be the extent of their use and enjoyment by the University of Toronto community."

Currently, there are tables and chairs for lounging students, a weekly farmers' market, planters and Wi-Fi available to all students at U of T.

"I think it's a great thing that I'd like to see more of. Most of all, it is great to see the space made comfortable for students with tables, chairs, grass etc," said Zannah Matson, internal liaison of the University of Toronto's environmental resource network. "There is something great when it isn't just an absence of cars on the street, but instead the presence of a people-friendly space."

U of T is currently working with the City to create a pedestrian scramble at the intersection of St.George and Harbord in the next month. This will allow students to cross the intersection in every direction — including diagonally — at the same time.

"It's great that the City has approved the closure of streets across Toronto to make them more pedestrian-friendly," said UTSU President Adam Awad.

"Students have been lobbying for safer streets for years. I like what the University has decided to do with Willcocks and Devonshire, but it's

SEE **'CAR FREE'** – PG 5

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
17°C to 22°C	14°C to 28°C	11°C to 17°C	10°C to 19°C	7°C to 16°C

VARSITY FEATURE

Students go abroad in Europe's troubled Balkan region p14

A&E

What to see and what to skip at this year's TIFF p16

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Alum imparts wisdom at St. Mike's Frosh Week

Make connections and try hard key words of advice



Anthony Lacavera made waves in the wireless industry when he launched Wind last December. ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Christine Jeyarajah
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Cheering, togas, and CEOs? St. Michael's College's orientation week included a presentation by Anthony Lacavera, Chairman and CEO of Globalive Communications and Chairman of Wind Mobile. A U of T grad, Lacavera shared his entrepreneurial story while reflecting about his time at St. Mike's.

"I've met a lot of great people here. People who started with me 12 or 13 years ago are still with the company, which is amazing and I also met some of them at St. Mikes," said Lacavera, who graduated from U of T in 1997 and started his own company the following year.

Wind, launched December 2009 in Toronto and Calgary, has since launched networks in Edmonton, Vancouver, and Ottawa. In a move to offer no-contract plans by not subsidizing phones, Wind was the first of a series of new entrants in the Canadian telecommunications sector. "Wind is really our big consumer brand. It's been a long process," said Lacavera.

Wind is owned by Canadian telecommunications firm Globealive that is best know for its long distance plans "Yak" and "LooneyCall." The company, founded by Lacavera, was able to start a wireless network after successfully making a purchase in Industry Canada's 2008 radio spectrum auction. Wind has since been joined by new entrant competitors Public, Mobilicity, and Chatr.

Lacavera admitted he found U of T engineering difficult. "I wasn't the best, but I learned a lot of lessons. I've met a lot of people who I still stay connected with."

Lacavera suggested the real benefit he received at U of T was the connections he made with students, passing on the importance of making connections while in school to his audience. "Make as many friends as you can and network as much as you can."

Lacavera suggested that social media tools have allowed for students to stay connected in a way never before understood. He laments not making more connections in university.

"Although I met a lot of great people, I wish I could have interacted with many others and networked as much as I could have," said Lacavera. "You end up with a group of friends and I should have made myself go outside that comfort zone and interacted with other people."

Lacavera also runs The Shamba Foundation, a charity that supports smaller organizations' fundraising efforts. "We are trying to expand that to other cities in Canada."

Lacavera advised frosh to pay attention in lectures and chase their dreams. "Lessons might have things on the surface you can memorize, but look for the actual meaning behind those lessons.

"[...] If you took the time to realize what people are really saying to you, I think you would learn a bit more.

"Whatever your good at. Whatever you love doing. Whatever doesn't feel like work — that's what you should do."

Rotman reintegrates women in the workplace

Program provides scholarships and child care to help former professionals recommence their careers

Zakia Chowdhury
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Rotman is helping women to re-enter the workforce with its new back to work program, a component of the Rotman Initiative for Women in Business. The program is open to women with past management experience who are resuming their careers after extended absences.

"The women's initiative program was started about three years ago, when we received requests from the corporate environment in Toronto saying that we have various professional groups of women who really struggle in advancing their careers," said Professor Beatrix Dart, Associate Dean and Executive Director of the Rotman Initiative for Women in Business.

"We decided we needed a program to make these women more visible and allow employers access to these talented individuals."

The nine-class program begins October 18 and continues over a three-month period. Classes are divided into three modules that provide basic knowledge and qualifications to successfully resume employment in business.

"Back to Work will help prepare women for the personal and professional transition they experience when returning to the workforce," said Dart. "It gives them an unparalleled opportunity to reignite their goals and to get up-to-speed on the latest trends and issues in business, while meeting like-minded women, potential employers, and future professional contacts."

A 2005 Harvard Business Review report found that 37 percent of highly qualified women voluntarily leave their careers for some period of time. The reason for the absence is most often family responsibilities, including childcare, and eldercare.

SEE 'WOMEN' – PG 4

Earning credit in the community

Centre for community partnerships takes learning off campus



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

Your next class could take you out of the classroom and into the community. The Centre for Community Partnerships pairs community organizations with professors interested in diversifying their classes.

"We're really about creating meaningful learning opportunities outside the classroom in Toronto and the Peel region," said Lisa Chambers, director of the center.

The program focuses upon service learning, a specific higher education pedagogy that Chambers explains is somewhere between volunteering, which mainly benefits the community, and interning, which mainly

SEE 'CCP' – PG 6

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While you were gone

The Varsity reviews how the G20 shook U of T

Dylan C, Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The G20 summit took place July 25-27 in downtown Toronto. For three days the city experienced huge inconveniences, mass arrests, and violent anarchists clashing with riot police. Some of the drama took place right on campus.

In this closing coverage, we present a chronology of how the G20 affected the campus, with new facts, reflections, and afterthoughts from the university community.

CAMPUS CLOSURE AND RESIDENCE RELOCATIONS

After the official G20 protest site was changed from Trinity Bellwoods Park to Queen's Park, university administration decided to close St. George campus for safety reasons.

U of T spokesperson Laurie Stephens said that after hearing of the protest zone's relocation, the Principals, Deans, Academic Directors and Chairs (PDAD&C) committee discussed the change at a May 20 meeting and decided on the closure.

A May 25 memorandum announced that campus buildings, including residences, would be closed from 6 p.m. on Wednesday June 23 to Sunday June 27 because "the protest site [had] been moved to the doorstep of the St. George campus."

"[U of T feared] police would be unable or unwilling to distinguish between students going to exams at that time and protesters," said ASSU president Gavin Nowlan. "They envisaged a nightmare where police [would] go after U of T students."

Nowlan said the administration noted the previous G20 summit in Pittsburgh, where "students were targeted for being on campus, and really nothing else."

"It wasn't exactly a strategy which showed a lot of confidence in the police ability to restrain themselves," said Nowlan.

As of Monday June 21, all events were cancelled and vehicles were barred from Hart House Circle and King's College Circle. Weddings at the Trinity College chapel were rescheduled, as were exams, with no guaranteed special consideration for personal commitments scheduled during the exam period.

In an open letter, student groups and labour unions condemned the closure, calling it a reactionary impediment to academic life. Both UTSU and GSU stayed open during the closure; APUS and ASSU's offices, both located in the Sidney Smith building, were closed, but operated by e-mail.

The constituent college residences were evacuated for the duration of the closure. Other residences, such as Graduate House, remained open.

"Apparently graduate students are more capable of making decisions about their lives," said UTSU president Adam Awad, noting that the residence is right beside the closed New College dorms. "So that was a bit patronizing."

A total of 1,256 tenants living in residence were given the option of accepting $125.00 — the average cost of a four-night stay in residence — or relocating to either 89 Chestnut or satellite campus residences for the duration of the four-night closure. In the summer, U of T residences house summer students as well as visiting and language-exchange students.

Two-thirds of tenants, 794 in total, took the cash, while the remaining 462 were relocated and received room, meals, and transportation to and from their relocation.

Most tenants relocated to 89 Chestnut were given TTC tokens, while some groups of three received subsidized cab rides. Additional shuttle buses to and from UTM were scheduled, and students relocating to UTM did not have to pay for shuttle tickets.

Starting at the Wednesday evening closure, 24-hour security coverage was established for six consecutive days. An additional 20 security staff were hired from U of T's contracted security company, Reilly's Security Services, and campus police worked overtime. Although the cost of additional security has not been calculated, Stephen said that "an estimate of $100,000 is probably reasonable".

During the closure, certain buildings, such as Sussex Clubhouse, required identification on a submitted guest-list for entrance. Plain-clothes officers were seen entering and exiting campus police headquarters. The Munk School of Global Affairs remained open throughout the closure, where the G8 Research Group met to publish reports.

"It's interesting to see how other universities facilitate [...] dissent against international organizations in a way this university hasn't," said Awad, referencing the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in which Université Laval housed protestors.

"On the whole, we were surprised by the amount of co-operation between senior administration and the police throughout the whole process."

A protest was held on the first day of the closure, where about thirty people denounced the closure and the Munk School exception, calling the university a "bunker for global capitalism".

ROBARTS CAMERA RUMOURS

Rumours had been swirling around campus that a security camera was posted on Robarts by the police for the summit. Photos were posted in online anti-surveillance groups, and UTSU executive director Angela Regnier spoke about the camera at a CFS-O conference in August.

Stephens said that campus police had no knowledge of a camera on Robarts and did not install any cameras for use by police forces.

"The camera was actually installed for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the Rotman School of Management expansion project taking place across the street," said communications librarian Margaret Wall. "The camera is owned and operated by the company managing the expansion project."

Wall said the camera was installed as the project began in the spring and will remain until its completion in 2012. It can be viewed online.

EMPTY RESIDENCES?

On the Thursday before the G20, The Varsity spotted people entering and exiting the Morrison Hall residence at University College. All on-campus residences were, ostensibly, already closed for security reasons.

After learning The Varsity had images of people in residence buildings, admin confirmed that university staff and Campus Police were being housed on campus.

Awad said UTSU had heard reports that people were going being housed in residences, but was told by admin that no one would be.

In total, 39 police were housed in Woodsworth and 34 staff — mostly tradespeople who responded to repair calls (including the Sunday floods) — occupied Morrison Hall. None of the rooms occupied were ones students had

SEE **'G20'** – PG 7

SCENES FROM THE G20

On the G20 weekend, Toronto was overrun by police and protestors. Some of the action eventually spilled onto campus. *Photos by Tom Cardoso.*
TOP: Saturday night, police evacuated the protest zone at Queen's Park onto Hoskin Avenue.
MID: About 70 protestors were arrested during a Sunday morning raid of the GSU building.
BOTTOM: Police could be seen throughout the downtown core, including on campus.









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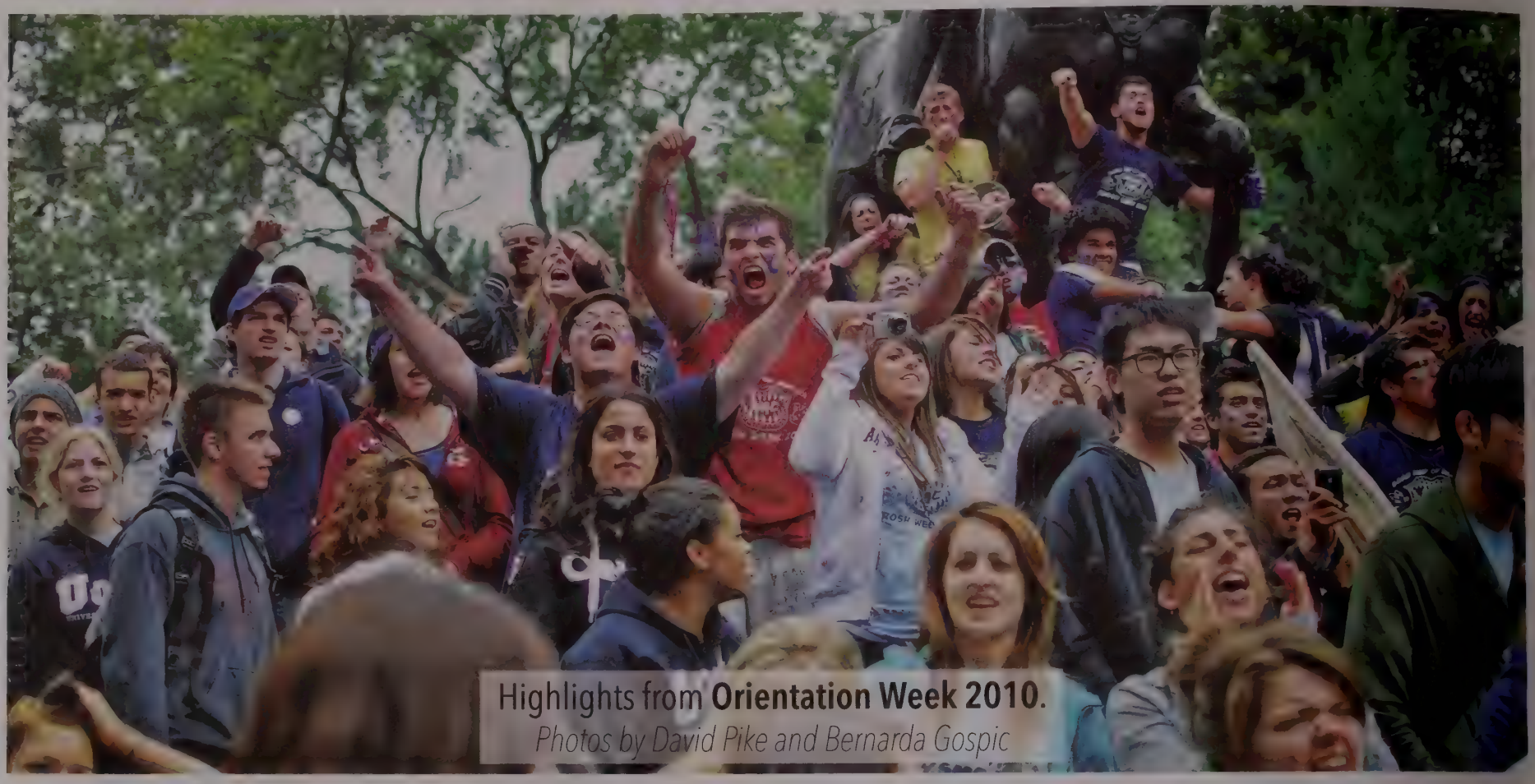
Full and Part-Time Students who wish to opt-out of the OPIRG-Toronto can claim a fees refund with proof of enrolment for the 2010-2011 academic year and with Student Identification on the following dates:

St. George Campus: September 7-17 at the Ontario Public Research Interest Group Office during regular office hours. (North Borden Building, Room 101, 563 Spadina Crescent, Toronto, ON)

Scarborough Campus: Monday, September 20 outside the Scarborough Campus Student Union Office between 12:00PM-6:00PM. (Student Center, near room SL-108, Scarborough Campus, 1265 Military Trail, Scarborough, ON)

Mississauga Campus: Thursday, September 23 outside the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union office between 12:00PM-6:00PM. (Student Center, near room 100, Mississauga Campus, 3359 Mississauga Road North, Mississauga, ON)

Contact OPIRG-Toronto for further information: opirg.toronto@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-7770.



Highlights from **Orientation Week 2010.**
Photos by David Pike and Bernarda Gospic

'REMAINS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Donnelly said that location cannot be used as an excuse not to tell the Huron-Wendat about their ancestors' remains. "The University of Toronto is a world-class university and they could have looked in a yellow page to find the Huron-Wendat."

However, Donnelly said it is encouraging that U of T has agreed to repatriate the remains in a cooperative and respectful manner. "That is the very small silver lining."

He also said the Ontario Heritage Trust has not returned calls and e-mails about starting a similar negotiation. "If they don't co-operate [in the same manner as U of T], we will prosecute them under the Criminal Code of Canada."

"Most institutions are not forthcoming about their possession of ancestral remains," said Lee Maracle, Aboriginal studies faculty member from the Sto:Loh Nation. "What is true is that we are the only people in the country whose remains are violated and who must seek redress via negotiations to have them returned.

"No Indigenous community was ever asked to have their remains committed to violation."

Maracle said the Huron-Wendat had a similar case in which the Canadian government kept 500 sets of human bones in the basement of the parliamentary building in Ottawa. After 10 years of negotiation, the remains were finally returned to the Huron-Wendat in the year 2000, she said.

THE ONTARIO CEMETERIES ACT

In section eight of regulation 133/92, the Ontario Cemeteries Act stipulates that a representative of a person whose remains are interred in an unapproved cemetery can consent to scientific analysis on the remains.

The regulation defines a representative as: "the nearest First Nations Government or other community of aboriginal people which is willing to act as a representative and whose members have a close cultural affinity to the interred person."

Donnelly said the regulation assumes "any Indian would do" and asked the University of Toronto Law School to cooperate with his firm to reform the act.

In cases where there is no apparent sign of burial at the cemetery — known as "irregular burial" — the current land owner is responsible for the remains.

"Like all people, [Aboriginal] people have great respect for their ancestors who made it possible for them to be here," said Donnelly. "Burial places are sacred."

Pfeiffer said the Anthropology department at St. George wants as little publicity as possible about the existence of the remains at U of T.

'WOMEN' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

"Once you are on a personal leave, the years build-up and when you want to return to the workforce you are not sure where to start because things change so rapidly. It can be a daunting experience." said Dart. "What this program does is help you in the transition from the mundane activities of daily life back to dealing with the politics of the corporate world. To regain your confidence."

Rotman faculty members and instructors, as well as senior executive guest speakers, will help participants refresh their business knowledge on topics including leadership, strategy, and business and marketing tools. They will also share current job market information and address the latest technology and communication trends in business today.

"The women will not only learn in classes but also be given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through projects they will be working on for various companies." said Dart. "This will give them the chance to explore their equation with the participating companies while also allowing the employers to test their abilities."

TD, KPMG LLP, Microsoft Canada, Rogers, and Xerox are all supporting the program. They will not be given exams, or graded, rather they will work on projects for potential employers. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to allow for personal and family commitments and mothers will receive complimentary childcare located close to Rotman. Four scholarships are also available to cover the $1950 cost of participation.

"We want to be as accommodating as possible to help these women balance their personal and professional responsibilities," said Dart.

Christine Smeeton, a chartered accountant and former project manager at BMO Nesbitt Burns, discovered the program through an e-mail newsletter.

"I think this program is an amazing opportunity for women who have chosen to stay home with children and are ready to return to work in the financial industry," said Smeeton. "So many things have changed in the work environment and this program will pull everything together: networking with other business professionals, updating a resume and getting caught up on new technologies," says the mother of three.

With only 30 spaces available, acceptance into the program has been quite competitive.

"We received more than threefold the number of applications we can accept," said Dart. "What we looked for most was the level of motivation and determination the women demonstrated when we interviewed all of the applicants. We came across very impressive resumes, few of whom are already being coveted by our affiliated companies.

"We've been receiving requests from all over the country to expand the project to other cities. That is something we are definitely considering seeing how successful our pilot project here at Rotman will be."







'CAR FREE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

unfortunate that they chose to not close down at least part of St. George, even though the City approved its closure from Bloor to College."

Toby Bowers, bikechain coordinator, anticipates the closure will be very successful. "It's great that the university is facilitating more active transportation and I trust cyclists will be sensible in travelling through car-free zones safely."

"I hope that one day St. George and Harbord/Hoskins will be fully car free. If this project works out I don't see why the university wouldn't expand the idea to other more trafficked streets on campus," said ASSU president Gavin Nowlan.

Recently, the University has taken steps to make its practices more sustainable. Several recent initiatives include: an extensive lighting retrofit project across campus; installation of solar panels on the athletic building at the St. George Campus and the Instructional Centre at University of Toronto Scarborough; and geothermal heating on the Instructional Centre at the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus.



Willcocks street between Huron and St. George is closed to cars in a new pilot project. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

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What did you do for frosh week?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY ALEX NURSALL



Alex

4th Year Psychology,
"I tried to attach a snowplow to my bike to try and plow my way through the multitude of frosh."



Kate

2nd Year Anthropology,
"I led the frosh."



Mostafa

2nd Year Psychology,
"I helped out at frosh week."



Annie

3rd Year Economics,
"I slept."



Talon

1st Year Life Sciences,
"I avoided all the frosh stuff and made a ton of friends."



Michael

4th Year Biology,
"I chilled hardcore and supported my students."

'CCP' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

benefits the individual.

"Service learning tries to balance both," said Chambers. "We believe its a bit of a package." The program promotes a three-step partnership experience: development, meaningful service, and post-service reflections."

"We really believe that unless you reflect on the experience you're not going deeper. What were the underlying issues? How is it going to change me? [...] Am I going to vote differently? Am I going to be involved in different initiatives?"

Programming is not limited to social justice courses; the centre has implemented service learning across 15 disciplines. In the 2009/2010 year service learning occurred in 22 courses and reached 1,700 students.

"You learn about a theory in a lecture and it might play itself out two days later in a community-based atmosphere." said Chambers.

The only stipulation of the centre is that partnerships need to be based in the GTA.

"We're unlike other centres who try to send students abroad [...] our centre was created to specifically meet the needs and help create more sustainability and capacity in our local community," said Chambers.

The centre was founded following a symposium of the Safer City Neighbourhood Taskforce at UTSC and results from the National Study of Student Engagement.

"There were certain areas where the university felt that students could have an engaged experience and one of the ways of doing that was to engage students with community," said Chambers.

Partnerships are created following a faculty member requests assistance in establishing a service learning program.

"We don't get involved in anything unless the community identifies what the need is and it meets the kind of learning outcomes of the course."

Chambers aims to create extended relationships with community organizations that continue after a course is completed. She points to a course created by Reid Locklin in the Department of Religion and Theology as a successful example of a partnership with the Baycrest Geriatric Health Care System that led to an extended multi-course relationship.

"They created a course called Religion and Theology after Auschwtiz because of the interest and knowledge Reid has in that area and then the needs of the residents," said Chambers.

The centre is working to to use a combinations of courses, student groups, and individual volunteers to create year-round volunteer support for organizations.

"The need doesn't go away," said Chambers, "The need is still there in April but no one is there from the university." The need for service learning is also not seen by everyone at U of T.

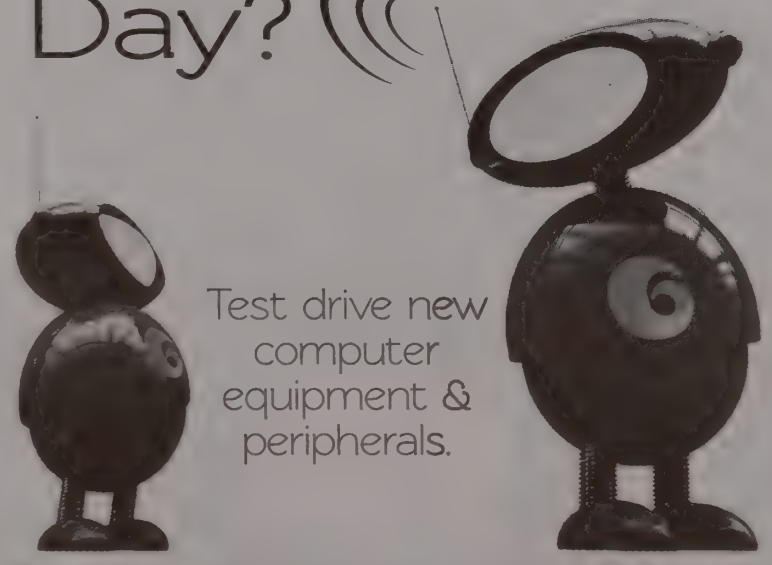
"Across the board at a big research institutions it's not always seen as a benefit for pre-tenured faculty."

Along with being seen by some as a distraction from publishing and research, community partnerships are also time-consuming.

"Even though we can try and provide support, it's going to take more time with service learning pedagogy than it would a lecture of traditional teaching."

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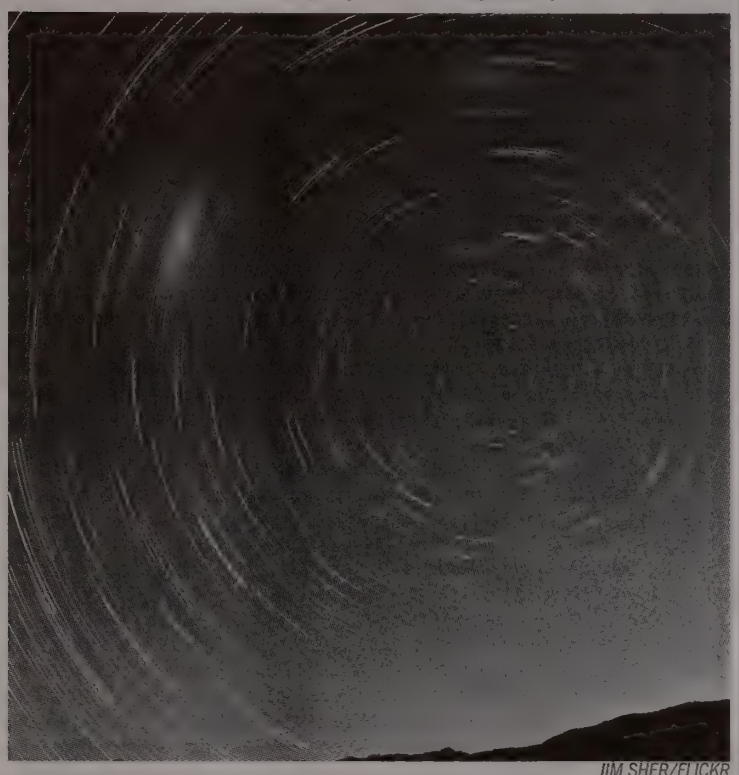
FIRE LEAVES STUDENTS HOMELESS



Over 80 firefighters responded to a fire at 368 College on Monday September 6. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Astronomy building launches new planetarium

Curved roof facility allows undergraduate students closer study of the Milky Way



JIM SHER/FLICKR

Yaser Ghassan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

An interactive planetarium was installed in the Astronomy Building in early August. The small room with a domed ceiling uses special cameras to provide representations of the atmosphere.

"The fish-eye lens [of the camera] is what allows the digital projector to distribute the image over the hemispherical dome, rather than the standard rectangular flat screen," says Professor Peter Martin.

The planetarium provides a 3D representation of the solar system and the entire Milky Way. Showing the motion and structure of galaxies, stars, and planets, the live video shot is highly realistic.

"The planetarium grew out of our need to enhance the experience of the night sky for our undergraduates," says Professor Ray Carlberg, explaining that the facility allows for the visualization of concepts that are difficult to demonstrate on a conventional flat screen. The facility is planned to be used for the introduction to astronomy course.

"You can pause, ask questions, show answers, another question comes up," says Carlburg, who adds that the planetarium will also be used for public tours and is a "valuable instructional opportunity for our graduate students and post doctorates."

The facility was constructed thanks to a joint effort by the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics and the Dunlap Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics. Funding was received from a variety of sources.

"[The planetarium] was largely funded through a grant from the Curriculum Renewal Initiatives Fund of the Faculty of Arts and Science," says Carlberg. Funding also came from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in a grant to graduate student Bryce Croll. The Dunlap Institute also contributed finances.

'G20' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

been ordered to leave.

Faculty and/or residence officials had some locks changed during the summit "to enable better control of access," said Stephens, "to limit the numbers of doors that people could use".

E-mails from The Varsity to residence officials were not answered. The cost of student relocations remains uncalculated.

SATURDAY CAMPUS CHAOS

University administration had at least one senior member of the administration on campus for the duration of the G20. The area was mostly peaceful until Saturday night.

Around 7 p.m., baton-wielding riot police evacuated the "free speech zone" at Queen's Park in 50-metre running jolts. Within an hour, the crowd of over a thousand, including women with strollers, was funnelled onto Hoskin Avenue.

The group split at Devonshire Place, with roughly equal numbers fleeing west and north. Police rapidly advanced and several individuals fell as the large packs squeezed into the narrow streets.

Roughly one hundred people heading westbound were then driven across St. George Street, still an active intersection with live traffic, onto Harbord Street. Police then retreated.

After the incident, Awad said both UTSU and university administration knew protesters might be forced onto campus if Queen's Park were evacuated.

"When we had met with the provost, they told us that they were in discussions with the police," said Awad, referring to a meeting in mid-June. He claims UTSU had warned of the potential evacuation of Queen's Park at a June 18 meeting at the U of T Art Centre.

"We did not have any advance notice [but] discussed the possibility that any overflow would be directed onto campus," said Stephens.

SUNDAY GSU RAID

Police conducted a major raid on the Graduate Students' Union building on Bancroft Avenue early Sunday morning. Police were also present and making arrests as far north as Bloor Street West.

The GSU voted to house protestors in its facilities at an executive meeting. The Toronto Community Mobilization Network billeted approximately 70 people – no full count exists – from outside Toronto in its gym, including student unions and left-leaning political groups from British Columbia and Quebec. Guests were encouraged but not obligated to sign a liability waiver.

> **"It's interesting that the police would be raiding students union in general."**

"We don't know exactly" who was there, said GSU spokesman Anton Neschadim.

Everyone in the building was arrested, and the raid took place under a vague search warrant on the grounds of "unlawful assembly." The warrant, which was only produced the day after the raid, was dated for 4:30 p.m., hours after the raid took place.

Those arrested were marched one-by-one to police buses, and police seized black clothing, containers of vinegar, bricks, wooden stakes, and other "weapons of opportunity". Neschadim said these were supplies GSU normally stores, such as t-shirts and stakes for protest signs. He added that no seized evidence, including the waivers, has been returned, and that objects such as bricks could have been collected outside the building.

Two GSU executives were charged with mischief over $5,000 and held for over 48 hours: external commissioner Daniel Vandervoort and another member whose identity The Varsity could not confirm at time of publication. Those arrested at the G20 appeared in court on August 23. Some arrested in the GSU with charges remaining are to return to court on October 14. There is a publication ban on the proceedings.

In a Globe and Mail article, a spokeswoman for the Quebec-based Anti-Capitalist Convergence said about 50 members were arrested at the GSU raid.

Neschadim said university administration and campus police administrators were notified the protestors would be billeted. A statement on the GSU website says volunteers supervised the guests and that safety guidelines were enforced. It also says Toronto police visited the building the day before and left peacefully.

ATTEMPTED UTSU RAID

Shortly after the GSU raid, the UTSU building was almost raided as well.

"I was in a cab, coming to campus, when I received a phone call to say that the Integrated Security police were at UTSU, wanting to gain entry," wrote provost Cheryl Misak in an e-mail to UTSU immediately after the incident. Misak said she ran from the cab to UTSU, where she found "a large number of police in full gear and preparation, surrounding the building.

"They were in the midst of arranging for an assessment so that they could gain entry. They did not know whether there was anyone in the building and wanted to be assured that it was empty."

Misak called Campus Police operations manager Sam D'Angelo and said she decided to speak with him to defuse the situation.

"We entered the building with Sam's key; triggered the alarm; called out in the foyer to see whether anyone responded; reset the alarm; and re-locked the building. Sam and I did not go further into the building than the reception area. I believe that this took well under a minute. At no point did the Integrated Security police enter. We assured them that the building was empty and they left immediately."

Awad said the incident was "out of the blue."

"The provost e-mail was the first time we'd heard of it. It's interesting that the police would be raiding students union in general."

With files from Andrew Rusk and Natalie Sequeira.

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A new approach to UTSU

A modest proposal for how the University of Toronto Students' Union could improve its services

Alex Ross and Abdi Aidid
VARSITY STAFF

The University of Toronto Students' Union, which represents over 41,000 students at the St. George and Mississauga campuses is an organization appreciated for its services, but often resented for its politics. Past critics of UTSU have cited issues of comm unication,transparency,accountabi lity, and even ideology that have left many students — especially on the St. George campus — feeling alienated. Last year, some college council representatives, particularly at St. Mike's and University College, talked openly about de-federation. This year brings with it a new UTSU executive and an opportunity to tackle these past criticisms. Here are some practical suggestions for what UTSU could do to improve itself this year:

1) Build a better relationship with St. George Colleges: Last year's Annual General Meeting was a tense affair with representatives from St. George College councils critiquing UTSU for lack of communication during Homecoming and questioning the transparency of Health and Dental Plan administration. UTSU should continue to liaise with the St. George Roundtable, a committee of college council presidents, and ensure that the concerns of all of the colleges are addressed. Representatives from UTSU should sit in on college council meetings and meetings of the St. George Roundtable to tackle issues of mutual concern.

2) Improve the Annual General Meeting: Aside from college council critiques, the Annual General Meeting was not well advertised. The AGM is an opportunity for all of UTSU's membership to meet and discuss the policies, by-laws, and budget of the union. Large posters should appear across campus advertising the AGM at least a month in advance. Leaflets should be distributed to explain how students and college councils can place items on the AGM agenda, and how to collect proxies for absentee members.

3) Re-think the Drop Fees campaign: The Varsity, the Strand, and the Newspaper reported a low turnout for last year's Drop Fees rally on November 5. Rather than lobbying for a blanket tuition freeze, the campaign should focus on university services that have been reduced. For example, sweeping changes proposed to the Arts and Science faculty at U of T such as the downsizing of area studies courses and the amalgamation of several different departments has U of T students concerned that they are paying more for less. Perhaps a series of organized campaigns directed at U of T protesting these program cuts would be a better approach than an afternoon of protest against the Government of Ontario?

4) Better election notices: Elections have always been a contentious affair at U of T mainly due to the lack of voter turnout. For example, current president Adam Awad received 4,152 votes while his competitor Steve Masse received 2,977, in a potential voter pool of 41,000 students. In most democracies such a number would be unacceptable. UTSU must go beyond notices in student newspapers. With students continually occupied with essays and midterms there's no such thing as too much notice. Once again, large posters should be distributed around campus, advertising fall and spring elections. Non-partisan volunteers could also be used to motivate students to attend debates and vote. Even a town hall on elections and student governance would be a good idea as this could provide a forum for information and improvement of the elections process.

5) Interact more with the student body: One of the best ways to ensure involvement is to interact more with students on campus. During campaign season, some voters complained that elected student officials were only visible at major events like the Drop Fees rally, or when a controversy of some sort emerged. For UTSU to affect change in the way they hope to, students will have to feel engaged and involved in the process. The general consensus is that UTSU hasn't done enough to make this the case. An election poster should never be the first time a student learns the name or face of their elected representatives.

6) Empower student clubs: While UTSU has tried to take the lead on a number of social justice and community initiatives, students rely on them to be primarily a service-based organization. With that said, the union leading the way on campaigns that require a lot of energy and organizing may take away from time and resources required to deal with their other administrative responsibilities. To correct this, UTSU should support student clubs and organizations with similarly aligned goals — and, quite frankly, more commitment and expertise — to organize relevant events and campaigns.



The University of Toronto Students' Union office at 12 Hart House Circle. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Re: The politics of fear, Sept 6.

LETTERS

The French proposal to deport Roma is a copy of the Italian directive passed last year by Berlusconi, not a product of Sarkozy's own government. Sarkozy has always been tough on immigrants, and this has always been his vote-winning subject — along with his strong campaign against Segolene Royal, which was a hot air balloon of its own sort. From a legal point of view, there are substantive arguments to be made that Sarkozy is in fact allowed to do this, even at a European Court of Rights.

While it is clear in our Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the proposal to deport Roma on sight is tantamount to persecution, it is not possible to ground their right of residency in Europe on European law. This law grants freedom and movement of the peoples of Europe within the European Union. Roma are not recognized as a single national identity, hence the question of their legal mobility. (There is of course also the question of legitimacy since the EU laws are enforced and the UN laws are not, in which case the EU laws trump the human rights charter.)

It is not productive to simply blame governments for deporting these peoples around the continent. There is a reason for why they resort to these measures. The failure of the integration of Roma is not something Europeans willingly inherit. Roma are not easy to integrate because they do wish to maintain their own language and identity, even though there are no institutions to protect them. When you are faced with these problems, and you are trying to buy these people off with incentives, exactly what do you expect to happen? The Roma people have for the most part resorted to crime and thereby lost many opportunities to become part of communities and get skill-based jobs. When that disappears, so does the need for education. The liberal argument here is that we ought to educate, so clearly there's a circular argument which is tearing the Roma further apart from Europe.

Most of the Roma can be traced back to countries like Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, and this is where they truly belong (what with them originating from here). This is also where they stand their best chance of being integrated. It is not the most prosperous part of Europe, but it is the place where their language and culture will be easier to integrate. And when you look at it from this point of view, you also see how the Roma's movement across Europe coincides with the EU's failure to raise the Eastern European countries out of poverty. Romania remains to this day a terribly poor and one of the most corrupt countries in the world, and where that not the case, the Roma's integration would be a completely different issue.

Basically, the treatment of the Roma is not separate from the overall policy regarding Eastern Europe. Diaspora studies tend to overlook this because they are too specific. Helping eastern Europe is the best way to helping Roma as well. We should be far more concerned with the effects of poverty as they have elevated fascists like Jobbik into political prominence in Hungary.

As for the Tamils, one can only hope that Harper isn't putting out an order to investigate those allegations for sure.

While it is actually established that the Tamil Tigers do harass Sri Lankans ex-patriots living abroad for money in order to fuel the Tigers' operations, I highly doubt that the people on those boats were members of the organization. It is not easy to trace members of an organization which is in the process of disbanding, and which the Sri Lankan government has not shared a single piece of info about with any external government.

Most Sri Lankans, however, are not here to terrorize Canada, but wish to live peacefully in one of the best countries in the world. And we need to let these them live in peace because that serves our interests as well as theirs. This is not an argument which needs explaining because it is self-evident.

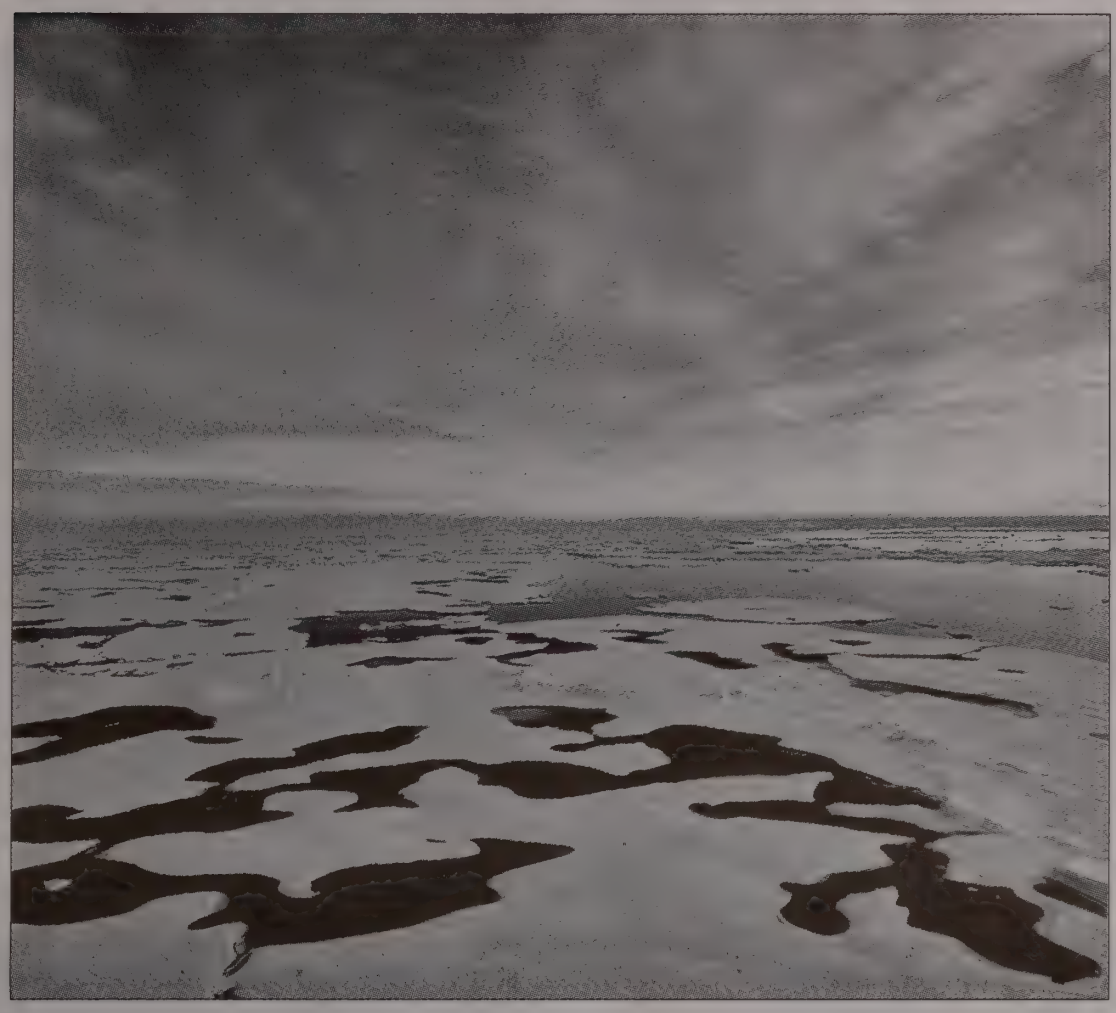
"Realist"

Truly strong and free?

PATRICK BAUD *probes the effectiveness of Canada's Arctic strategy*

In late August, the prime minister traveled to northern Canada for what has now become an annual tour. Stephen Harper delivered the main speech of the visit in Churchill, Manitoba where he declared that defending Canada's Arctic sovereignty is now the government's top foreign policy priority. First on the agenda is launching new negotiations with Denmark and the United States to resolve Arctic territorial disputes. Only if Canada is willing to assert its sovereignty in the high Arctic, Harper continued, can we truly consider ourselves the kind of "Arctic power" which the government believes that Canada ought to be.

While it would doubtlessly be good to put an end to the long-standing disputes, which are largely the result of imprecise description and poor surveying, this should hardly be the most pressing item on the government's Arctic agenda. Indeed, even if we were to reach an agreement with the American and Danish governments and resolve the disputes, these ad hoc negotiations would do little to lay the groundwork for the strong multilateral relationships needed to navigate the uncertain future of the Arctic. Canada should work to revitalize the ineffectual Arctic Council as the main forum for Arctic diplomacy.



Harper's strategy does little to build the strong multilateral relations needed to navigate the Arctic's uncertain future.

But diplomacy alone cannot deliver on Harper's desire to make Canada into an Arctic power. For that, the prime minister needs to do something that he knows few Canadians want: new defence spending. After all, Canadians are worried that we could be headed into another long period of deficits, to be followed eventually by painful cuts to spending which dwarf those of Jean Chrétien's first two governments. We are also relieved that Canadian troops are coming home from their long mission in Afghanistan and are not eager for military issues to once again dominate the national debate.

This is perfectly understandable. Talking about defence issues is risky for government and opposition alike because it is all too easy for one side to paint the other as defeatist or unpatriotic. Canada's dysfunctional solution to this problem is to avoid talking about defence issues seriously and to focus instead on peripheral issues that happen to sound important. But this solution makes it all too easy to ignore Canada's defence needs and it does so at our peril. Canada's military needs to be able to operate in the Arctic. Admittedly, it is incredibly difficult and expensive to do so, but we cannot afford not to.

Our choice is strikingly clear: either we develop and maintain the capacity to defend and patrol a changing Arctic or we have the United States do it for us. To those who would say that expanding and improving our capacity in the Arctic is unnecessary, consider that in a few short decades, climate change will transform the Arctic from a desolate frontier into a potential resource and shipping bonanza. Companies and governments from every corner of the world will be interested and many will try to take advantage of the new opportunities. Some will challenge Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic.

Asserting sovereignty is not about simply having military forces in the Arctic, but about having ones which are properly equipped and trained to operate in the grueling conditions of northern Canada. Unfortunately, the Harper government's military agenda for the Arctic is a half-hearted approach to assuring that the Canadian Forces have what they need to carry out their work. For instance, the proposed purchase of F-35 fighter jets, which are faster and stealthier than the CF-18s which Canada currently uses, will put Canada in good stead to patrol the high Arctic. However, since there are currently no permanent military airbases in the Arctic, the F-35s would still have to fly for hours from bases in northern Alberta and Labrador. Though the government has ordered new ice-hardened vessels for use in the Northwest Passage, these have no permanent military naval base from which to operate. Since ice-hardened vessels are not designed to break ice, these would still be incapacitated for several months of the year unless supported by new ice breakers such as those operated by the coast guard. This trend is repeated in nearly every planned equipment purchase or retrofit for the Canadian Forces' Arctic operations.

It may be that there is even more spending necessary to bring the Canadian Forces up to a reasonable standard. It may be that Canadians would be comfortable with sharing the defence burden in the Arctic with the United States. This we cannot know until we can have a national debate about the future of northern Canada and the role which the Canadian military will play in defending it. If we cannot depend on the government to initiate such a debate, then we should look to the opposition.

Double standards

The United States and its allies should look at their own nuclear policy before criticizing Iran

Mersiha Gadzo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

For years, the United States and its allies have accused Iran of being a major nuclear threat because it has violated the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ironically, the real violators of the NNPT are the same nations accusing Iran. The U.S. and its allies have never been able to confirm their accusations with concrete proof since they are based entirely on suspicion. While the media continues to attack Iran, illegal nuclear activities made by the West remain widely unknown to the public.

Iran, unlike Israel, is a signatory of the 1970 NNPT, which requires the International Atomic Energy Agency to make frequent unannounced inspections in order to verify that the country's nuclear program remains within the bounds of the treaty. The IAEA has made over 2,700 snap inspections in Iran and have repeatedly stated that they have found no evidence of a weapons program and that non-diversion of nuclear material is continually being verified.

United Nations Security Council investigations, led by former Director General of IAEA, Mohamed El-Baradei, have repeatedly shown that Iran has no military component to its program. In an interview for the German magazine, Der Spiegel, in July 2010, El-Baradei stated "I do not believe that the Iranians are actually producing nuclear weapons... in general, the danger of a nuclear-armed Iran is overestimated, some even play it up intentionally."

One of the treaty's main principles is non-proliferation. This means the five nuclear weapon states (U.S., France, United Kingdom, Russia, and China) agree not to transfer nuclear weapons. Yet the IAEA and the media have completely disregarded that the U.S. has actively been contributing to the proliferation of nuclear arms in Europe. The U.S. has thus far supplied 480 thermonuclear bombs to the so-called "non-nuclear states": Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, and Turkey.

According to University of Ottawa emeritus professor Michel Chossudovsky, three out of the eight U.S. nuclear air bases are situated in Germany. While Germany imports nuclear weapons from the U.S., it also produces nuclear warheads, which are exported to France. Germany is fully capable of directing its stockpiled American nuclear warheads at the Middle East, yet Germany is recognized as a non-nuclear state.

Israel, an "undeclared nuclear state," has obtained an estimate of 200 nuclear devices and has the Middle East's largest and most advanced chemical and biological warfare facilities. Its refusal to sign the 189-nation NNPT enables it to easily threaten its neighbours. El-Baradei stated at a press conference in October 2009 that, "Israel is the number one threat to the Middle East given the nuclear arms it possesses." Israel has refused to allow inspections into its nuclear program for 30 years, while Iran is complying with its obligations and allowing inspectors into its nuclear sites.

Iran has never launched a war in modern times but since 1900 has been invaded by Britain, the Soviet Union, Russia, and Iraq. It is surrounded by nuclear powers such as Israel, Pakistan, India, and Russia. The former three have yet to sign the treaty.

The signatories of the treaty are required to gradually eliminate all of their nuclear weapons and yet 40 years later none of the original signers (U.S., Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China) have complied. Instead, all of them have steadily enhanced their nuclear arms.

The U.S. has invaded other countries, most recently Afghanistan and Iraq, and is the only nation to ever use a nuclear weapon against another nation. The U.S. is also notorious for organizing coups against democratically elected governments, overthrowing regimes, and waging illegal wars. The U.S. has no right to bully Iran when the U.S. itself is a major violator of the NNPT and of international law. Therefore, it is a double standard for the United States and its allies to curtail Iran developing peaceful nuclear technology.

McGuinty less than liberal

The Ontario Premier's most recent policies are hurting the poorest people in the province



Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty debating in the Ontario Legislature.

Jon Foster
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is hurting the poorest people in this province with his policies. Though he wears the Liberal red garbs, he is turning out to be less than liberal in his spending and policies. In his short time as leader he has managed to cut promised funding for public transit, reduce social assistance rates, and has even raised taxes.

Public transit, despite being the best option for reducing greenhouse gases in our air, is also an effective means of transportation for those who cannot afford to own a car. In Toronto, we have one of the most under-funded public transit systems in North America. Mr. McGuinty had promised billions of dollars in funding to expand and improve the TTC, but in his most recent budget, he reneged on this promise, leaving the TTC in a lurch. Projects have been scrapped, delayed, or put on hold, while the provincial government has simply pocketed the $1 billion that the federal government transferred to the province as part of a green initiative. This means the people of Toronto are left taking highly expensive, under-subsidized, unreliable transit on an aging infrastructure. Toronto's hopes of being turned into a world-class city with efficient, affordable transit has gone the wayside. Three dollars for a trip may not be expensive to some, but to those who have a marginal income, the economics of it just doesn't make sense. For example, someone working full-time at minimum wage earns approximately $21,320 per year, however will spend three dollars each direction to take them to and from work on the TTC. That adds up to about $1,560 a year just for transportation, or about 7.5 per cent of their total income, before taxes.

Worse-off are those on social assistance. A single person who is unable to work and is on disability is currently allotted a maximum of $1,282 per month. Of that, $578 is earmarked as basic needs, $464 for shelter, and if the recipient has a special dietary need, up to an additional $240 for that. These rates are incredibly low considering the cost of rent, but we must also account for utilities such as electricity or phone bills. Those with special dietary needs, such as people with AIDS or diabetes, are facing the possibility of their special diet supplement being axed. The government has claimed that it is increasing social assistance rates. However, it is only giving a 1% increase on the basic needs allotment, for a total increase of about $70 over the course of a year. This can hardly be justified with such a major cut to the special diet allowance, and will force thousands more to rely on an already strained food bank system.

To add insult to injury, the provincial government has actually raised taxes, and has added more taxes that directly affect the poorest of the province, more so than everyone else. With the recent enactment of the Harmonized Sales Tax, the government has successfully pulled off the biggest tax grab since the Mulroney Conservatives brought about the GST. Further, the whole idea of the "eco-tax" which would have affected more than 10,000 consumer products, left many astonished at the lengths the Ontario government would go to put more money into the public coffers. Everything from sun-block to potting soil would have been affected by this fee which, according to the Toronto Sun, was illegal to charge under the Constitution Act. (Though the eco-tax has been scrapped for now, it might emerge again in the near future, most likely under a different name.)

Though it has become clear that Premier Dalton McGuinty has created some of the harshest conditions for the poor in Ontario, his government still believes that it is making logical, sound decisions for the betterment of the province. However, with the cuts to public transit, cuts to social assistance, and increasing taxes it becomes even clearer that this provincial government will do anything within its power to balance the books, even if it harms Ontario's poorest citizens. Previously a staunch Liberal supporter, I plan to take a long hard look at the alternatives in the next provincial election.



Don't turn it in

The anti-plagiarism service does students more harm than good

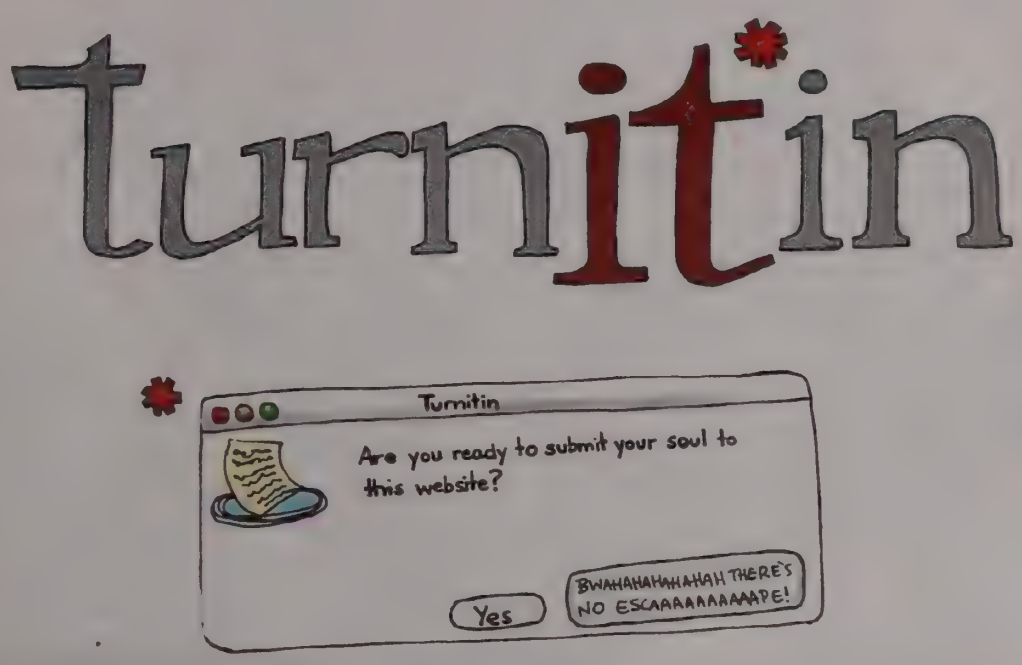
Maria Cichosz
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR

The start of the school year means new classes and for many students these will involve the use of Turnitin.com, an electronic resource designed to detect plagiarism used regularly at the University of Toronto. The program works by checking submitted student papers for textual similarity against the millions of resources stored in its database, including an archived copy of the Internet, published works, and student papers submitted to Turnitin since 1996. Papers containing too many textual similarities are flagged as possible cases of plagiarism. While Turnitin is considered a valuable resource by many professors who might otherwise not spot plagiarism in student work, it is also the source of a number of controversies which suggest that students should think twice before submitting their work to the website.

Turnitin's name is more reminiscent of Crime Stoppers tip hotlines and criminal activity than of an academic resource. Many students at universities such as McGill, Mount Saint Vincent, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford have criticized the program for its assumption of student guilt before any crime has been committed. All students are regarded as potential plagiarists, and must prove themselves innocent by submitting their work to a resource that rigorously scans it and creates an "originality report." Since recent studies have shown the number of undergraduate students who have admitted to cheating at least once during their time at a post-secondary institution is at 70 to 80 per cent, many argue that this presumption of guilt is justified. However, Turnitin's "guilty until proven innocent" approach is about more than just catching plagiarists — it also creates an atmosphere of mistrust between teachers and students that fosters a negative learning environment. Rather than encouraging professors to create assignments that are difficult to plagiarize and to teach their students about academic integrity and proper citation styles, Turnitin reduces student-teacher relationships to ones of rule enforcement. An emphasis on catching cheaters rather than avoiding academic dishonesty in the first place does not allow for learning opportunities, only for a mechanistic system of surveillance and penalties.

Turnitin's practice of permanently storing submitted student papers in its database has also been the source of controversy. Iparadigms LLC, the company that created Turnitin, asserts that the information stored is only a digital "fingerprint" of the work and not the work's actual content, and that students retain copyright of their work even after submission to Turnitin. Despite this, Turnitin's policy of storing all submitted work in its database is a way of using students' intellectual property for commercial purposes. Turnitin regularly flaunts the unrivalled size of its database as an incentive for prospective universities considering its use. John Barrie, the founder of Turnitin, has declared that, "in very short order, [Turnitin will] have it all wrapped up. [...] There will be no room for anybody else, not even a Microsoft, to provide a similar type of service because we will have the database." Student work submitted to Turnitin automatically becomes a part of this massive database, as there is no option offered to students who do not wish to have their intellectual property used in this way. It is questionable whether universities should use a resource that allows students' original work to be used for a private company's profit.

Given the various concerns that have surfaced about Turnitin, U of T allows students to choose whether or not they will use the resource. It also provides them with alternatives if they should choose not to, such as handing in rough notes with an essay. However, professors have a responsibility to do more than simply offer alternatives to Turnitin. They should also take the time to explain why a student might choose to opt for another method of evaluation. Similarly, students must do their research and consider the implications of their decision before using Turnitin.com for their assignments.



Turnitin.com has been criticized for how it uses student intellectual property and its assumption all students are potential plagiarists. *ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*



VARSITY EDITORIAL

NEWS

The News section provides fair and balanced coverage for undergraduate students at U of T. Scandal, marginalization, and wasteful spending — we keep students in the know. Read our section and you'll stay on top of the complicated bureaucracy, new policies from university administration, and everything at U of T that's fit for print. In short, we'll help you understand how Canada's largest university works.

This summer we've already covered everything from scandal during the G20 to the financial struggles of the Toronto Women's Bookstore and, with over 75,000 students during the school year, there are plenty of exciting events on campus to cover every week. In the interest of covering these events, we will be regularly breaking news through Twitter and following it up with thorough reporting online and in print. We will also be expanding our investigstive coverage to dive head-first into the compicated issues and debates that swirl around campus.

Since 1880, we have been the living record of U of T's history. Join in our quest to continue providing a student voice on campus. We are the first source for all U of T news.

Breakingly,
Andrew Rusk
News Editor, 2010-2011

SCIENCE

The Science section at The Varsity is U of T's best student outlet for science journalism. Just saying.

We cover everything from recent breakthroughs made by U of T researchers, to scientific explanations of the everyday phenomena you always wanted to be a snob about. Whether it's particle physics, protenomics, or pituitary glands, you'll find your fill of science-minded news every week.

Remember to keep an eye out for a new weekly column, "Wonderland in Space," that looks at a new piece of galactic miscellany every week. We'll also be featuring a new "Lab Crawl" series that gets up close and personal with the people, rituals, and paraphernalia that make up lab life on campus.

And on the online end, we're excited to be starting up a number of science blogs this year. Follow one student's trials and tribulations of getting into med school, along with extra weekly news for those science-minded students who just can't get enough. Because let's face it. Who wants internet videos of Lady Gaga when you can hit up *Drosophila melanogaster*?

Scientifically,
Erene Stergiopoulos
Science Editor, 2010-2011

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In this challenging time of raging war, economic instability, rampant hatred, and print media's insistence on going down in flames no matter how hard aspiring writers hope it won't (cough), sometimes the only thing in which we can find solace is art. Well buster, you're in luck, because this year's Varsity's Arts & Entertainment section strives to satisfy your hankering for all things arty. In addition to our usual coverage of the goings-on in this city's arts community, we are pleased to announce several new initiatives. Arts' Arts, our biweekly showcase of the most talented creator's at U of T, will be publishing original art, photography, fiction and poetry the whole year round. Also to come: The Varsity Interview, a meaty, filling Q & A with the most influential folks in the arts scene that we can manage to wrangle a meeting with.

If you prefer your arts reportage in a shiny New Media format, go to TheVarsity.ca for our barrage of new blogs. Singled Out features Sean Mackay and Navi Lamba taking a weekly look at the most interesting new singles, from Pitchfork to MTV. Each month, The Varsity Book Club discusses the most-hyped books of the season, while On Screen provides up-to-date reviews of what's on the silver screen.

Look to the arts section this year for a guide to the goings-on in the city and on campus, as well as longer feature pieces on everything from interpretive dance to campus stage.

Artistically,
Emily Kellogg and Will Sloan
Arts and Entertainment Editors, 2010-2011

FEATURES

If this is your first time picking up an issue of the Varsity, let me welcome you to the Features section, the newest and most versatile section in the paper. By versatile I mean that, because this section is such a recent addition to the Varsity, the definition of a feature is very broad, and we're always up for experimenting with different styles, forms, and mediums.

If you've been an avid reader in the past, then you know what to expect from the section. Last year we published interviews with authors, musicians, politicians, and scholars. We wrote about the future, the arts and continually pushed the envelope with our layouts and design. A few things will stay the same this year: we'll be publishing three Varsity magazines, the first of which will hit the stands in November. Magazines are always brimming with engaging writing and fascinating stories so watch out for them! We'll also keep experimenting with the design of the section, with photos, illustrations, infographs, and more.

This year we'll be publishing more features, one in each issue, which means we'll need more content than ever. So if you're a talented writer don't hesitate to contact me with your idea for a story. As long as some basic parameters are followed (1500+ words with a narrative structure), the versatility of the section provides a tremendous opportunity to explore diverse subjects and writing styles.

Though I don't really have an office, if I did, the door would always be open.

Sincerely,
Sean MacKay
Features Editor, 2010-2011

SPORTS

As the University of Toronto's finest athletes are gearing up for another action-packed year, the sports writers here at The Varsity are doing exactly the same thing. With a roster full of fresh new recruits both on the field and in the newsroom, sports coverage at U of T will be over the fence and out of the park this year.

Working closely with the coaches and management of the university's athletic programs to provide updated coverage of breaking news and events across campus, U of T's largest newspaper has the inside track to all things Varsity Blues. This year sports fans can expect to follow their home team through a variety of different mediums as the staff at The Varsity have kicked into overdrive and are at the forefront of multimedia journalism across campus.

While profiles of standout athletes and teams, breaking administrative news and detailed event coverage can still be found in the pages of The Varsity and online, streaming video blogs recapping game highlights will be added to the website's line-up for the 2010–2011 season.

Now a weekly paper, The Varsity strives to deliver accurate and up-to-date sports news to the community at the University of Toronto in a timely and efficient manner. U of T boasts some of the most talented athletes and coaches in the country. With so much ground to cover, it's safe to say that The Varsity's sports staff has already hit the ground running.

See you in the winner's circle,
Roberta Bell
Sports Editor, 2010-2011

COMMENT

Who doesn't love to argue? Whether its the latest blunder from Ottawa or a still controversial re-organization of the University of Toronto's academic structure, everyone has an opinion about something. The Varsity's comment section is where ideas clash and the voice of U of T's student body is heard. We have printed student opinion about everything. And I mean everything. From the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine to the appropriate way to give a high five, the comment section is always brimming with contentious conversation.

My name is Alex Ross, and as the section's editor, I am the facilitator of this mini-marketplace of ideas. I'm constantly on the hunt for enthusiastic young writers eager to make their mark by means of the print medium. If you have an opinion that is begging to spring fully-formed from the inner sanctum of your mind please send me an e-mail and I'll give you a deadline and a word count. No previous experience required!

Maybe you want to write an Irks and Quirks op-ed, or something for the more serious Political Scene, which covers the latest in all level of politics? However, I don't expect you to be bound by any particular category or ideology. I just want you to feel free to express yourself. I look forward to working with you all this year. Write for comment!

Opinionatedly,
Alex Ross
Comment Editor, 2010-2011

FROM THE EDITOR

130 years ago this fall, an enterprising band of students at the University of Toronto introduced their new publication The Varsity as both a "register of opinion in and out of the University [and a] strenuous advocate of what constitutes individual wellbeing." Despite having undergone changes upon changes throughout its history, these two modest goals still remain at the core of The Varsity's mission. While we aim to publish an open and inclusive newspaper reflecting the pluralism and expansiveness of our campus, we also intend to zealously provide you with everything you need to survive the arduous and exhilarating experience of university. To that end you'll find our summer Handbook, in which Varsity editors and contributors share their wisdom on surviving and understanding life at the university, enclosed in the following pages.

Throughout the past eight months The Varsity, along with many other newspapers around the world, has undergone substantial changes. Despite receiving generous support from students and benefiting immensely from the hard work so many of them put in, we have had to cope with the effects of an economic recession compounded with the increasing competition newspapers face from other mediums. As part of our efforts to adapt while continuing to fulfill our mandate, we will be publishing larger, weekly issues with more comprehensive coverage of the goings on at our three campuses and around the city. Our website will also be updated constantly with a healthy stream of news-briefs, Podcasts, and blog posts: we've found already that there's no shortage of material.

As we have reported over the summer, sweeping changes to the Faculty of Arts and Science have been proposed and a renewed debate over the imposition of Flat Fees is set to commence in the coming months. This summer, Toronto and its inhabitants experienced the anarchic nightmare of the G20 summit (I do not think this characterization is too severe) and, in Ottawa, the parliamentary game of Jenga keeps Canada teetering on the brink of a general election. Moreover, Toronto will soon be casting ballots in an election of its own in a vote which will have major implications for many students who rely on public transit, bike to school or work, or simply live in the GTA.

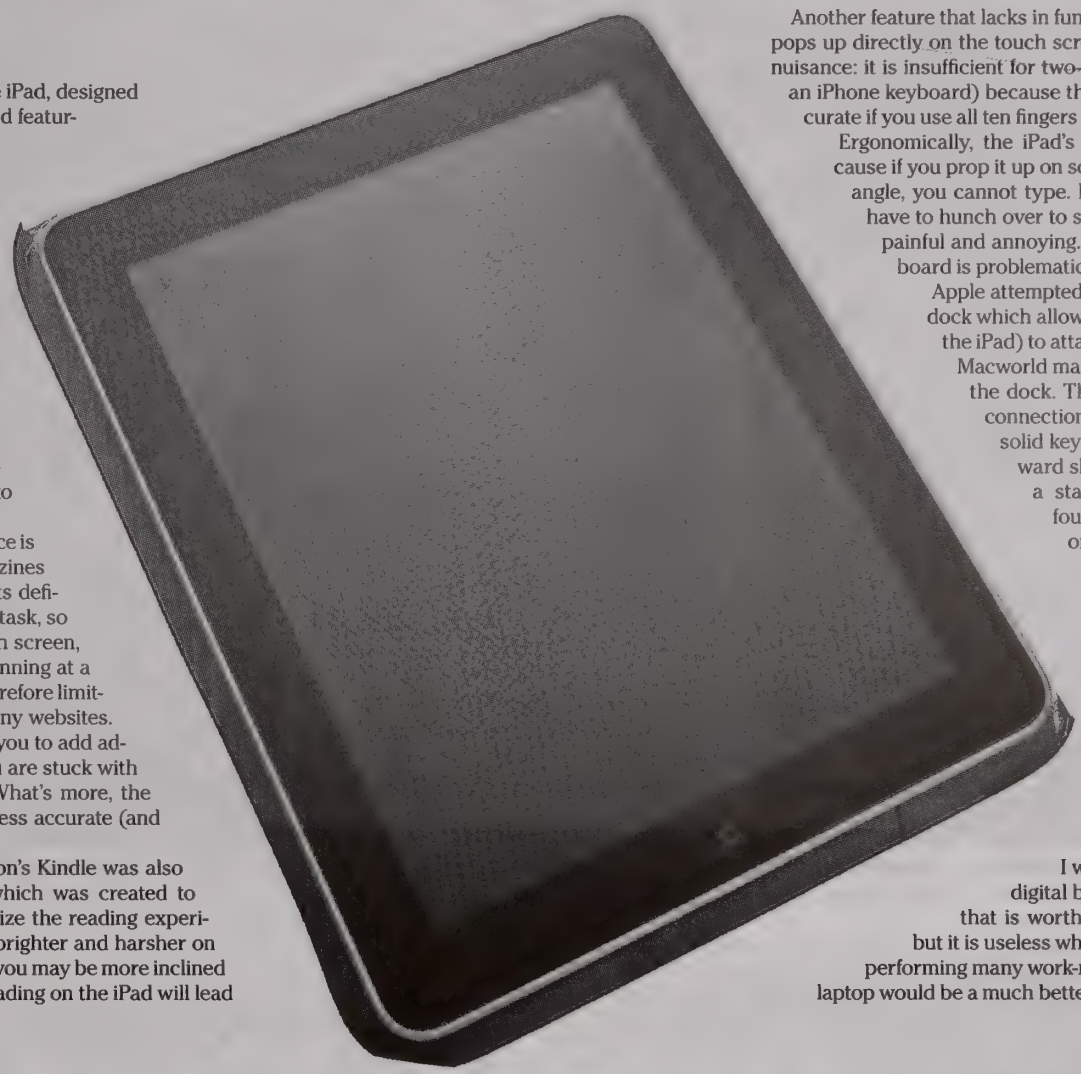
Whether you're a new or a returning student, I invite you to join us this year in an ongoing discussion of university life. This Friday at 2 PM, we will be hosting our annual fall open-house at our offices in 21 Sussex, second-floor. Whether you're interested in writing, illustrating, taking photos, or just want to meet the staff of your campus paper, our doors are wide open and we look forward to meeting you!

The year ahead promises to be an interesting one for us all.

Yours,
Luke Savage
Editor-in-Chief, 2010-2011

iPad: not so rad

Charlotte Tombs
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



Apple recently released its latest product, the iPad, designed to be a fusion of the iPhone and the laptop and featuring video games, internet, maps, word processing, and digital books. It was also meant to challenge Amazon's Kindle, since the Kindle only offers digital books, whereas the iPad offers digital books plus many other features.

The iPad is light-weight and operates very efficiently, with rapid and simple navigation. According to Toronto Star technology writer Marc Salzmann, the "first-generation iPad does prove to be a 'magical' device, as Apple CEO Steve Jobs promises." Globe and Mail technology writer Omar El Akkad states that "overall it's a beautiful device but a couple of things still need to be fixed."

Compared to a laptop, the iPad's performance is lacking in many areas, and technology magazines including PC World were quick to point out its deficiencies. The iPad does not allow you to multitask, so despite the quick responsiveness of the touch screen, you will only be able to have one program running at a time. The iPad does not have Adobe Flash, therefore limiting the content you will be able to see on many websites. It does not have a camera nor does it permit you to add additional memory using memory cards, so you are stuck with one of the four memory options available. What's more, the touch screen makes the gaming experience less accurate (and therefore less enjoyable) than that of a laptop.

The iPad's attempt to compete with Amazon's Kindle was also unimpressive: the Kindle uses e-ink type which was created to closely emulate actual ink. in order to optimize the reading experience. The iPad has an LED-lit screen that is brighter and harsher on the eyes. Therefore, if you are an avid reader, you may be more inclined to purchase the Kindle because prolonged reading on the iPad will lead to serious eye strain.

Another feature that lacks in functionality is the iPad's keyboard, which pops up directly on the touch screen. This keyboard has proven to be a nuisance: it is insufficient for two-finger typing (which you would use on an iPhone keyboard) because the keyboard is too big, and is very inaccurate if you use all ten fingers to type.

Ergonomically, the iPad's keyboard faces similar problems, because if you prop it up on something in order to get a good viewing angle, you cannot type. However, if you do not prop it up, you have to hunch over to see the screen, making extensive typing painful and annoying. No matter how you look at it, this keyboard is problematic.

Apple attempted to remedy this by creating a keyboard dock which allows a keyboard (one specifically made for the iPad) to attach while simultaneously propping it up. Macworld magazine pointed out the pros and cons of the dock. The pros include a "good viewing angle; connection to Mac, power, and speakers; and a solid keyboard feel" while cons include "an awkward shape and the fact that it is heavier than a standard wireless keyboard." Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak offers a final word on the keyboard dock: "Apple is offering an auxiliary physical keyboard that docks with, and charges, the iPad. But you won't want to lug that around." The fact that a physical keyboard is required for efficient use of the iPad defeats its purpose entirely.

After having tried the iPad myself, I can confirm that the touch screen is highly responsive, with bright colours and high resolution. However, the keyboard is impossible to use comfortably and I would certainly not use the iPad to read digital books. In short, the iPad is a neat gadget that is worth trying out for five minutes in a store, but it is useless when it comes to reading books, typing, or performing many work-related tasks. Purchasing a good quality laptop would be a much better choice.

Not a tough cell

Tom Cardoso & Erene Stergiopoulos
VARSITY STAFF

PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE

Cellphone plans can be really confusing sometimes. (Heck, one of The Varsity's editors doesn't even have a phone yet for that very reason.) Now that mom and dad are out of the picture, it's all on you to get shit done. Opening your own bank account, cooking for yourself, and getting a cellphone plan of your very own. So we're making it simple for you: here's a (highly stereotyped) breakdown of the best bang for your mobile buck.



The Player
Carrier: Rogers
Plan: Unlimited Student 150min Plan
Price: $30
For the player who can't get enough, Rogers' plan provides unlimited evenings and weekends from 9pm (because let's face it, if you're getting as much as you say you are, you're gonna need it) and unlimited talk, text and picture messaging to five of your "closest friends," if you know what we mean.



Long-Distance Caller
Carrier: WIND Mobile
Plan: Infinite Long-Distance Add-on
Price: $20 (plus the cost of a plan)
If long-distance calling makes your mouth water, get on WIND's gravy train with this long-distance add-on, which makes calling the homeland a piece of cake. In a nutshell, this country-specific add-on can be paired up with any existing WIND plan, spicing up your calling more than mom's homemade curry. Nice.



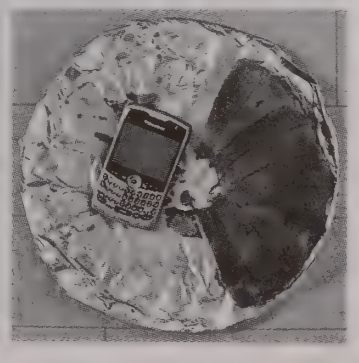
Data Fiend/Social Networker
Carrier: Rogers
Plan: Unlimited 150min Blackberry
Student Plan Price: $40
You have 1652 Facebook friends and you get an email every eight nanoseconds. How are you going to keep track of them all? Rogers' plan will get you there with 150 minutes of talk and unlimited social networking. You're too cool for this article.



Texter
Carrier: Rogers
Plan: Unlimited Student Messaging with My5
Price: $30



The Person Who Just Wants A F*ing Phone (AKA The Commitmentphobe)**
Carrier: Koodo
Plan: Unlimited Incoming Combo
Price: $30
For the cellular everyone, who really just wants a phone with no contracts or strings attached. Koodo's plan includes unlimited incoming calls, so you never have to make the first move. If you are prone to making first moves, however...



Momma's Boy
Carrier: Wind Mobile
Plan: Always Shout Student Plan
Price: $25
If your "closest friend" is your mom, however, then Wind's plan will serve you just as well as a nice, warm slice of homemade apple pie. Yum. The plan includes Canada-wide unlimited text and calling, with no contract and 25c/min calls if you're not dialling from a Wind Zone.



The Srebrenica-Potočari Memorial and Cemetery for the Victims of the 1995 Genocide. Srebrenica was the site of the worst genocide in Europe since the Holocaust.



Experiencing the "Other" EUROPE

New U of T summer abroad program sends students to one of the world's most controversial regions

by **ROBERTA BELL**, photos by **BERNARDA GOSPIC**

Images of bombs exploding and starving refugees bundled in rags have plagued mainstream media reports on Southeastern Europe for the past two decades.

But what has received considerably less publicity is how successful the region has been in moving forward and dealing with its war-torn past.

While there are people who still view the Balkans with trepidation, Professor Robert Austin of the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies — CERES — at the University of Toronto hopes to change this view.

"It's important to understand the Balkans in all aspects, and it's regrettable that when you think of the Balkans, war comes to mind. There's no good reason not to give students the opportunity to study the Balkans. [The region] has a tremendous amount to offer," he explained.

Austin gathered 34 students from universities across the province under the auspices of Woodsworth College's well-established Summer Abroad program.

Over four weeks, Summer Abroad Southeastern Europe — SEE — allowed students to travel to Austria, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Slovenia while taking part in an intensive third year political science course called Return to Europe: Bringing Southeastern Europe Into the European Union.

Although Austin admitted that the launch of Summer Abroad SEE was one of the highlights of his career, getting the program up and running was not easy.

"It's been a few years trying to get Summer Abroad to the Balkans. The biggest job was to convince the U of T administration that there was a market and make sure there was interest. I gain a lot of pleasure from introducing the Balkans to students and reminding people it's an important part of Europe with rich cultural and historical legacies."

Austin, who holds an undergraduate degree in political science from Carleton University and both a Master's and a Doctorate from the University of Toronto, has a genuine passion for the region. Intrigued by the Balkans as a young man, he went on to specialize in the region's politics.

Fieldwork has always been important to him, and hands-on experiences have taught him not to underestimate its value.

During the tumultuous period of the 1990s, Austin worked as a journalist in the region, and at one point led Radio Free Europe's Albanian office.

Interestingly, he chose to base Summer Abroad SEE in Graz, Austria.

"Graz is exceptionally beautiful and welcoming for students. It's easy to explore, and a nice place to come back home to. First and foremost, however, the University of Graz was a good partner for us. U of T is a premier university and we need to deliver a premier program. Graz is a reliable partner who understood what we were trying to do."

Bernarda Gospic, a second year majoring in Croatian and Serbian Studies and Book and Media Studies, participated in summer abroad SEE and agreed with her professor's sentiments.

"I think it was nice to study in Graz because it's a neutral town in a neutral country. It just wouldn't have been the same to base our study in one area of the Balkans. If we were in Croatia it would have been more focused on Croatia. If we were in Serbia it would have been more focused on Serbia."

Her friend Sammy Halabi, a third year majoring in International Relations and Economics, took the course as well, but felt that having the lectures in Graz made it more difficult to grasp the historical legacies at play.

A very real and unfortunate obstacle in educating students about the Balkans is that the vivid memory of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia makes it difficult for some not to question the future and stability of the region.

However, the current state of the Balkans does not, as the students of Summer Abroad SEE learned, fit the preconceived notions that many people have.

After participating in Summer Abroad SEE, Gospic said, "I don't think people in North America are really in touch with the Balkans at all. I don't think a lot of people are even aware of some countries that are in the Balkans."

To truly gain an understanding of the region today, Austin pointed out, "The Balkans have to be viewed along historical lines. What's going

on is more complicated than the wars that went on from 1992 to 2001."

The first week of the course was dedicated to providing students with a serious historical introduction to the region, which included the rise and fall of both the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empires.

The difficult task was entrusted to Professor Franz Szabo of the University of Alberta. A leading Canadian historian in the field of Habsburg history, Szabo was a natural choice for the job.

Halabi, who is accustomed to an intensive course load, found the amount of information presented to him in that first week to be overwhelming.

"It was a lot to handle. There was a lot of material. In some cases, we only got to go over it really topically."

Gospic agreed, "Keeping up with all the content, and learning so much in such a short amount of time was hard. In three weeks, we covered the entire history of Yugoslavia. We had to learn the complete history of six countries in three weeks. And that first week was devoted to history from the beginning of time up until 1945."



An opera house in Graz, Austria. The summer abroad program was based in Graz.

The demise of Yugoslavia is difficult to understand even for some of the world's leading scholars.

Sabrina Ramet, a professor of political science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and a senior research associate with the Center for the Study of Civil War in Oslo explained that in the Balkans "the root cause of the problem was the illegitimate political system."

The one party dictatorship, which ruled the country for almost 50 years, fostered ethnic tensions among the six republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

When Yugoslavia was on its last legs at the end of the 1980s, the government was under the control of the late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, who was eventually indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity in 1999.

Today, the region is rebuilding itself and working towards European political and economic integration.

Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, whose country held the rotating presidency of the European Union until July 2010 said in a statement, "The last five to six months in the western Balkans have been — let's be frank — the most peaceful, productive, [and] hopeful in recent history."

Moratinos went on to say that the EU would continue to work towards bringing the countries of the western Balkans into the fold.

Croatia paints a positive picture for the region and although a date has yet to be set for Croatia to officially join the EU, it will be the first country of the Western Balkans to become a full member.

EU officials in Brussels have said that Croatia's formal entry into the organization will be a big achievement for the region and will give a boost to other Western Balkan countries.

At this point, unfortunately, the future does not look as bright for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Halabi said, "I think Bosnia was where I could really feel the course. I could very much see the history there and get a feel for it.

"Take Sarajevo for example. When I walked through Sarajevo, I saw the bullet holes and markings on the ground where bombs had exploded."

Gospic, whose background is Croatian, added, "I've grown up in Croatian culture, but I thought it was important to learn about the war on my own. I've heard things from my family, but it was going to Bosnia that actually hit me in a different way.

"Reading and sitting in lecture is one thing, but actually walking through the streets that others had to walk through as they endured the war is much different. Being able to see the remnants of the war is mind-blowing. Anyone can tell you something, but sometimes you actually have to see it to believe it."

The reality is that Bosnia-Herzegovina is lagging behind its Balkan counterparts.

Governed by an international body called the Office of the High Representative, which the students of Summer Abroad SEE visited, Bosnia-Herzegovina is struggling to become truly stable.

When the war that raged between 1992 and 1995 ended, Bosnia-Herzegovina was split into two rival regions. The Republika Srpska, populated by Bosnian Serbs, and the Muslim-Croat Federation are still linked today by a constitution that was hastily written by the international community.

"This is Europe. Europe is supposed to be such an established place and the things that happened and are happening in the Balkans are hard to take in," said Gospic.

Srebrenica, which was initially declared a safe zone by the UN during the Bosnian war, was the site of the worst genocide in Europe since the Holocaust.

When it was overrun by Bosnian Serbs in July 1995, thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys went missing, and while many were killed trying to escape through the woods, others were arrested and transported to sites to be executed and buried in mass graves.

Halabi described visiting the war memorial, established in Srebrenica in 2001, with his fellow SEE students as the most profound experience on the trip.

"It was life changing. Standing there, there were 5000 graves. 8000 deaths and 5000 graves. There was a huge memorial wall listing the victims' names. You could see the son's name beneath the father's name beneath the grandfather's name. Entire families were wiped out in a moment."

When tried at the ICTY, the Srebrenica case involved nearly 450 witnesses and three years of hearings that only concluded last year.

Gospic experienced her most powerful and important moment of the program not in Srebrenica, but in the divided Muslim-Croat city of Mostar.

"When we were in Mostar I saw a sign that said 'Don't forget' propped up on a stone on the main drag by all the shops.

"People are moving on but they remember what happened. They don't forget. It said so right there."

Possibly one of the most emotional and intensive programs that U of T offers as part of Summer Abroad, the SEE course gave students the opportunity to analyze and assess the legacies of war and peace in the region from a variety of angles.

Gospic said, "There was a diverse group of students from many different areas of study. It meant that opinions were coming from all directions."

Although the Summer Abroad SEE students represented a variety of disciplines and interests, they got along with each other exceptionally well, and according to Austin, that was critical to the success of the program.

"The demand on teacher and students is extremely high but I enjoyed that we were able to develop a really good social milieu and sit down as a group of friends," he said.

Whether it was the intensive course work they participated in, the life-altering field trips, the friendships they formed, or a mix of all of the above, the Summer Abroad SEE students now view the world differently.

Halabi said, "I think the most important thing I got out of it was a deeper understanding of what really happens in the Balkans. Just from a knowledge perspective, I know a lot more than I did before. Back in Canada I didn't really get a sense of what these people went through and are going through.

"Since the course ended, I find myself checking websites like Balkan Insight for news updates. I've been reading it religiously and in a way, I feel connected to the region now."



A sign in Mostar, a city in Bosnia-Herzegovina, asks passersby not to forget the horrors of the war.

TIFF takes off (but doesn't quite soar)

The 35th annual festival stumbles in moments, in others shines


BARNEY'S VERSION

Barney's Version
(Richard J. Lewis)

Not a lot of actors could have pulled off Barney Panofsky, the hero of Mordecai Richler's final novel. A hack TV producer and worse husband, he cheats, he lies, he leaves his second wife at the wedding reception to ask out a potential third; ignores his loved ones to watch the hockey game, and possibly even kills his friend. Paul Giammati's performance is so good because it is so merciless. His Barney is too smart to tolerate the people around him, too selfish to deserve their attention, and too self-aware not to hate himself. He's also very funny, in a curmudgeonly sort of way, and to be fair, he seems like a bastard by birth, not by choice. This slick and entertaining Robert Latnos production covers most of Barney's adulthood in its leisurely 132-minute running time, pleasingly structured like a novel on film – or a life, for that matter. There's a lot to cover, and the secondary characters get the short shrift (Barney's first two wives are cruel caricatures, the third is simplistically noble), but maybe that doesn't matter. Barney is definitely the star of his own life story, and Barney's Version is a fine showcase for Giammati.
- WILL SLOAN

Black Swan
(Darren Aronofsky)

You can't always explain your reaction to art. Certain pieces of music, or paintings, or passages of poetry elude all critical thought and strike you at a gut level. What I mean to say is, I'm still just happily baffled by Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan*, and that the best I can muster is, "It's *The Red Shoes* meets *Videodrome*." I sure hope that gets quoted on the ads.

The film is a berserk fusion of melodrama and body horror, two subgenres that work best as visceral experiences. Natalie Portman – never a more erotic presence – plays a dancer cast as the White and Black Swans in Swan Lake, a dual role that seems beyond her ability. Among the things that struck me on a gut level: the warped power dynamic between Portman and her director (Vincent Cassel); Portman's sexual awakening, and how it contrasts with her infantilized relationship with her mother; her insanely driven, mind-and-body-destroying pursuit of artistic perfection; the curious psychosexual drama between her and a rival dancer (Mila Kunis), who is nothing if not a Black Swan. And there are the final thirty minutes, set during the opening night performance, which are just terrific filmmaking. Aronofsky's camera circles around the dancers, gliding to the tempo of *Swan Lake* – a virtuoso sequence that reaches its emotional pinnacle with a literal onstage transformation that really shouldn't work but absolutely does. Please don't ask me why I found it all so moving. Sometimes trying to explain something can destroy its magic. - WS

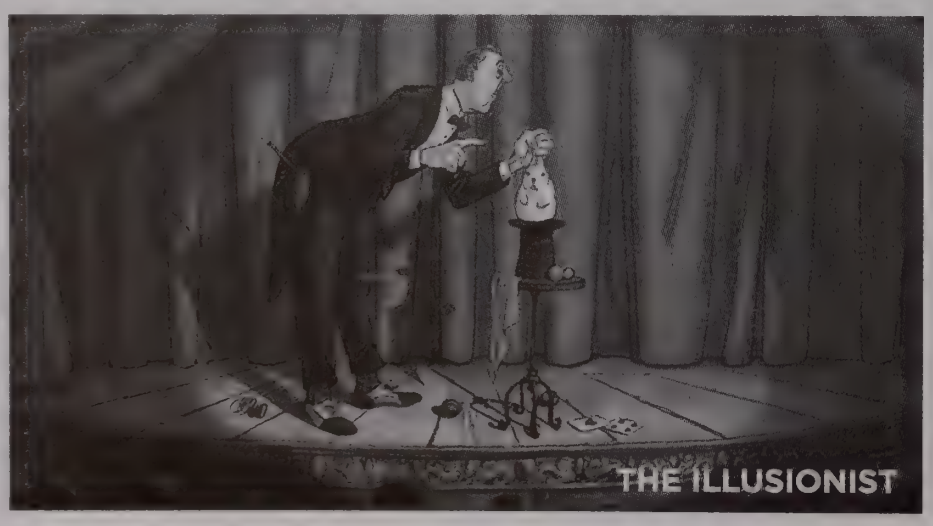
Daydream Nation
(Michael Goldbach)

It's tough to fault a Canadian film so willing to poke fun at its own cultural heritage. "There's more incest in this town than in an Atom Egoyan movie," Kat Dennings' character remarks early in *Daydream Nation*. And yet, Michael Goldbach's directorial debut — starring Dennings as Catherine Wexler, Josh Lucas as her steamy (and surprisingly creepy) high school English teacher, and Reece Thompson as the awkward, lovelorn Thurston — fails to resonate. Densely layered and tightly packed, *Daydream Nation* throws enough pop culture references at you that it's almost certain that some will stick, and despite dealing with subjects like teen angst, serial murderers and taboo student-teacher relationships, Goldbach's story of life in a small town in "the year that everything happened" still feels like it's trying too hard to be trendy and intelligent. Not all is lost: Wexler's performance is convincing and the soundtrack – featuring Metric, The Stars, and Beach House – succeeds in creating a beautiful, dreamlike soundscape, tying in nicely with the shallow depth of field and engaging suburban cinematography. But honestly: a film so heavily referential to 1980s rock band Sonic Youth (and their late-80s sonic magnum opus, Daydream Nation) really shouldn't be this underwhelming. - TOM CARDOSO

Everything Must Go
(Dan Rush)

If the line between comedy and tragedy really is as thin as they say, then Will Ferrell is blessed with the ideal actor's body. The opening shot of *Everything Must Go* is of his face – doughy, aging, with patches of greying hair and a frown that looks as worked-in as an old baseball glove. If his comic characters have poignancy, it comes from the gap between who they think they are and the saggy, middle-aged reality. The only thing missing from his dramatic roles is the self-delusion.

In *Everything Must Go*, Ferrell plays a relapsed alcoholic in Arizona, fired the same day his wife left him, changed the locks, moved out, and left all his belongings on the front lawn. With his bank account frozen, he chooses to stay on his lawn, partly out of spite, mostly out of self-pity. It sounds gimmicky, but writer/director Dan Rush (adapting a short story by Raymond Carver) doesn't play the situation for easy laughs, instead using the setting as a visual compliment to Ferrell's disciplined, deadpan (and very good) performance. He also respects his audience – he doesn't underline the emotional moments with aggressive music, he never departs too far from how this might actually play out in real life, and he doesn't feel the need to tie everything neatly together at the end. - WS


THE ILLUSIONIST

Film Socialism
(Jean-Luc Godard)

Jean-Luc Godard can get away with a lot. *Film Socialism*, which screened in Cannes with pidgin-English subtitles, arrives on these shores without any subtitles at all. For those not fluent in French, German, and Czech, this will be something of an issue. Or maybe not: I read that one of Godard's targets is the problem of communication. Well, mission accomplished.

This is "a symphony in three movements," according to the publicity materials. The first, taking place on a cruise liner, is the best, with Godard's contrasting use of high-definition digital (the ship, sky, and ocean are vividly blue) and colourfully pixelated, YouTube-quality images very striking and beautiful. The second is about a family who (I believe) operate a gas station. This section is very talky, and I didn't make it past 10th grade French, so forgive me for being sketchy on the details. I learn from my trusty Wikipedia that it "...involves a pair of children, a girl, and her younger brother, summoning their parents to appear before the 'tribunal of their childhood,' demanding serious answers on the themes of liberty, equality, and freedom." The third section is an assemblage of footage of Egypt, Palestine, Odessa, Naples, Barcelona, war newsreels, atrocity footage, Hollywood movies, and other clips, with unsubtitled narration. I believe Godard has a point to make

about how the media's constructed images mediate our reality, though I still don't know how Charlie Chaplin figures into it.

I sometimes sensed the social commentary was perhaps not worth the effort it took to decode. Footage of bombardiers is followed by people dancing mindlessly in the ship's nightclub. Good one, Jean-Luc. Still, you have to hand it to the guy: at 79, he may still be the most experimental, personal, and radically uncompromising major film artist. I would just appreciate it if Godard would allow his audience a point of entry. – WS

The Illusionist
(Sylvain Chomet)

In his pantomime comedies like *Mon Oncle* and *Mr. Hulot's Holiday*, comedian/director Jacques Tati showed a warm, bemused take on human behavior. In *The Illusionist*, Sylvain Chomet (*The Triplets of Belleville*), a no less keen human observer, has an equally warm, bemused take on Tati. Based on an unproduced script by the master himself, Chomet casts an animated Tati as a struggling magician called Tatischeff. From the too-short pants to the never-bending legs to the arms that remain rigidly straight as the upper body leans precariously forward, Tatischeff is Mr. Hulot resurrected.

Not a lot happens in this gentle, charming little wisp of a film, which more or less follows Tatischeff's wanderings from place to place, accompanied by a twentyish washerwoman with whom his relationship is most definitely platonic. Tatischeff spends the most time meandering around a particularly dreary section of Edinburgh, where his neighbours include a ventriloquist whose dummy is seemingly his sole friend, and a suicidal man who puts off hanging himself so he can eat his supper. "The Illusionist" is melancholy, but never despairing — how could it be, when it has the indefatigable spirit of Hulot, and Chomet's amusing drawing style? Among the many sights worth savouring: a rock and roll star who pivots dangerously on his skinny legs; Tatischeff's beady-eyed, buck-toothed little disappearing rabbit; a huge-jawed, ever-smiling Scotsman, happily (and drunkenly) oblivious to whatever is happening; a line of chorus girls, rail-thin save for their massive thighs; the old woman sleeping next to Tatischeff on a train, with a little bit of fuzz above her lip; Tatischeff's companion dancing daintily around the apartment in the new coat he bought her; and Chomet's extraordinary watercolour backgrounds. – WS

I'm Still Here
(Casey Affleck)

Maybe it's possible that Casey Affleck was heartless enough to simply stand and film as his brother-in-law imploded. Or that Joaquin Phoenix really believed his godawful hip-hop songs would interest Sean Combs. Or that Phoenix was unselfconscious enough to allow Affleck to film him snorting coke and cavorting with prostitutes. What isn't possible is that we can hear both lines of Phoenix's phone conversations, despite no recording equipment. Or that when the camera spies on Phoenix through a peephole (yes, a peephole) we can hear his dialogue. Or, for that matter, that there were always two or three cameras to capture the scenes at different, more convenient angles.

So Joaquin Phoenix's public meltdown was a hoax, perpetrated for this faux-documentary. Was it worth it? It must be said that Phoenix's performance is certainly brave, and completely committed. Maybe too committed. "Joaquin Phoenix" really is an awfully unpleasant character to be around (when the famous David Letterman interview occurs, it's deeply cathartic), and once the film makes its satiric point about celebrity narcissism (Phoenix rails against his "stardom," but clings to his A-list lifestyle, and wants fame as a hip-hop artist he clearly has not earned), there is little to do but repeat it again, and again, and again. One question remains: why would Phoenix throw away his career for such an obvious film? – WS

It's Kind of a Funny Story
(Ryan Fleck, Anna Boden)

Craig (Keir Gilchrist), the hero of *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, has a projectile-vomiting problem. He vomits during moments of extreme stress, which, evidently, happens often enough. Well, that's certainly an odd quirk. More information: he is in high school, is neurotic, stressed about his future and his moribund love life. He is suicidal, and has checked himself into a psychiatric ward. In an opening dream sequence, he is about to jump off a bridge, and his family is more concerned that he hasn't locked his bike.

Certainly no family would ever really act like that, and one problem with Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden's comedy is that it lacks the ring of truth. Another problem is that mistakes odd quirks for humour, and no bad psychiatric ward comedy would be complete without a buffet of insulting crazy-folk caricatures. There is a roller-skating Hasidic Jew named Solomon with super-sensitive hearing. Is a roller-skating Hasidic Jew intrinsically funny? There is a man who says, unprompted and matter-of-factly, "I've known a lot of ladies... Back in my day I was Sir Lick-A-Lot." Would anyone ever really say anything like this? There is another who is obsessed with beavers, of both the animal and vaginal varieties. There is a fantasy sequence in which the characters sing "Under Pressure" dressed as glam rockers, and cutesy postmodern narration by Craig mixed into this stew of recycled faux-indie tropes. The film's message of seizing the day is also pretty familiar, although Gilchrist, Emma Roberts, and a surprisingly effective Zach Galifianakis are understated enough to just about pull off selling it. – WS





Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen
(Andrew Lau)

No one has ever doubted that Hong Kong martial arts star Donnie Yen aspires to be Bruce Lee's heir, but *Legend of the Fist* takes his preoccupation to strange, vaguely embarrassing extremes. This quasi-sequel to *Fist of Fury* (1972) sees Yen playing Chen Zhen, Lee's Chinese nationalist ass-kicking machine, continuing his tireless efforts to kick the ass of every last Japanese occupier, now relocated to Shanghai, 1925. An enemy of the state, Chen adopts the guise of "the Masked Avenger" (matter-of-factly referred to by the villains as "a superhero"), whose costume is near-identical to Lee's Kato from *The Green Hornet*. *Infernal Affairs* director Andrew Lau's recreates postwar Shanghai as a top kitsch fantasyland – the type of movie city full of flashing lights and swanky nightclubs and streets that are always damp from rainwater. This odd, over-the-top hybrid of superhero, kung fu, and period piece genres is mildly amusing for a while, but the pace really lags in the middle, and it's hard to get emotionally invested in these cardboard archetypes or their world. This jingoism, which wasn't exactly *Fist of Fury*'s shining virtue, is a little unsavoury here too. Of course, the one thing anyone can reasonably expect from a Donnie Yen movie is good fight scenes, but in Legend of the Fist they're surprisingly few and far between, and when Yen does break into fisticuffs, his moves are obscured by shaky camerawork, quick cutting, and special effects (whenever he kicks a gangster through the air, it's less *Fist of Fury* than *Kung Fu Hustle*). Would Bruce have approved? - WS

Let Me In
(Matt Reeves)

Fans of the remarkable Swedish vampire film *Let the Right One In* (2008) should know that Matt Reeves' much-dreaded American remake is perfectly fine – certainly not the bastardization that many feared. Indeed, its only real problem is that it doesn't have much reason to exist. Set in New Mexico during the Reagan years, the main character is once again a bullied boy (Kodi Smit-McPhee) who finds a curious friendship in an eternally 12-year-old vampire (Chloe Moretz) who represents his opposite. Reeves maintains the slow pace and downbeat tone for what is virtually a scene-for-scene re-do. It has, however, seen some of its more interesting elements softened for mainstream consumption: issues of the girl's gender and sexuality are mostly sidestepped this time around. Technically, there are no problems: the cinematography is top-notch (more amber-heavy than the original's wintery hues), the acting is fine (Richard Jenkins and Elias Koteas have supporting roles), and Reeves maintains a nice sense of gloomy atmosphere. It gets the job done, and it will no doubt be more impressive to those who have not seen the original. Of course, the question remains: why would they settle for second-best? – WS

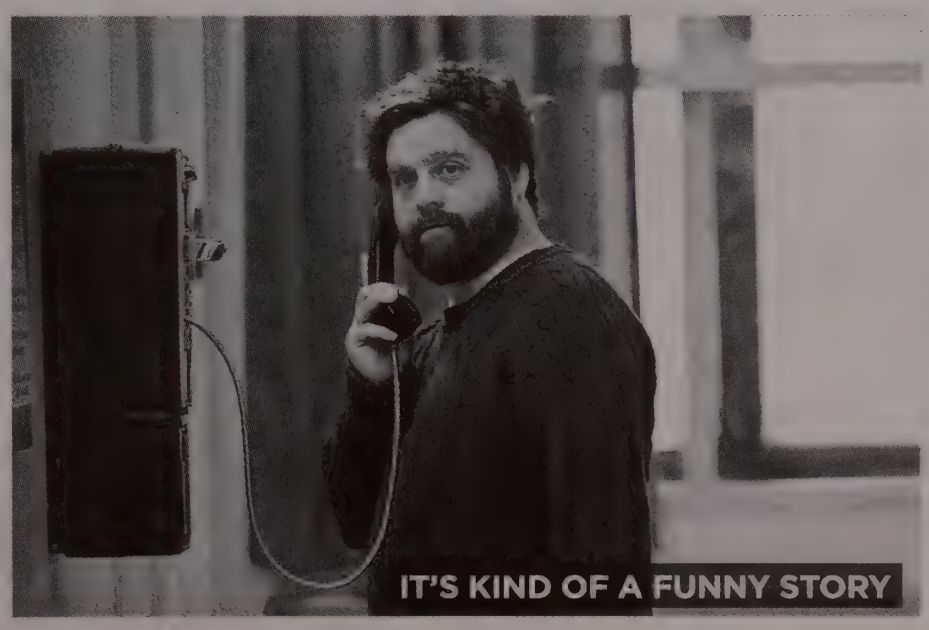
Machete Maidens Unleashed!
(Mark Hartley)

American B-movie producers in general (and Roger Corman in particular) colonized the Philippines for film production in the '70s for one reason: it was cheap. Mark Hartley's documentary about the Philippine exploitation cinema, with an emphasis on American co-productions, has the same zippy tone as his terrific Australian exploitation documentary *Not Quite Hollywood* – fast pace, lots of clips, lots of pithy talking heads (including Corman, Joe Dante, Pam Grier, Jack Hill, and a very funny John Landis) – but it never convinced me that these films were anything other than quickly-made crap. *Not Quite Hollywood* generated excitement about a fun-looking new corner of disreputable cinema, but when the interviewees in *Machete Maidens* keep repeating that nearly every film brought up is terrible, it's hard to tell why we should care. The film is also a bit of a structural mess, bouncing from topic to topic without much depth, and no clear arc. Once you've seen the ludicrous paper-mâché monster from *Mad Doctor of Blood Island* tear off several women's clothes, you start getting numb to all those gory killing and kung-fu fighting naked girls (though the James Bond spoof *For Y'ur Height Only*, starring a 3-foot-tall actor, is a late high point). But if nothing else, the film does contain my new favourite Roger Corman quote: "I didn't like *The Big Doll House*. I thought it had gone a little too far with the sex and violence... Then when I saw the grosses, my scruples faded away." - WS

Score: A Hockey Musical
(Michael McGowan)

The makers of *Score: A Hockey Musical* seem to be under the misguided belief that if one is creating entertainment that is not meant to be taken seriously, then one doesn't have to take the making of that entertainment seriously either. Michael McGowan's last feature, the ultra-Canadian *One Week* was a mediocre film at best but at least, in that case, it seemed like everyone involved was trying really hard. Here, it doesn't seem that way.

"So what if the lyrics don't quite rhyme?" I can imagine Mr. McGowan telling his producers and financiers. "So what if the syllables don't quite match? This isn't meant to be high art! This is meant to be fun!" But it's not fun. The music is grating, as if it belongs in a high school production; the actors play broad caricatures of what blue collar hockey fans, elitist intellectuals, and even Italians might appear to be to the least intelligent and easiest-to-please members of society; and the story of a home-schooled boy making it big in the OHL is full of every cliché and contrivance imaginable. Yet this is the film the Toronto International Film Festival has decided will represent Canada to the media of the world on the opening night of the festival. Pathetic.
– ALAN JONES



Fall fashion preview

EVELYN LEE *takes the fall runways to class*

Oxford Comma: Classic ≠ Dated.

Left: Elizabeth Kagedan. Menswear for women has always been a tried and true method of a bold fashion aficionado. Androgyny is, as it seems, OUT and class, not crass, has crashed its way back into the collections of Fall/Winter 2010-2011. The blouse-and-trousers combo is never going to be out of style; however, be a little more daring and look for accents like a secretary collar or a feminine print to infuse the spirit of youthful vitality and coy flirtation into your Dad's white button-down. A shorter length, a cinched waist and some suspenders update the dandy trouser into a sexy and fresh way to dress for the modern age. The perfect accessory is always the way to add a flourish of personality to any outfit, and everyone should own a solid pair of dress shoes and a practical carry-all. Girls, ditch the TNA and Lulu's. Boys leave the Burton backpacks back in your high school lockers where they belong. Giddy-up and get with it with some Saddle shoes and invest in a briefcase because hey, we're in university now — the rest just looks like child's play.

Freewheelin' Utilitarian

Middle: Aaron Zach. Let's keep it simple boys. It's all about the canonical staple fashion items — comfortably cool and confident is the look for men this season. Despite its blue collar history, the blue jean is so much more than that, and comes in so many more fabulous colors these days. Instead of the traditional true-blue wash, opt more for a darker indigo, black or even grey version for more mileage and less stress. Investments are key here; a great utility jacket in a vivid neutral with pocket and button detailing and a pair of all-purpose trekking-friendly boots will make for an easy transition from the crispness of autumn to the glacial temperament of winter. If glossy leather Docs are too "I just got discharged" for you, perhaps try buck leather, or shaved suede — same use, but with a more subtle vintage feel.

Combat Baby: Badassery of Chic

Right: Evelyn Lee. The dichotomy of hard and soft, bold and understated, and gothic and glamorous was executed with militant precision in fashion weeks overseas by the likes of design gods Marc Jacobs, Christopher Bailey and Miuccia Prada. Clothing takes on an almost architectural identity with a play on structure and volume. Experiment with rich textures like leather, fur, lace, wool and velvet, in both bold and muted colors, not only to brave the volatile winds approaching, but also to achieve an instant "wow" factor. There is a call to arms for aggressive outerwear: full-length coats, cropped jackets, and either ankle-length or thigh-high boots have invaded the urban catwalk. These statement pieces are by nature very masculine, and are best paired with something feminine and pretty. Elegant tailored dresses in luxurious or flirty fabrics are your best bet — not only because you can dress them up, down and all around, but because a great fit and feel will always stand the test of time even after trends notoriously fizzle.

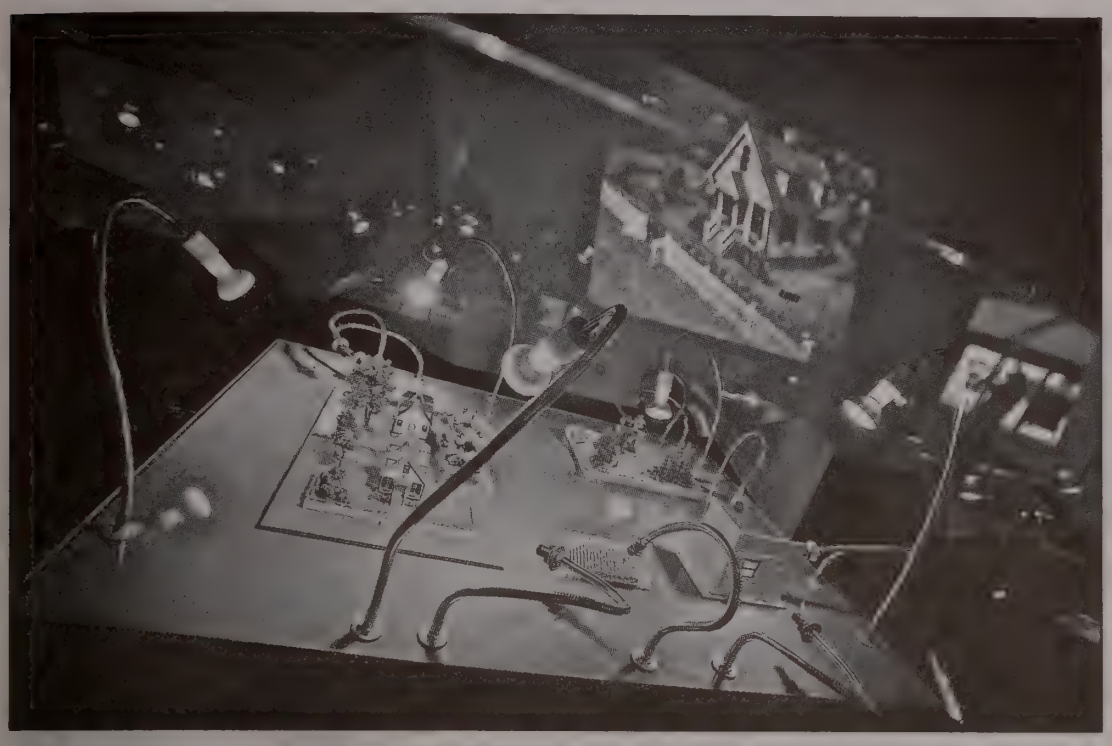
Styling by Aaron Zach and Elizabeth Kagedan.



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

The American nightmare

Artists Jennifer and Kevin McCoy channel David Lynch to create an unnerving experience of the American dream



Projectors and dioramas charactherize the ROM's latest installation. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Alex Ross
VARSITY STAFF

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, If mankind perished utterly
-Sara Teasdale,
"There Will Come Soft Rains"

Part of the Toronto International Film Festival's (TIFF) Essential Cinema project, Soft Rains #6: Suburban Horror, is a feature projection that uses David Lynch's *Blue Velvet* as a jumping off point to explore several themes: consumer culture, the falsely idyllic suburbs, genre film-making, and the role of cinema in our lives. Originally designed by Brooklyn artists Jennifer and Kevin McCoy for a series of Soft Rains pieces commissioned in 2003 (Suburban Horror is the sixth), the exhibit is on display at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)'s Thorsell Spirit House for the duration of the Toronto film festival.

"[I]n general the works within feature projections [...] can be classified as remakes, where the artist uses the original film as a sort of platform for something else or uses it as a framework to explore their own ideas," explains Michael Connor, the exhibit's curator. "This Soft Rains piece is an example of that because the McCoys are really recycling genre elements or elements of *Blue Velvet* and re-assembling them in a new whole."

The main display is a diorama consisting of four separate pieces — each designed from ready-made model materials — which come together to form a pleasant suburban setting. The first piece is two identical white houses on the same piece of land, both with white picket fences, flower bushes, and American flags sticking out on the front porch. Another piece is just a white picket fence with pink flowers, and another is a woman in her kitchen about to bake a pie. The final piece is a mysterious figure driving a convertible down a tree-lined highway.

Small video cameras mounted around the diorama connect to a central projector, which projects images of the diorama to the upper right corner of the gallery wall. The same seven scenes are looped with Billie Holiday's "On the Sentimental Side." We see an idyllic house with an American flag, then a boy pushing a lawnmower, then the man on the porch, then the pink flowers, and then we get three separate shots of the woman in her kitchen. As soon as the camera shows the image of the stranger on the highway, the music swells and becomes very dark and ominous. Is this person a threat to the tranquility of this suburban scene? We have no idea. The music implies something dark lies underneath the exhibit's quiet, peaceful exterior.

"[The philosopher] Žižek talks about 'The Truman Show' and how one of the classic, American, paranoid fantasies is to be living in the suburbs where everyone is watching you," says Connor. "When he said that it reminded me of this piece, because not only is there the horror that's implied, but also the series of cameras that's watching it."

The whole piece accurately captures the tense atmosphere of Blue Velvet's opening scenes, which offer the viewer similar idyllic images with pleasurable music. However, the tranquil scenery is broken when we see an older man fall over in his garden and start to writhe with pain. The camera then zooms further into his garden and we see black beetles tearing and biting each other. No context is offered, though we understand that there is some dark malevolence eating away at Lumberton.

The exhibit also connects thematically with Ray Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains", which features a fully automated house in the future that continues to cook food and clean itself up even after its human occupants have left. "One link I'd like to mention with the Bradbury [short story] is the fact that this is a machine that makes movies" Connor says. "It's similar to the machines in the story that continue to make toast after the humans die. The film will continue to be made and made and made long after were gone, in theory."

I ask Connor if the piece expresses a horror at the inconsequential nature of human existence. He doesn't quite agree with my interpretation: "That condition is explored, but not precisely in those terms. Maybe it would be fair to say it reflects our horror [at being inconsequential]. Certainly it presents suburban life as an inconsequential existence."

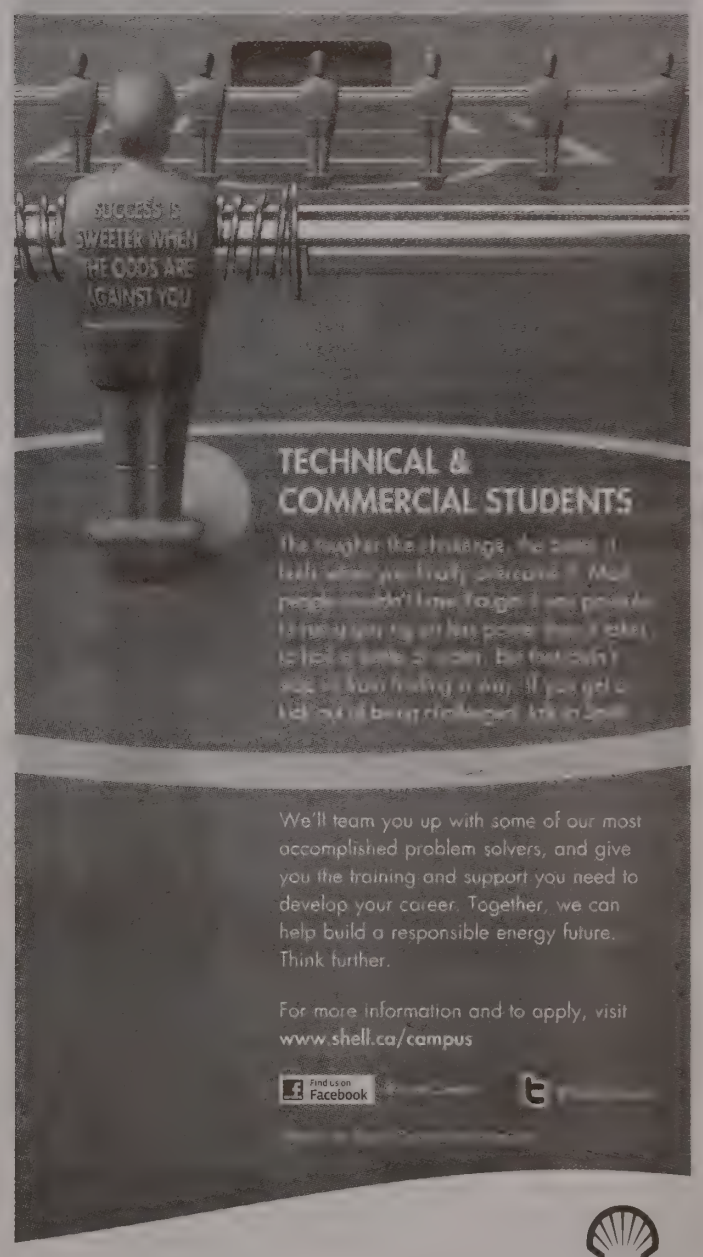
The exhibit also highlights conceptually how cinema culture tends to use many of the same motifs in film. "There is definitely a connection between the idea of this machine that repeats the film ad infinitum and this idea of a cinema culture that repeats many of the same modes," Connor explains.

"What [the McCoys] are picking out is this suburban idyll that is shattered by..."

"...a malevolent force?" I ask.
"A malevolent force—exactly."

Whether that malevolent force is the stranger on the highway or just being trapped in the suburbs to begin with, the McCoys have definitely captured all the pleasure and trauma of their exhibit's cinematic counterpart.

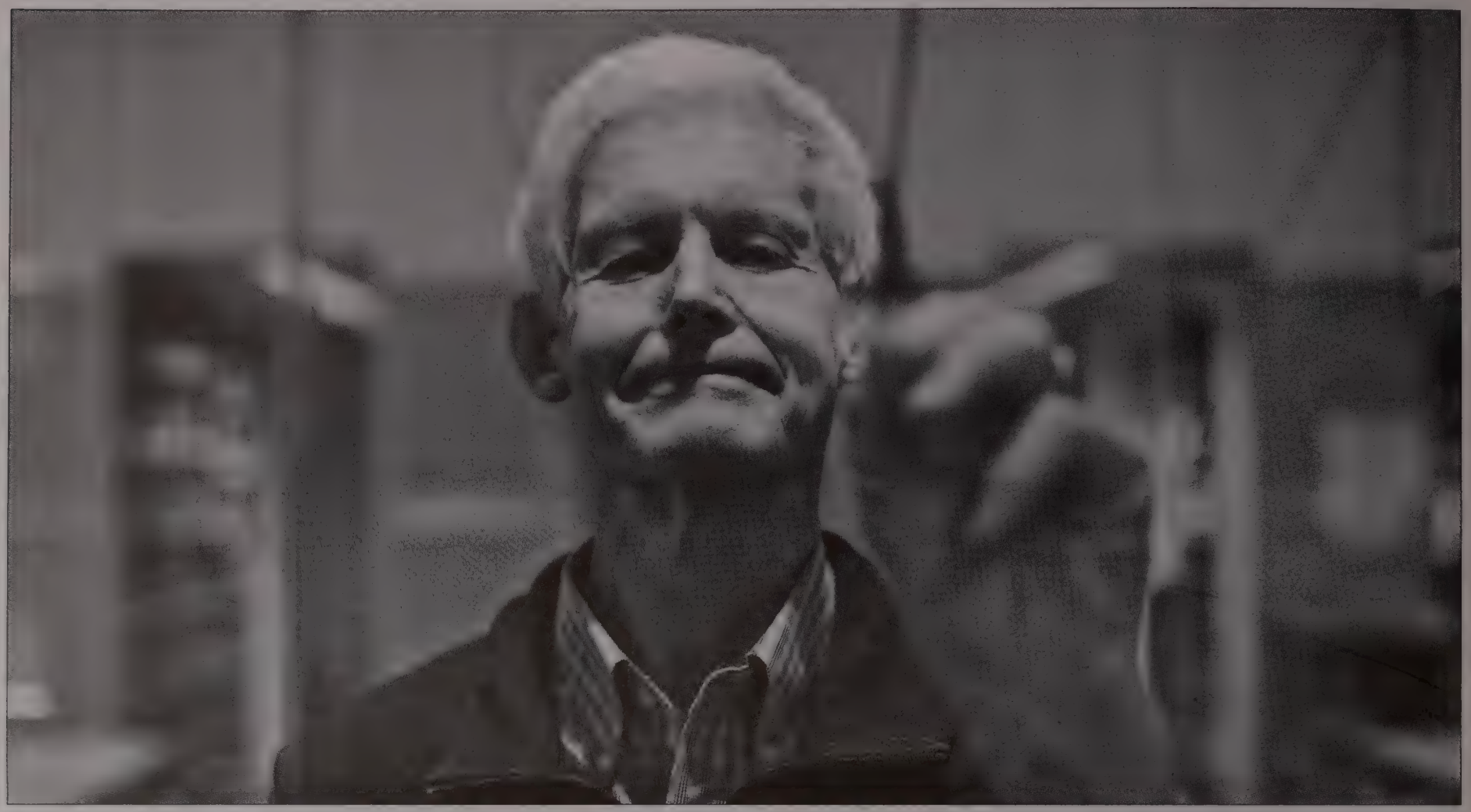
Soft Rains #6: Suburban Horror runs until September 19 at ROM in the Thorsell Spirit House. Admission is free.



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Prove it

The Varsity interviews Professor Stephen Cook about computer science's biggest unsolved problem



U of T Professor Stephen Cook (above) was the first mathematician to formalize the P vs. NP problem along with Leonid Levin in 1971. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Christopher Maddison
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Is it easier to check if a problem's solution is true than to find one yourself?

It turns out this question does not have a trivial answer, and this summer, Vinay Deolalikar, a mathematician at HP Labs, had the theoretical computer science community buzzing with a claim that he had solved the field's biggest question: P vs. NP.

The problem asks whether the time it takes to solve a problem is bounded above by a polynomial in the size of the problem itself. In other words, does P equal NP? Thus, this question asks whether every problem for which solutions can be verified in polynomial time can also be solved in polynomial time. If this were true, then P would equal NP.

The P vs. NP problem is still one of the deepest unsolved problems in mathematics and computer science. It was first described in 1971 by U of T's own Professor Stephen Cook. While the consensus is now that Deolalikar's proof has irreparable flaws, The Varsity took this chance to sit down with Professor Cook and discuss the famous problem.

THE VARSITY: *How would you describe the problem to someone without formal training?*

STEPHEN COOK: Well it's a fundamental question in computer science and, [it] turns out, [in] all mathematics. The problem is whether search problems can be, in general, feasibly solved by deterministic algorithms. In other words, in the case when search problems have an exponential number of possible solutions, can you do better than going through all the possibilities?

It turns out that there are hundreds or even thousands of practical problems of this form that would be useful to be able to solve. Scheduling problems is one class of examples. Think of a trucking company that has hundreds of destinations and a large fleet of trucks. They have to find optimal schedules. The number of possible schedules is so large for these cases that no computer could conceivably try all the possibilities without the sun burning out. So, that's really the P vs. NP problem: can you find the optimal solution in polynomial time?

TV: *You said that Deolalikar's claim was "relatively serious." What stood out to you about this proposal at the time?*

SC: Two things. The first was that this is a respectable mathematician. He has a publication record in sound mathematical journals with respected co-authors. The second is that he announced it so positively. He said, "I'm pleased to present you with my proof that P is not equal to NP."

TV: *Why is it such a difficult problem?*

SC: On the face of it, it's a negative, and how do you prove something doesn't exist? If you're trying to prove P equals NP, then you just provide a polynomial time algorithm to solve any of the NP-complete problems. I mean, it's tempting. So, laymen out there often think they've found polynomial time solution to one of these problems. It's not so easy to see how to show there is no such algorithm. Not at all clear how to proceed.

TV: *Thinking back to 1971, when you first described the problem, did you have a hunch about the solution? Was it coming down the pipeline or was it never going to come?*

SC: Well I certainly conjectured that P is not equal to NP. As far as when it was going to be solved, I don't think I had a clear idea. I spent some time early on thinking about it, and I didn't get very far. So, I just treated it as an open problem.

TV: *How have your intuitions about a possible solution changed in the past 40 years?*

SC: I've become more convinced that it's really hard and probably not going to be solved soon. Yet, it will be solved eventually. Think about the example of Fermat's last theorem. It was open for 400 years, but finally solved. That was an interesting case, because a large amount of very sophisticated mathematical machinery had to be built in order to solve the problem. I would say we don't have that machinery yet for P vs. NP.

TV: *Vinay Deolalikar's proof employed statistical mechanics; do you think statistical mechanics might be part of this machinery?*

SC: There are computer scientists that are interested in the statistical mechanics point of view. My sense is that they don't see much hope. There may be some optimistic ones, but it doesn't seem very promising. Still, it is a very interesting approach.

TV: *On a more personal note, how did your interest in computer science begin?*

SC: I got interested in first year at the University of Michigan in 1957. Michigan was ahead of the game because they actually had computer science courses — not all universities did. Later I had summer jobs involving computers. When I went to graduate school in mathematics at Harvard, computer science wasn't really a subject, but I found my future advisor, who was a logician with an interest in computation.

TV: *Do you have any heroes?*

SC: Alan Turing, the father of computer science. He introduced the model of computers before computers even existed, and Turing did prove things impossible. I said it's very hard not to give non-existence proofs of algorithms, but he gave two: the predicate calculus decidability problem and the famous halting problem.

The Millenium Prize Problems

The P vs. NP problem is one of seven Millennium Prize Problems named by the Clay Mathematics Institute in 2000, each of which hold a one million dollar prize for a correct solution. To date, only one of these problems — the Poincaré conjecture — has been solved. The prize was conceived to show the general public that the field of mathematics still faces a number of deep unsolved problems. It was also meant to bring attention to the most difficult problems mathematicians are tackling in the new millennium. Although these are considered some of the world's most important mathematical problems, not all of them hold foreseeable applications, constraining them to the domain of pure mathematics.

THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE

The Poincaré conjecture considers the topological properties that characterize a sphere. Grigori Perelman, the Russian mathematician to solve the famous problem in 2002, declined the Millenium Prize, as well as the Fields Medal — the mathematics community's version of the Nobel Prize. He is also rumoured to still live with his mother.

THE RIEMANN HYPOTHESIS

Considered by some mathematicians as the most important unsolved problem in pure mathematics, the Riemann hypothesis makes conjectures about the distribution of prime numbers. Although it has withstood many efforts at solution, Pierre Deligne proved the generalized version of the hypothesis, that it holds true over finite fields.

THE YANG-MILLS THEORY

The Yang-Mills theory is the quantum field theory underlying the Standard Model of particle physics. Although the mathematical foundation of quantum Yang-Mills theory remains unclear, its predictions have been tested experimentally, while the theory itself forms the foundation of much of elementary particle theory.

U of T researcher invents Omni-focus video camera

Professor Keigo Iizuka develops camera that focuses simultaneously on near and far objects

Danielle Robinson
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Professor Keigo Iizuka of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Toronto has invented the world's first Omni-focus video camera. The Omni-focus video camera is revolutionary. It exceeds the capabilities of today's mainstream cameras, capturing both near and far images in high resolution and real time focus.

Prof. Iizuka states that it took close to ten years to create this advanced and innovative camera. He created it in collaboration with Dr. David Wilkes, president of the Wilkes Association, a Canadian high-tech product development company. Dr. Wilkes assisted in creating the programming part of the Omni-focus video camera.

The Omni-focus video camera uses a distance mapping principle that allows users to focus on both the foreground and background at the same time. In most of today's cameras however, when you focus closely on an object, the background is always blurry. Iizuka explains that he wanted both foreground and background to be in focus.

According to Iizuka, his first motivation for the project occurred when watching musical performances on television. He explains that when you watch television, the singer is singing with the orchestra in the background. When the camera is focused on the singer, the orchestra is always blurry. Prof. Iizuka wanted the singer as well as the orchestra to be in focus.

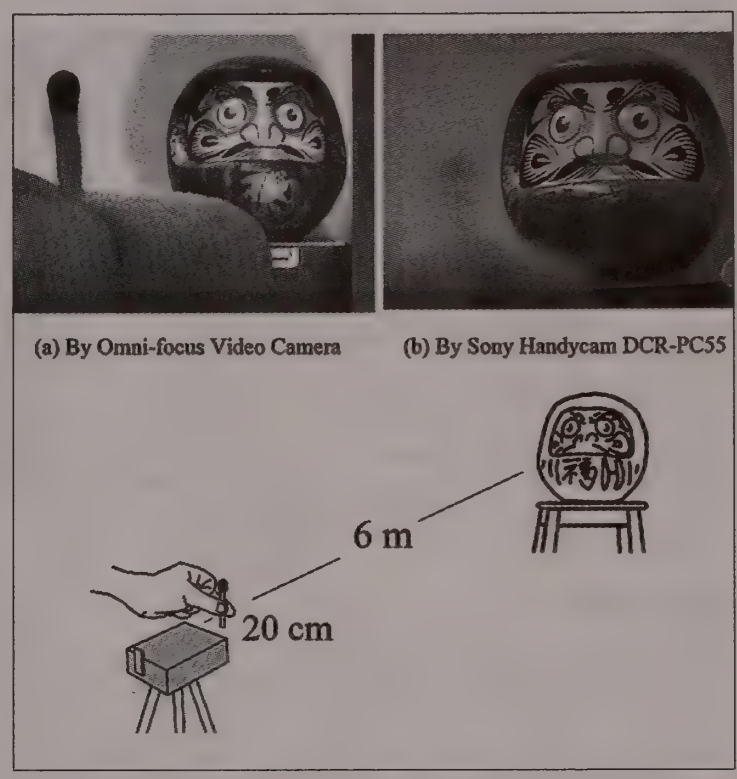
The invention of the Omni-focus video camera will also contribute to advances in the fields of medicine and entertainment.

Professor Iizuka states that the technology of the Omni-focus video camera can be used for medical purposes such as microscopes. When using a regular microscope, one usually has to adjust the focus many times to fit the object, especially when observing moving objects. If one does not have to worry about the focusing, it becomes easier to see what is happening in the foreground as well as background. Under these circumstances, an Omni-focus microscope would be more advantageous in comparison to the commonplace microscope.

In describing the benefits of the Omni-focus camera towards medical applications, Professor Iizuka explains his dream that someday we will be able to insert the device in the stomachs of human beings. This would allow scientists to see the fine details of stomach contents instead of having to extract samples and examine them under microscopes outside of the body. This would be possible because the Omni-focus video camera functions with the freedom of range that was not previously possible with the use of regular microscopes.

The first model of the Omni-focus video camera was relatively large, but the second model was smaller and could be elevated with a tripod. "The Omni-focus video camera is very user friendly," says Prof. Iizuka. He also states that as long as you can operate a computer, you should be able to operate the Omni-focus video camera, since it only requires the pressing of a button.

With the invention of the Omni-focus video camera there are endless possibilities to its uses. As the camera continues to be developed by Professor Iizuka and his team of researchers, we can hope to see numerous uses for this new technology.



The Omni-focus video camera is able to focus on both near and far images at the same time in high resolution, in real time. *KEIGO IIZUKA/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO*



WONDERLAND in space

Waltzing through the constellational canvas: Orion

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

Though cold winter nights might annoy some, the season's crisp evenings most often provide clear skies, allowing us to take a joyful exploration of the sky's constellations. Despite the large number of constellations, not all are readily visible at night, especially if you reside in a brightly lit area. As the position of the stars changes with each month, starting January until about late February, Orion will be the most distinguishable constellation in the night sky.

Commonly known in Greek mythology as the great hunter, Orion is comprised of two trapezoidal shapes conjoined by Orion's belt. This diagonal line consists of three stars with Alnitak (Zeta Orionis) in the East, Alnilam (Epsilon Orionis) in the centre, and Mintaka (Delta Orionis) in the West.

Alnitak and Mintaka are 800 and 900 light years away respectively, and both are composed of binary or multiple star systems. While it is possible to have optical star systems (where stars may seem close because they are in the same line of sight from the Earth but, in fact, may be light-years apart) the star systems of Alnitak and Mintaka are composed of stars orbiting each other, and held together by gravity.

In contrast, the center star Alnilam is a single star 1,340 light years away, illuminating the circular interstellar gas cloud, NGC1990, more commonly referred to as a nebula. A similar gas cloud Trapezium, the Orion nebula, can be found directly underneath the belt, and is one of the few nebulae that can be observed with the naked eye.

If we were to draw a line perpendicular to Orion's belt, in the bottom right-hand corner, you would find Rigel, Orion's brightest star. Mythically, Rigel represents the hunter's left foot, which is known to be composed of three distinguishable stars and a debated less luminous star, sometimes overcome by the main star's brightness.

In the upper left-hand corner of the perpendicular line, you will find the orange-red Betelgeuse. In 2009, scientists suggested that the star's diameter had shrunk more than 15 per cent since 1993, adding to the ambiguity of the behavior of red giants as they near the end of their lives. Since the observed shrinkage in diameter could have been caused by unidentified gas pulsations, or changes in the star's bumpy surface as it rotates, the traditional belief remains that the radiant Betelgeuse will one day exhaust its remaining fuel and explode in a brilliant supernova.

Although both Rigel and Betelgeuse shine more brightly than the other stars composing the Orion constellation, you should not confuse them with Sirius, the brightest star in the sky (excluding the sun of course), which can be found to the south-west of the great hunter.

Orion is most visible during the first couple of months of the New Year, at around 11 p.m. on dark clear nights, in the northern hemisphere. If you find yourself strolling through the constellations around October 22, you may be fortunate enough to spot Orionids, an annual meteor shower between Orion and its northwestern neighbour Gemini.

From today's Greek mythological hunter, son of the sea god Poseidon, we will plunge into a planet adequately named after Poseidon's Roman counterpart next week. Until then, your next space venture awaits.



SCIENCE in BRIEF

Hormone oxytocin doesn't make you gullible

Internet vendors would have you believe that oxytocin — a hormone and neurotransmitter known for regulating social and maternal behaviour — is a "trust elixir." However, a recent study by Moïra Mikolajczak's team at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium, has found that although oxytocin enhances trust, it will not make you gullible. In the study conducted, researchers gave 60 male volunteers either oxytocin or a placebo. The volunteers then played an investment game, in which they were given the option of handing over their money to a trustee partner who could potentially triple their investment. Participants were given a description of their partners, portraying them in either a reliable or unreliable manner, given certain traits such as their hobbies.

Participants given oxytocin made greater transactions with reliable partners than the placebo group, but not when partners were described as untrustworthy. According to Mikolajczak, the results prove the opposite of internet vendors' claims, that oxytocin "renders people completely naive." — ***SHERINE ENSAN***

Source: New Scientist

Stem cell research faces legal quagmire

Barack Obama's administration has begun appealing an injunction on federally funded embryonic stem cell (ESC) research. On August 23, federal Judge Royce Lamberth ruled that current stem cell legislation violates the Dickey-Wicker Amendment, which prohibits funding of research involving the destruction of human embryos. As a result, 22 major NIH projects worth $54 million have been halted in research areas including spinal injury, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's.

While previously a distinction was made between the collection and the research performed on embryonically derived stem cells, the current injunction dismisses this separation.

The scientific community, both within the United States and abroad, is feeling the impact of this ambiguous legislation. The delay of NIH grants has placed international collaborations in jeopardy and caused many post-docs and graduate students to reconsider entering the legal quagmire of ESC research. While the legal community remains confident that the injunction will not survive appeal, future challenges for ESC bills will surely continue. — ***KATARZYNA SWICA***

Source: Nature

BPA present in 91% of Canadians

A survey conducted by Statistics Canada has found detectable levels of the synthetic chemical bisphenol A in 91% of Canadians, findings which are consistent with those of other countries, including the United States and Germany. The controversial compound, which is found in plastic water bottles, food containers, and in the lining of cans, has been tied to a number of health concerns, including increased risk of cancer and diabetes. "For the very first time [we] have baseline information against which we can study trends and track what is happening with respect to bisphenol A exposure," said report author, Tracey Bushnik. The survey, which is the first to examine the prevalence of BPA across the country, measured BPA in urine samples of individuals between six and 79 years of age. BPA levels were higher in children between the ages of six and 11 than adults over 40, and were highest of all in teenagers. — ***KIMBERLY SHEK***

Source: Scientific American

Chemicals That Changed The World

Methadone

Controversy has surrounded the use of methadone in treating opiate addiction, and for good reasons: recent increases in overdose deaths, illegal trafficking, and the apparent replacement of one addictive substance for another. Yet this negative press has at times overshadowed the life-changing potential of methadone in helping addicts finally take control of their habit.

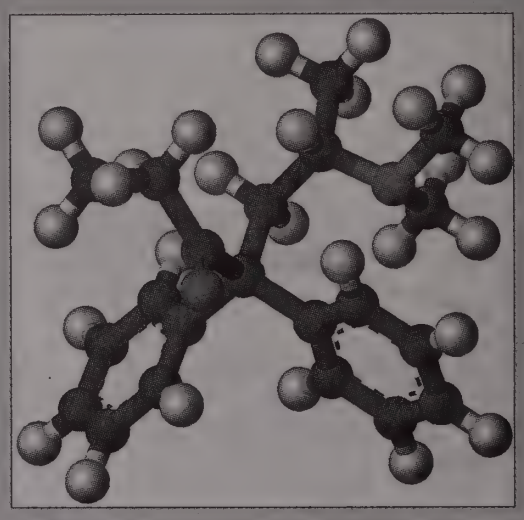
Originally synthesized in Nazi Germany as pain medication, its patent was seized by the United States following the end of the Second World War. In 1964, Dr. Dole pioneered the use of methadone for in treating opiate addicts. He observed withdrawal symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and body aches and pains, alongside the quick onset of withdrawal (3-4 hours after ingestion) and a long withdrawal period (1-2 weeks). Using these observations, Dr. Dole concluded that methadone could be used in treating opiate addiction, because it reduced withdrawal symptoms, did not provide a "high," and furthermore had a much longer half-life than regular opiate street drugs, thereby reducing the number of times addicts needed to ingest drugs from around three times to once per day.

This stability allowed addicts to focus on other things besides drug seeking, such as getting a job, taking care of their families, and getting their lives back.

While methadone has a direct effect on those who abuse drugs, it also indirectly affects many aspects of everyday life. Since methadone was introduced in Canada, illegal activity has been significantly reduced, thereby making communities safer. It has also reduced the spread of deadly diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis transmitted via infected needles, which reduces the burden on our healthcare system.

The use of methadone is controversial, but behind this controversy lies a drug which has brought much hope and stability into an otherwise bleak and prison-like way of life. It helps change the world for those who really need it.

— ***KEN EULER***



The chemical methadone is used as a drug to treat opiate addiction. *RINGO/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS*



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

FALL 2010 ELECTIONS AND VOTING LOCATIONS

U.T.S.U., YOUR STUDENTS' UNION
LOCAL 98, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

The University of Toronto Students' Union is holding its Fall 2010 by-elections to fill the following positions:

POSITION	SEAT(S)
DIVISION I	
Transitional Year Program	1
DIVISION II	
Faculty of Dentistry	1
Faculty of Medicine	1
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering	1
Ontario Institute of Studies in Education of the University of Toronto	1
Toronto School of Theology	1
At-large Professional Faculty Representative	2

To run for a position, pick up a nomination package during the nomination period at the U.T.S.U. office. Please keep in mind the dates and deadlines.

	DATES
Election Nominations (All Positions)	Monday, September 27, 2010, 09:00 – Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 17:00
Election Campaign Period	Friday, October 1, 2010, 12:00 – Thursday, October 14, 2010, 19:00
Election Voting Period	Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 09:00 – Thursday, October 14, 2010, 19:00

For more information, visit our Students' Union website at www.utsu.ca or contact the Chief Returning Officer at cro@utsu.ca.

U.T.S.U. St. George Office:
12 Hart House Circle
Monday – Thursday 09:00 to 17:00
Friday 09:00 to 16:00
Weekends CLOSED

[WHEN TO VOTE]

Polls are open 9:00 to 19:00 on the following days:

Tuesday, October 12
Wednesday, October 13
Thursday, October 14

[HOW TO VOTE]

You can vote at any location. All you need to bring is your T-Card.

[VOTING LOCATIONS]

St. George Campus

Faculty of Music Building

Bahen Centre for Information Technology

Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building

Athletic Centre

Revival of the fittest



(From left to right) Paul DiCarmine, Garth Gottfried, and Haddon Murray: the three coaches changing the face of men's rugby at U of T. *JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY*

The Varsity Blues men's rugby may have faced a number of challenges that rival programs never will, but don't count it out just yet

Roberta Bell
SPORTS EDITOR

Orchestrating the overhaul of an 87-year-old athletic program isn't a job many would dare take on willingly, but that's exactly what three ambitious coaches at the University of Toronto intend to do.

The Varsity Blues men's rugby program is one of the oldest in Canada, and despite coming up short on the scoreboard over the past few seasons, it owns more titles than any of its competitors in the OUA.

Some of U of T's most famous alumni have taken to the field with a rugby ball in hand. The current mayor of Toronto, David Miller, played for the Blues in the early 80s, a period during which the coveted Turner Trophy may as well have been an honorary member of the team.

With an established tradition of excellence, and a list of accomplishments that could make Leafs fans cringe with embarrassment, it's almost understandable that the need to revamp the program has been overlooked until now.

The Blues have been sitting uncomfortably at the bottom of the league they belong on top of for a little too long now, and failed to even tie just one of their season games last year.

And at the end of November 2009, head coach Garth Gottfried — who planted his rugby roots as a U of T student in the early 90s — decided enough was enough.

Gottfried called a team meeting that has since begun the transformation of the Varsity Blues men's rugby program.

The problem was neither the ability nor talent of the players, the U of T veteran realized, but rather the culture surrounding the sport at his alma mater.

"There's so many issues at U of T that you don't get at any of the other rugby schools," explained Gottfried. "We had to change the things that we were doing and get a new culture going here."

First and foremost, the University of Toronto has incredibly high academic standards, and as third-year law student and standout player-coach Haddon Murray pointed out, "It's hard to get in at U of T. To consider coming here you'd need a high average."

Fortunately for the Blues, Murray, who plays the critical and demanding position of 8-man for Team Ontario, is equipped with both brains and brawn. With a BSc in Psychology from Queen's University, he brings with him years of experience playing with the top-ranked Gaels. Although he wasn't involved in with the Blues during 2009, it's pretty safe to say that he's already indispensable.

The coaching team for 2010 is rounded out by Paul DiCarmine, a second-year chemistry PhD student who has seven years of experience playing with the powerhouse program at the University of Western Ontario.

And while U of T's seemingly deterring academic reputation serves as a barrier to recruitment in most cases, a number of players on the Blues roster this year are graduate students who have, as DiCarmine said, "developed outside of the program."

Another major challenge for building up men's rugby at U of T is the fact that the campus is split into three. Regardless of where students are based, they're going to have to travel to practices (which are held downtown at St. George) or to games (which are played at Scarborough), if not both.

But the current team members show a level of dedication that would impress even the strictest of coaches.

Last winter, as part of Gottfried's refurbishment plans, team training to build upon and maintain fitness levels during the colder weather was introduced. Practices were held in the covered dome at Varsity Centre at either 7 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. every other Thursday.

According to the coaching team, talented rookie player and commuting student Nader Mohamed got up at about 5:30 a.m. to make it out to the early morning winter training sessions.

DiCarmine has good things to say about Mohamed.

"You could see the improvement," he said about the dedicated player. "The effort was a good example of what we wanted."

With Murray and Di Carmine on board to run practices and set up for games, Gottfried will be spending the bulk of his time dealing with complicated administrative details, an important and often unforeseen element of managing a successful athletic program.

"There's a ridiculous amount of red tape in a full contact men's sport. Garth basically singlehandedly makes this legal," laughed Murray.

And it's not just the coaching staff of the men's rugby team that has gained some valuable newbies, either. Beth Ali joined the management team of the Varsity Blues Program in August 2010 as the Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport. After meeting with her prior to the start of the 2010 season, Gottfried began to look extremely optimistically at the future of men's rugby at U of T.

"They want U of T athletics to be much higher in the pecking order," explained Gottfried. "Beth said her door was always open and has been very supportive so far."

"In terms of long term goals, we want to link our program to the intramurals," Murray added. "We have numbers — there's got to be over 100 people playing in intramurals with no real coaching.

"Rugby's a sport where effort really will pay off. Our goal is to be in a position where serious rugby players want to come here for the program."



Zack Remez catches the ball at one of U of T's men's rugby practice sessions. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

The show must go on



Mike Cammalleri's personal trainer, Matt Nichol (left), chats with *The Varsity*'s Elisabeth Laratta (right) during BioSteel Sports Pro Hockey Week. GAMACHEPHOTO

Montreal Canadiens superstar Mike Cammalleri has faith in goalie Carey Price for the upcoming season after the departure of post-season standout Jaroslav Halak to the St. Louis Blues

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Montreal Canadiens left-winger and playoff superstar, Mike Cammalleri, has confidence in Canadiens goaltender, Carey Price, and believes that his team — who made it to last year's Eastern Conference Finals — will be even better this season than they were last.

Cammalleri, who previously played with the Los Angeles Kings and the Calgary Flames, signed a five-year contract with Montreal last summer, and has been busy in the off-season preparing for the soon-approaching 2010-2011 regular NHL season.

I got the chance to sit down with Cammy in the middle of one of his off-ice workouts during the BioSteel Sports Pro Hockey Week that took place at St. Michael's College School during the week of August 16. In addition to Cammalleri, NHL stars and up-and-comers such as Montreal's P.K. Subban and Boston's Tyler Seguin were also in attendance.

Noticeably fun and easy-going, Cammalleri joked that I should join him on the field for drills and sprints. Regardless of whether or not I was up to the task, I hadn't brought my runners and was forced to stick to the sidelines.

Cammalleri, a native of Richmond Hill, Ontario, looked right at home in Montreal during last season's playoffs. He led all post-season scorers with 13 goals, including those players who made it to the Stanley Cup Finals.

Undoubtedly, much of the Canadiens' post-season success can be attributed to goalie Jaroslav Halak, who started and played in 18 games. Halak impressively stopped 92.3 per cent of the shots he faced — a higher save percentage than any other goalie in the league.

Halak led the Canadiens' to unlikely victories over the top-ranked Washington Capitals and reigning Stanley Cup champions, the Pittsburgh Penguins, before falling to the Philadelphia Flyers.

To the surprise of many fans, after the playoffs the Canadiens' opted to trade Halak to the St. Louis Blues for forwards Ian Schultz and Lars Eller, and to stick with goaltender Carey Price.

Approximately 5,000 fans showed up on September 4 in Montreal to bid farewell to and receive autographs from Halak before he headed out of town.

Halak was clearly a fan favourite, and Price will need to improve this season to win crowds over.

Price struggled last regular season with 13 wins, 20 losses, and five ties to his record and a 2.77 goals-against average — which ranked him 31st in the league.

Despite the disparities between the two goaltenders' statistics, Cammalleri not only believes the Canadiens will move forward after losing their post-season superstar, but thinks that he and his teammates will fare better.

"We're a similar group coming back. We have a couple changes. We've got a lot of confidence in Carey Price. I think Jaroslav will do great in St. Louis, but I expect for us to be a better team this year than we were last," said Cammalleri.

Cammalleri believes that he and his teammates will be able to translate last year's success into the new season.

"We learned a lot about each other and we're getting better. It's all about improving and moving on forward," he said.

Before Cammalleri or any of his teammates can worry whether or not the right decision was made to chuck Halak and hold on to Price — who recently signed a two-year contract for a reported $5.5 million U.S. — they must focus on being ready for the pre-season, which begins for them on September 22 against the Boston Bruins at home in the Bell Center.

Cammalleri, who was plagued by a late-season knee injury, knows the importance of coming into the season in great shape.

"The more I prepare myself off the ice, the better I am on the ice. The off-ice training has become more and more important to hockey players," said Cammalleri.

> **"The more I prepare myself off the ice the better I am on the ice. The off-ice training has become more and more important to hockey players," said Cammalleri.**

Training during the BioSteel camp was different for Cammalleri as he was surrounded by other non-teammate NHL players, but the drills and their high levels of intensity didn't differ from his regular off–season regimen.

Cammalleri, who really enjoys his off-ice training, said the drills he performs help the players to be explosive, flexible, strong and stable so that when they get on the ice they can just go.

From the sidelines, I took in the sheer athleticism and honest dedication that Cammalleri puts into his training. This guy takes himself just as seriously off the ice at a high school track field as he does on an NHL stage.

Between drills I grabbed Matt Nichol, Cammalleri's personal trainer and the man behind the BioSteel sports supplement name.

Judging from his build, Nichol truly does practice what he preaches.

Nichol trains various types of professional and Olympic athletes in football, bobsleigh, basketball, and tennis, but he believes that hockey players need the widest range of skills.

"Hockey is a really cool sport to train guys for because they need everything. They need to be fast, they need to be strong," said Nichol.

Nichol, who had the players doing a mish-mash of intensive drills, said, "It's a contact sport, so they need to be ready to absorb all the collision. They have to move in multiple directions. They need tons and tons of hip mobility."

Training at the NHL level isn't easy, but Cammalleri and his team decided to let two contest winners join them off and on the ice for a day.

Michel Gamache and Ramanan Jegatheeswaran were brought to the camp so that they could experience a day in the life of an NHL player in the off-season.

Cammalleri said the new recruits were doing great, "keeping up, and having a great time.".

After the off-ice training, I headed to the arena to sneak a peek at their on-ice practice.

The drills performed were similar to those performed at lower skill level practices, although often combining two or more drills to form one giant, complex one. They were performed, however, with accurate precision at top speeds.

Besides the track and training work that is part of Cammalleri's off-ice regime, he incorporates his other favourite sport, golf, into his training.

"I like to golf, but I actually find that it has a negative effect on my body so I only golf early in the summer. I don't really golf in August at all when we ramp up the training, but I do enjoy it," said Cammalleri.

With the season creeping up quickly, Cammalleri won't be playing golf anytime soon and is "excited to get going" this regular season, which begins for Montreal here in Toronto on October 7 at the Air Canada Centre.

Hometeam pride

Blues deliver excitement to near-capacity crowd in football home opener

Abdi Aidid
VARSITY STAFF

A record-setting crowd of 4,111 attended the University of Toronto's football home opener at Varsity Stadium as part of the Frosh Week festivities.

Despite the outpouring of school spirit, the home team fell to their opponents, the Windsor Lancers, 26–17.

The Blues stumbled out of the gate allowing an early touchdown by Lancers receiver Cory Fernandes, and after being caught flat-footed defensively, seemed unable to regain focus. The Lancers added a field goal to finish the first quarter up 10–0.

Early in the second quarter, the Blues conceded another field goal to the away team, and a defensive lapse in their own end zone led to a Lancers safety. In the final two minutes of the half, the Blues failed to get two kick returns out of their own end zone, and were down 17–0 at halftime.

The deficit promptly became 23–0 when Windsor scored two field goals in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, however, the Blues managed to turn the game around. Quarterback Jordan Scheltgen found rookie receiver Alex Pierzchalski in the corner of the end zone on a 28 yard pass, and finally got the Blues on the scoreboard. While the Lancers managed to nab another field goal, the real excitement came when Scheltgen connected with receiver — and UTSU VP Internal — Rolli Adenmosun on a 55 yard pass for a late touchdown.

Although the Blues managed to defend their home turf in a valiant final effort, it wasn't enough and the game ended with a score of 26–17 for the Lancers.

The loss comes on the heels of a disappointing game in Guelph, where the Blues managed to keep the score close and only lost in the final six seconds, after the Gryphons converted on a field goal attempt.

"[Against Guelph] our defense played well and our special teams played very well," said Blues head coach Greg DeLaval. "Today, our special teams were off, our defense was off, and our offense wasn't able to produce many points."

In the Guelph game, starting quarterback Andrew Gillis threw for an impressive 158 yards and led the team in rushing with 24 more.

In the home opener Gillis was replaced early after throwing for a disappointing 44 yards. His backup, Scheltgen, fared much better, racking up 203 passing yards.

"When we get momentum going, we're a pretty strong team," said Scheltgen. "Every week we're planning to improve and get better. It's our motto."

"We've got to get back to basics. We're all responsible. The coaches have got to get better, the players have got to get better, our captain has got to get better. Every aspect of our program has got to get better," added Coach DeLaval.



Blues receiver Johnathan Wright, as he tries to avoid a defensive charge from the Lancers. *HAI BAO/THE VARSITY*

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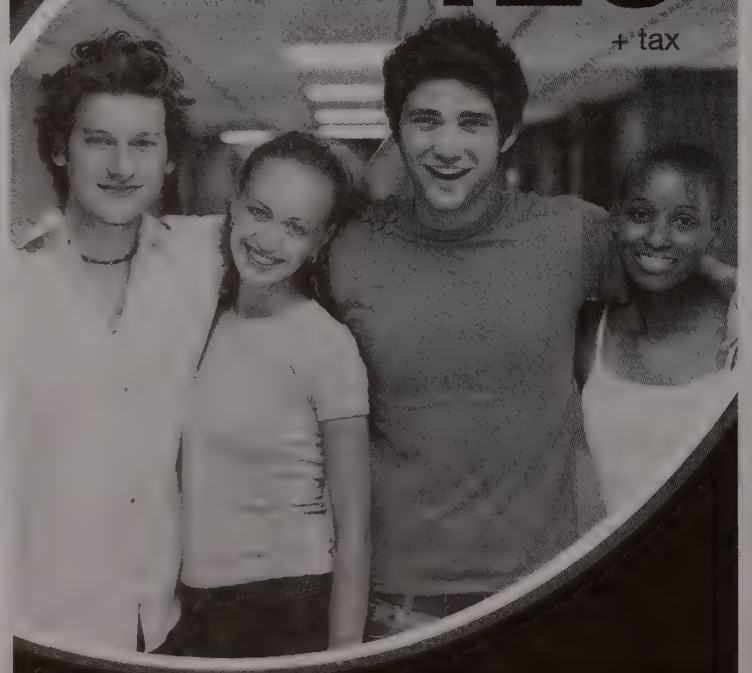
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A good sport

Foul play

Media behemoth Rogers has seriously struck out with their latest project

Kevin Draper
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

There's been a large-scale hostage-taking in every corner of the country, and even though police teams with tear gas have not yet been called in to resolve it, the time to do so is fast approaching.

Being held for ransom is the ability of millions of Toronto Blue Jays fans to watch their favourite team play baseball. Media behemoth Rogers — the owner of the team — will be airing 25 Jays games over the regular season exclusively on their new channel, Sportsnet One. Other cable and satellite providers will have to pay for the rights if they want to broadcast coverage.

Rogers has tried to slither out of trouble by claiming that they're offering the new channel, which launched mid-August, for free (even to other providers) in its first three months.

Rogers has been mercilessly greedy in tightening its grip over baseball fans as it tries to squeeze every penny out of the media side of the business.

Rogers' public relations department has worked overtime trying to persuade consumers that they should fault their non-Rogers cable provider for refusing to pick up Sportsnet One. Thankfully, it hasn't worked, and as the blame lands squarely back at Rogers' collective corporate feet, baseball fans are speaking out with increasing force — and in many cases, with colourful language.

It is missteps like the Sportsnet One debacle that illustrate the deep divide between the corporate camp and baseball camp within Rogers. They may both fall under Rogers' massive umbrella, but for all that goes on between them they may as well be owned by separate companies on opposite sides of the universe.

The corporate folks' bottomline-driven lunge for the fiscal jugular is going to have profoundly damaging — maybe even devastating — effects on the baseball guys.

The net result of Sportsnet One is a massive constituency of otherwise loyal fans who feel disenfranchised, cheated, deceived, pawned, and manipulated. They are missing out on crucial games against top-notch teams, when many of those teams are playing to kill with playoff spots on the line. The young and very promising Blue Jays are playing pitch for pitch with these solid teams but the fans, who need to be seeing these games, are not.

Will these fans come to fewer games next year? Will they simply not care, making the baseball buzz that can consume a city that much harder to find when the time comes for the Jays to contend?

The only reason we even need to consider these questions is because Rogers booted a routine ground ball with the bases loaded. Great job, guys.

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Overheard On Campus

ANT350:
Student (From the States): "I just don't understand why people in Canada...well..Toronto...well no...in downtown Toronto, especially this campus is so obsessed with wearing Lululemon's and eating organic celery! Everyone looks so hungry all the time!"

Girl on her cellphone: "Yeah, so I had that interview today, and it went well... Except he said that my writing looks like Jackson Pollock's."

Boy: I love this song. Who's this song by? I want to get it for my iPod.
Girl: It's by MGMT
Boy: Who?
Girl: MGMT!
Boy: Can you spell it?
...Girl: The letters M-G-M-T
Boy: What? Maybe you need to write it down.

Girl to friend: "Justin Bieber brings out the cougar in me"
-outside robarts

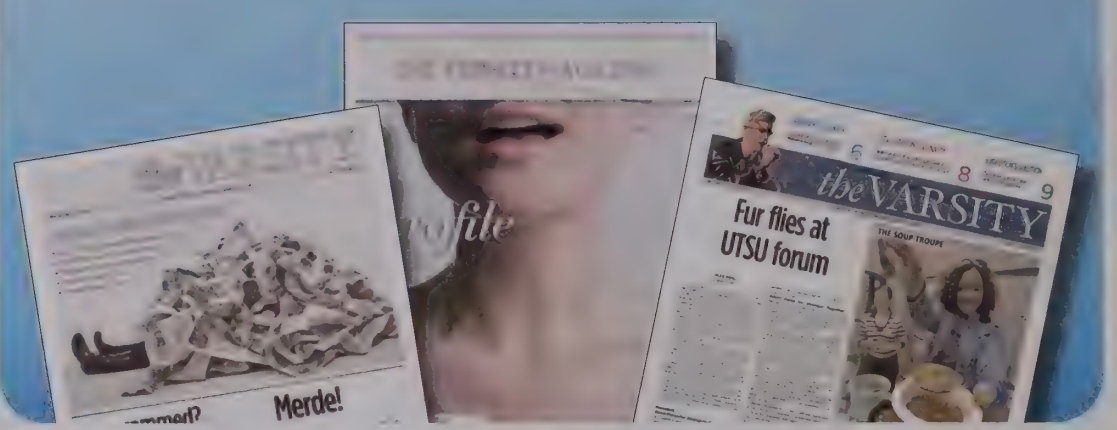
Prof. Woodland: (*Says something about a poem, looks up*) "Did that make any sense? Ah what the hell do I care it's the last class."

Girl #1: Ohh, I love this song. Listen.
Grl #2: Yeah, sounds good. Who is this, Fergie?
Girl #1: No, it's Justin Bieber.

Overheard on Campus' Facebook group!

THE VARSITY
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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CLUB EVENTS:

U of T Dance Club Classes
Starting the first week of school, the U of T Dance Club will be offering classes. There will be all types of dance taught, such as Salsa, Hip Hop, Popping, and Bollywood. Fees differ depending on membership, so check their website for details.

- *Starting September 13th*
- *Varying locations and prices*
- *Check http://dance.sa.utoronto.ca*

FUNDRAISERS:

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life
The Walk will take place on Sunday to raise AIDS awareness and money for a cure. There will be a table at Sid Smith all week to collect donations and sign up. You can find a pledge form at the UTSU office.

- *September 19th at 10 a.m.*
- *UTSU Office (12 Hart House Circle)*
- *Minimum pledge of $20*

LECTURES:

A Lesson from Muslim Spain on The Importance of Art and Expression
Brand new student group keepingithalal is having a lecture-based event on the history of art and historical artistic expression in the Muslim world. The lecture will be given by Dr. Abdullah Hakim Quick, and this is sure to be a fun-filled and interesting night.

- *September 16th at 5:45-8 p.m.*
- *Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George St.) Room 2117*
- *$5*

MOVIES:

"Catfish" Screening
The Cinema Studies Student Union is presenting a sneak preview of "Catfish", a movie about a New York-based photographer who gets more than he bargained for when he gives a little girl permission to paint a photograph of his. Seating is limited and passholders will be admitted first.

- *September 13th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Innis Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave.)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Land of Talk
The Montreal indie rockers will be playing songs from their new album, Cloak and Cipher, at Lee's Palace. This is a great concert to go to if you have no classes on Friday. Tickets are $12. Make sure to bring ID. You must be over 19.

- *September 16th at 8:30 p.m.*
- *Lee's Palace (529 Bloor St. West)*
- *$12*

FESTIVALS:

Queen West Arts Crawl
Walk along one of Toronto's hippest streets (besides St. George) for the 8th annual Queen West Art Crawl. The 2010 theme is "intersections" and consists of a series of art collaborations and mash-ups along Queen West from Bathurst to Roncesvalles.

- *September 18th-19th at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily*
- *Various locations along Queen St. West*
- *Free!*

GALLERIES:

Nebulous Rings by Khosro Berahmandi
For the first time, Khosro Berahmandi, the prolific and inspiring artist, comes to Queen Gallery with a handful of his most recent works entitled Nebulous Rings, and invites Toronto public to plunge into his universe of infinite detail from which emerges a personal, extraordinary and captivating mythology.

- *On until October 7th*
- *Queen Gallery (382 Queen St. East)*
- *Free!*

MOVIES:

MUCK Film Festival
The Movies of Uncommon Knowledge Film Series will be showing a three movies on Sunday; "Pig Business", "Chemerical", and "Milk War." Following the latter two movies, there will be Q and A sessions with the filmmakers. Students get in free with ID.

- *September 19th at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:30 p.m.*
- *The Royal (608 College St.)*
- *Free with Student ID!*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

Art thou attending Richard III? p14
Arts & Entertainment

Navigating through Neptune p19
Science

Blues football team triumphs over York p21
Sports

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"The government is unlikely to improve its behaviour and cannot easily be forced to do so... Instead, it is up to the opposition to out-govern the government." – Patrick Baud **p9**

Vol. CXXXI No. 6
20 September 2010

MAYORAL ELECTION

Mayoral election comes to U of T

Packed crowd predominantly anti-Ford

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The regional turned local Wednesday, September 15, as the five front-runners for mayor battled for students' votes.

The debate, put on by Innis College's urban studies program, U of T's Cities Centre, the Canadian Urban Institute, and *The Toronto Star,* featured Rob Ford, Joe Pantalone, Rocco Rossi, George Smitherman, and Sarah Thomson, and was moderated by *Toronto Star's* John Cruickshank.

By 7:15 p.m. all candidates save Ford were present and there was standing room only for the event scheduled for 7:30. Ford arrived late at 7:40 amid an introduction from U of T's Richard Di Francesco, director of the urban studies program. The debate began shortly after.

JOE PANTALONE

Pantalone spoke first. He has served as city councilor in Ward 19 — one of two wards in Trinity-Spadina — as well as deputy mayor to David Miller. A U of T grad, Pantalone described moving to Toronto at age 13 from Sicily, knowing very little English. He claimed that "learning the English language has made [him] appreciate the importance of public service, whether you're a teacher, firefighter, police officer, street-cleaner, or anything else."

Pantalone went on to describe himself as a "city-builder," claiming he has always tried to "invest in our infrastructure and our people," specifically through environmental initiatives. He cited fellow councilor Gord Perks, who is quoted as saying, "every significant environmental initiative in the city has Joe Pantalones's fingerprints on it," joking, "don't arrest me for that, please." He criticized the other candidates as "all wanting to sell something, contract out just about everything, and shrink the city," later calling them all "mini-Mike Harrises."

Pantalone was a crowd favourite throughout the debate, garnering laughter and applause. Colleen Keilty, a fifth-year political science, history, and international relations joint major, found Pantalone "likable and endearing," though she noted the "small pot shots" he took at other candidates during the debate.

SEE **'MAYORAL DEBATE'** – PG 5

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE



UTSU President Adam Awad spoke at a discussion last Thursday on the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts and Science. **FOR FULL STORY, SEE P2.** *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

IN THE CLASSROOM

A new note solution for U of T

Missing class has never been so easy



Notesolution was founded by U of T students based on their experiences in first year. *TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY*

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

There is now another option for students unable to make it to class. Note Solution is an online website that allows students to share notes and study guides online using a credit based system.

"When they first sign up [students] get 200 credits and these credits are when you download notes from the site," said Kevin Wu, U of T 2010 alumnus and co-founder of Note Solution. "When you run out of credits you can upload your own notes and you can gain credits."

Wu co-founded the company with Jack Tai — a former U of T classmate — after seeing a way to improve the undergraduate experience. "We were just thinking back to our first year at university and thinking if only we had some source for our class notes it would have really helped us with our first-year grades."

Wu adds that the program is designed for first- and second-year students who may not be as familiar with the university. "They might not know a lot of people in their class."

Gavin Nowlan, President of the Arts and Science Student Union, is skeptical as to whether students will use the site. "I know a lot of students are just very weary of sharing notes with people in their own classes let alone people around the university," said Nowlan.

Wu shares Nowlan's concern that U of T may not be the right environment to support Note Solution.

"I've heard from a number of students that U of T [...] keep to themselves and people don't really want to share information with other people because having that information gives them the leg up," said Wu.

Professor of Sociology Robert Brym cautions that if students choose to use the site, it will not necessarily improve their classroom performance.

"Note-takers have to figure out which ideas are significant, translate important ideas into their own words, and record them. These activities embed ideas in memory," said Brym in an email to The Varsity. "The more you rely on someone else's notes, the less thoroughly you will learn the material."

"My guess is that 10–20 per cent of students in more introductory courses don't care. [...] They just want to pass and they will like Note Solution," added Brym. "Most students are too smart and too highly motivated to rely on such an easy fix."

"If you can't pay attention and take notes in a lecture you should be thinking about why you're in that class in the first place," says Nowlan, who added that through Accessibility Services there are already services

SEE **'NOTE SOLUTION'** – PG 2

WEATHER

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9°C to 18°C	10°C to 25°C	16°C to 23°C	13°C to 19°C	12°C to 20°C

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Fractured fractals: the story of a local math genius p12

SCIENCE
Bee pollination decline may be due to climate change p18

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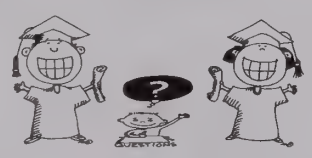
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UTSU and OPIRG host restructuring debate

Students and faculty meet to discuss implications of Faculty of Arts and Science's five-year plan

Samya Kullab
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

UTSU and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group held a public debate last Thursday to discuss the five-year strategic plan released in July by the Faculty of Arts and Science. Originally planned as a moderated debate between UTSU President Adam Awad and faculty dean Meric Gertler, the event was changed into a public forum after Gertler could not attend. Concerned audience members voiced their opinions while speakers presented their arguments.

The forum centered around the five-year plan that proposes to dismantle several area studies and interdisciplinary programs. Grievances were exchanged that the plan was formulated without consultation with the university community.

The meeting was part of a week-long event, titled DoubleSpeak: Hypocrisy and this Globalization Sh#t, that included workshops, forums, parties, and performances to introduce students to political activism on campus.

Speakers expressed their concern over the proposed structural changes, including the amalgamation of six independent departments into a new School of Languages and Literatures and the disestablishment of research units, including the Centre for Ethics, the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, Disability Studies, East Asian Studies, and Comparative Literature.

ASSU President Gavin Nowlan recounted his version of the steps taken by the dean and provost to "fit the Faculty of Arts and Science to the 2030 plate". He referenced the Towards 2030 Framework approved in October 2008 that proposes self-regulation of student fees and increased corporate partnerships.

The findings of a 2008 external review — which noted the faculty had too many interdisciplinary units, resulting in the resource squandering — was instrumental in the development of the new five-year plan.

Nowlan claims that early last year, Gertler requested each department to "come up with plans, point out weaknesses and strengths, and decide what to focus on in the next five years" at which point the Strategic Planning Committee would "take it all in, digest them, present reports and there would be a dialogue.

"This is not what happened," he said. Instead of dialogue, the five-year plan that was released mirrored the earlier external review, judging that there are too many unmarketable interdisciplinary units.

Mohammed Tavakoli, professor of history and near and Middle Eastern civilizations, called the plan the "academic version of the Bush administration".

Tavakoli considered the academic plan as evidence of the commodification of higher education and privatization of decision-making in the university.

"Usually, the decision-making process involves the faculty, chairs, and the dean. What they have done is a radical shift," he said. "The Strategic Planning Committee, a small group of administrators, has decided the fate of the university without consultation with stakeholders."

Tavakoli believes the proposed change of instituting a School of Languages and Literature would constitute a return to the "cheapest model" of higher education, adversely affecting student's ability to think critically and "[destroying] alternative sites of liberal education" altogether.

Specifically, he considers the current interdisciplinary setup — where learning a foreign language is accompanied by courses about culture and history — is more conducive to producing culturally sensitive and aware students. A move where disciplines are once again sectioned off constitutes fundamentalism, according to Tavakoli.

Gertler has maintained that the plan is necessary to meet his faculty's budgetary deficit.

Awad assessed the academic impact of Towards 2030 and claims it will focus on science, technology, engineering, medicine, and business administration programs while ultimately less focus will be given to high quality teaching in Arts and Science as an end unto itself.

"What happens to all these other things that can't be sold? The response is it is dying out," he said.

'NOTE SOLUTION' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

in place for students legitimately unable to take notes.

"If you have a reason for not being able to take notes [...] the university already has free systems that provides you with detailed notes from another member of class at no cost to you, and also at no risk of losing the intellectual property rights [of your notes]," said Nowlan. "It takes that one step of walking over to Accessibility Services or to the professor in the class."

The terms and conditions on the company's website state that when a student uploads content they transfer ownership of the content to Note Solution with an irrevocable, royalty-free right and licence to commercially profit from the content.

Nowlan predicts that Note Solution might come under fire if users begin to upload lecture slides or other materials produced by instructors. While the website asks users to refrain from uploading assignments, past exams, and lecture slides, the terms and conditions state that Note Solution "does not review or evaluate the accuracy of Content provided by the Notetakers."

"Looking back at the early 2000s when ASSU was thinking of digitizing its past test library we were shut down immediately," said Nowlan. "They were completely against us posting their tests online."

Wu acknowledges that there is a risk of users uploading copyrighted material and is working with several volunteers to monitor content. "We try our best to keep all professors work and certain past tests off the site as we aren't really sure how they might react to that."

Wu predicts that the Note Solution has so far spent between $15,000 and $20,000 in production costs with most of the cost arising from web design and development. The site is also planning to offer $20 gift cards and Ipod Shuffles as prizes to students who upload enough of their notes. Wu says that the entire project is currently self-funded.

"Right now the biggest source of our funds is from our savings and friends and family." Wu added that they are developing ways to save money in purchasing student prizes. "We're trying to save on taxes and things so we might purchase them from other sources like Craigslist."

The site is hoping to solicit advertising revenue once there are more users. "We're aiming to get around 1000 students by the end of this month and I guess by the end of the year we're hoping to get at least 2000 members," said Wu.

Second-year student Anna Cunningham likes the idea of Note Solution. "In case I miss any classes for any reason, it's nice to not have to wander around and offer to buy they off of people," said Cunningham, who added that she would also consider uploading her notes to the website.

"I know a lot of the time I have my own thoughts and ideas for essays so I would definitely go through my notes and make sure they were just from the class but I wouldn't mind otherwise because essentially it's just public knowledge anyways."

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Talks continue between U of T and Faculty Association

Delayed agreement was expected in August

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Talks between the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association over salaries for faculty members continue to drag on a month after a resolution was expected in August.

After failing to reach agreement in February 2009, both parties invited Mr. Martin Teplitsky, an independent arbitrator, to settle the differences between them. The central issue involved regular salary increases for 2009 and 2010. Under normal circumstances, faculty at post-secondary institutions receive regular salary increases every year. In addition, professors also receive increments from money set aside to recognize their career progress. These latter payments are known as "progress through the ranks."

After allocating PTR payments in 2009, the administration froze them for 2010 and argued that they could allocate normal payments for 2010 only if there were no regular increases in salaries, and if professors increased their pension contributions, according to a brief provided to the arbitrator. The administration further argued that the money available for PTR, which constitutes about 1.9 per cent of total salaries, should take "precedence" over salary increases. In the brief, the administration argued that the university could not afford salary increases because a one per cent increase in professors' salaries would cost about $3.95 million dollars.

In 2009, total university expenditures were $2.07 billion, of which $991.8 million went towards salaries.

UTFA argued that salary increases should be in line with the norm for the post-secondary sector, or about three per cent of total salaries. The association submitted that other major universities operating in similar economic conditions in Ontario and Canada have awarded their faculty members comparable sums. In a brief provided to Teplitsky, UTFA points out that U of T markets itself as the leading post-

SEE 'TALKS' – PG 6

First Governing Council meeting focuses on U of T finances

Council should prepare for choppy waters, Naylor says

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The first Governing Council meeting of the year was dominated by talk of U of T's finances. Senior administration officials expect turbulent times for 2010–2011.

"Prepare for choppy waters, it's going to be exciting," said U of T President David Naylor in his opening address to Council after a lengthy report in which he reviewed the university's financial situation in the context of the ongoing arbitration with the faculty association, budgetary pressures imposed by the province, and the deficit in U of T's pension plan, among other items.

Naylor also discussed the current talks around the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts and Science. "You can imagine from some of the coverage this summer that as colleagues in Arts and Sciences contemplate how to balance their budget that this is very difficult terrain to navigate," he told ouncil. He added that the university would be consulting with members within the faculty throughout the fall.

However, the administration is facing a growing chorus of criticism over its handling of the academic planning process in its early stages. Pressure has been mounting since early August when a letter addressed to Dean Meric Gertler, signed by 42 professors and heads of departments, criticized the administration for implementing parts of its plan without consulting stakeholders. Since that time, the faculty association has also expressed its concern and written an open letter to Provost Cheryl Misak. In the letter, the association states that it plans on filing a formal grievance over the "disrespectful" tone of Gertler's response to certain proposals, and an overall "breakdown in collegial governance" at U of T.

"We've seen a lot of concern expressed by colleagues within the Faculty of Arts and Science," Naylor told The Varsity after the meeting on Monday. "There are always going to be pressures and strains when any restructuring occurs

SEE 'FINANCES' – PG 6

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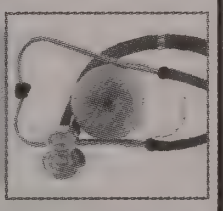
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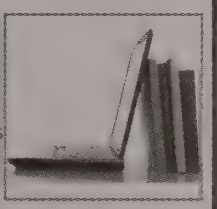
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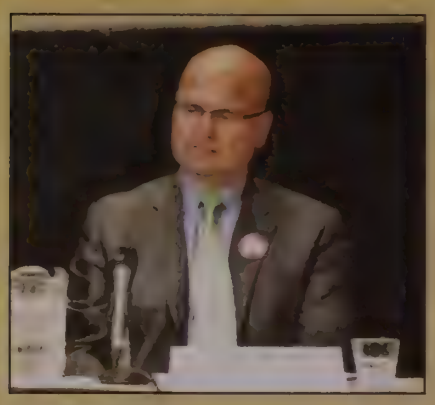


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THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES SPEAK



ROCCO ROSSI

[It's] important that the mayor have the president of the U of T's number on speed dial because I think there are lots of things, lots of intersections. Clearly the municipal level of government doesn't have huge responsibilities over universities but where it does have responsibility is in building permits, is in facilitating the growth of the university, which has been spectacular and it's a magnet for great talent from around the world and we want to continue to have that. [...] I've called for a freeze on TTC fairs for next year to give some sense of security on this issue because it's a huge expense.



GEORGE SMITHERMAN

[We can] work really closely with the university, because the relationship between the mayor's office and the university at present is very, very poor; to recognize that [U of T is a] key driver of economic opportunity and success [and] to create jobs, so I have a youth employment plan. Obviously, a lot of students are struggling with high debt loads and [with] city services [for example, we can] develop a transit system that's youth-accessible and youth-friendly. [...] I think that the University of Toronto is a powerhouse [and we're not] taking full advantage of that.



JOE PANTALONE

I will try to better integrate [into] the city processes, urban studies for example: we deal with urban issues all the time at city hall. Where is the integration, where is the cooperation happening? [We could consider having] students do actual practical projects which could improve a neighbourhood. [...] Students can be actors of social change, so I think the issue of permanent residents getting the vote [would be supported] because [students] understand. [...] They know they come from somewhere else and why would they feel that they are excluded even though they're here now.



SARAH THOMSON

Well I'm looking at creating more jobs and that's where we get more businesses in, so small businesses and mid-sized businesses create about 80 per cent of the new jobs; so for me I think that what we have to do is do everything we can to reduce taxes for them, to reduce the red tape, to cut the red tape, and create more jobs. Because at the end of the day, students need money, so if we have more jobs for them once they graduate I think that's a great thing.

**Rob Ford could not be reached for comment by time of publication.*

Photographed by Tom Cardoso, compiled by Elizabeth Kagedan

INCUMBENT MAYOR WELCOMES STUDENTS



Toronto Mayor David Miller welcomes international students at the International Student Centre on Thursday. *THOMAS BUGAJSKI*

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'MAYORAL DEBATE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

However Aaron Kates-Rose, a fourth-year Peace and Conflict Studies student at U of T, found Pantalone simply "stumbled through meaningless metaphors."

Pantalone was consistently associated with David Miller, and his opponents frequently criticized him when they discussed the last government. Pantalone accepted this association, sometimes referring to "we" when referencing the Miller government.

ROB FORD

Ford spoke next, describing his father's — a former Conservative MPP — business success in Rexdale, which under Ford has expanded into New Jersey and Chicago. "We battled through the recessions," said Ford, "we had to tighten our belts, and that's what I'm planning to do if I'm fortunate enough to be the mayor of this great city."

Ford, who has been the councillor for Ward 2, Etobicoke North for 10 years, described three objectives he planned to implement if elected. "I want to reduce [city] council from 44 members to 22 members," Ford said, claiming that "we do not need all this duplication and waste at the municipal level, 22 will do." Further, he plans on abolishing the car registration tax and land transfer tax.

"The vehicle registration tax is equivalent to renovating Nathan Phillips square. Why would you go out and spend $45-million renovating Nathan Phillips Square when we're $3-billion in debt, and have been hit with every tax," he asked. "You do that when you're in the black, when things are good."

He asserted that "there's nothing wrong with Nathan Phillips Square, ladies and gentleman, my office overlooks it, we have New Years Eve parties, we have events there almost every weekend, I've never had someone come up and say 'Rob, we need new concrete.' So we have to get our fiscal house in order, and then we can start giving everyone what they want."

Kates-Rose found Ford "predictably uninformed and offensive."

Keilty echoed this sentiment. "I think he has misconceptions of what the city needs based on his own experiences," she said. "I think he thinks like a small business owner and not like a public servant, and takes whatever frustration he has against city hall and David Miller out by saying broadly insulting things," adding that "he looks like an evil version of the Kool-Aid man."

Frank Cunningham, professor emeritus of poli sci and philosophy at U of T and founding member of U of T's Cities Centre called Ford a "streetfighter," arguing his extremist position had the effect of polarizing positions in the debate, making it "mutually antagonistic, detracting from working for compromise."

The crowd seemed generally anti-Ford, booing him on several occasions. He left immediately after the debate, while the other candidates stayed for further questions.

GEORGE SMITHERMAN

Smitherman, a Toronto Centre Liberal MPP for over 10 years, has served as provincial Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Energy and Infrastructure, as well as McGuinty's Deputy Premier. He described himself as a "lifelong self-made resident of city of Toronto," maintaining that "Toronto's best days lie yet ahead."

He claimed that as of the city's amalgamation, "we have fallen on the bad times of a culture which constantly lets us off the hook. As a citizen of Toronto, I grow weary of the storyline which emanates from my city every budget period which projects my city as broke, and bankrupt, and powerless, when I know that it is none of those things."

Smitherman asserts he will do "what is necessary to ensure that that motto, 'diversity our strength,' which we as politicians repeat so often, is actually a motto we bring real life and meaning towards."

He argued, "the opportunity lays ahead of us not to slash council in half or what have you, but to find a model where the citizens are engaged in a way that gives them real power."

Keilty found Smitherman "the best speaker of the bunch," while Kates-Rose called him "the candidate that upset me the least."

SARAH THOMSON

Thomson spoke next. "At 16 I started pumping gas. At 18, I started my own company," she said. Her platform is four-pronged. She plans to build "an expansive subway, stretching out to the airport," because she claims "it is so important that we open up Toronto to the world, and that subway line is a way to do that." She plans to act as "the chief job hunter for this city as well as the mayor," asserting that she "knows how to sell this city." She aims to "make this city a business-friendly city" by "lowering taxes, and getting rid of red tape." She hopes to improve planning by "putting public consultation first." Thomson agreed with Ford that "we have a huge spending problem," arguing that the issue was that "decision-makers aren't hearing our problems," planning on getting rid of "the middle layer" to rectify that.

ROCCO ROSSI

Rossi, a senior executive turned backroom politician, described himself as "the proud son of immigrant parents." He said, "I started in modest circumstances, and I was able to be exceptionally successful. Part of that was hard work and part of that were opportunities provided by the city and others to bridge that divide from a poor start without knowledge of the language to a very successful existence. For me that came through education, winning scholarships to Upper Canada College, McGill, and Princeton from where I received an MA."

Rossi claimed Toronto needs better "planning on the financial side, and planning on the planning side," calling the fact that the city budget is planned on an annual basis "ridiculous." "When you do that," said Rossi, "You're not able to make the kinds of decisions necessary to be made to see a wave of immigrants coming as not a problem but opportunity."

ALL CANDIDATES

The issue of immigrants and permanent residents came up in a question asked by U of T professor Shauna Brail, who asked whether the candidates "favour extending the vote in city elections to residents who are not yet Canadian citizens."

Pantalone, Smitherman, and Thomson supported extending the vote, with Pantalone claiming he was the first to suggest it.

Rossi and Ford did not support extending the vote. Ford justified his position by pointing to the fact that permanent residents could not run for office, thus they should not be able to vote. He further argued that "we're talking about gridlock, we're talking about housing shortages, there's not enough doctors, everything, we're maxed out. Now we're saying, let's bring in another million people. Well that doesn't make sense if you cant take care of the 2.7 million you have now, how can you accommodate another million people? So where are they gonna go, where is the housing gonna come from, where are the doctors going to come from?"

Smitherman drew loud cheers from the crowd when he responded "well, I say, Mr. Ford, they will be the doctors because 25 per cent of them will be," adding that in a previous debate, Ford had supported extending the vote to 16-year olds.

"While the debate seemed rarely to discuss real matters of policy or vision, it did provide a full house crowd with a look at which of the candidates could perform respectably in the mayor's office," said Kates-Rose.



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TORONTO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL



Last Thursday, writer Paul Laverty (left) and director Ken Loach (right) spoke at Sandford Fleming about their work in advance of the third annual Toronto Palestine Film Festival, starting October 2. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

DORIS LEUNG MEMORIAL



A student signs a book of condolence at last Friday's memorial service for Doris (Chung See) Leung. The UTSC student died in the Manila bus hostage tragedy. The service, which roughly 150 attended, coincided with her funeral in Hong Kong. *DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/THE VARSITY*

'TALKS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

secondary institution in Canada, and argues that salaries for professors should therefore correspond with the university's claims to represent the "top of the market." UTFA also asked the arbitrator to channel the salary increases so that faculty members who earn less get a higher proportion.

Complicating matters further was the provincial government's announcement earlier this year that it was urging public sector workers involved in collective bargaining to exercise restraint with wage increases.

"They don't want to interfere with existing contracts or with the negotiating process [or] get into micro-managing, or overruling any existing agreement or contract or unionized settlement," said UTFA President George Luste, who has participated in talks with the provincial government throughout August. "They just want everybody to at some point agree to a two-year salary freeze."

The university, however, took this before the arbitrator to argue that it was being pressured by the province to not increase salaries, according to Professor Scott Prudham, who heads UTFA's bargaining team. Prudham said that this claim was disingenuous because the university's position to not increase salaries was put forward in June 2009, nine months before the province announced its intention to freeze public sector salaries.

"The reason we ended up going to arbitration, I think a big part of it was because the administration was insisting on a zero-across-the-board increase," said Prudham. "We considered their proposal to be outrageous and just a non-starter so we really didn't have a basis for negotiations.

"In my view, one of the reasons this has taken so long is that UTFA is trying to change a system that rewards the few at the expense of the many and the administration seems not as inclined to want to change that," he said. "We just have different philosophies as to how the institution should be directed."

Senior administration officials were contacted by The Varsity but declined to comment on issues under arbitration. U of T President David Naylor declined to comment other than to say that the university was seeking a settlement that would not contribute to its current financial difficulties. "It's very important for us to get a reasonable deal that avoids putting the university into more of a financial bind," he said. "The quality of the administration is in part to be concerned about the quality of working life of faculty and staff so I'd like to see a sustainable and fair deal as possible."

At the request of Mr. Teplitsky, the talks between the faculty association and the university resumed this month, with a meeting on September 8 that lasted most of the day, according to sources familiar with the talks. The parties met again on Saturday and Sunday and a resolution is expected by the end of September.

'FINANCES' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

but consultation is imperative. I think the faculty association rightly highlights the importance of consultation in moving any restructuring process forward."

UTFA has stated that the aim of its grievance will be to "establish rigorous and clear protocols governing academic planning at the university."

"I think we would probably be obliged to respond to the grievance and argue that the current course of consultations is addressing and remedying many of their concerns," replied Naylor when asked whether he felt the association had grounds for a formal protest.

Naylor also told Council that the province was getting involved in the planning process. "The province has been doing their magic behind the scenes to try to make sure that this particular 747 lands quietly and safely," he said.

Ken Kuran, a full-time undergraduate student on Governing Council said he thought the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts and Science was a positive development overall. "Having to have so many different administrative levels for the same thing doesn't necessarily make sense," he said. "If you think about it, do I want to go to a university where I get maybe a slight more amount of course selection in some languages or do I need to go to a university that's going to be around in ten years that's not bankrupt?"

Others were similarly approving of the university's efforts. "I think it's a step in the right direction the way the provost's office and the dean's office is having further consultation and I'm really happy to see that," said Greg West, a graduate student on Council who said he was in the process of hearing from students in his constituency about the restructuring. "I think like every year since the financial collapse it's going to be a tough year, but I think we'll get through it."

Naylor also addressed U of T's pension deficit, one of the largest among Canadian universities. In his opening address, he drew attention to the pension contribution rates at U of T in comparison with the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, where contribution rates, he said, are 11 per cent for both employers and employees. Naylor said that rates at U of T, which were 11 per cent for employers and 5.5 per cent for employees, were unsustainable.

However, another recent report from the faculty association attributes many of the problems with the pension plan to mismanagement as opposed to contribution rates, and criticizes the administration's handling of the pension fund. It also submits that UTFA is categorically opposed to the 2.7 per cent rate increase sought by the administration in bargaining talks and contemplates taking the university to court over pension governance.

"It's going to be an interesting year," concluded Naylor in his opening remarks to Council. "I anticipate that there will be some turbulence simply because the concatenation of reasonable expectations of employees, a stuttering economy, and a chronically underfunded sector means there will be some flashpoints."



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Babak

3rd Year Commerce,
"Yes. It would stop people from sending mass emails to the class."



Dan

2nd Year Philosophy and Near & Middle Eastern Studies,
"No, it sounds like an awful idea and promotes laziness. Take your own."

U of T top university in Canada

University also breaks into top 10 universities in the world

Ken Kuran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto received a ranking of 17th overall from the Times Higher Education Rankings, and a ninth overall from the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan. Both rankings place U of T as the top Canadian university.

"Any institution that makes it into this table is truly world-class," said Ann Mroz, editor of the Times. A plethora of American and English universities dominate the rankings, joined by three Canadian universities: U of T, McGill, and UBC.

These rankings come shortly after McGill University was the only school in the top 25 of the Quacquarelli Symonds University Rankings. U of T is not particularly fussed by this disparity.

"This year, QS is the only big international ranking where McGill outranked U of T," said U of T President David Naylor in an interview. "The survey data from QS clearly show that U of T has a stronger reputation among academics globally than any other Canadian university."

Naylor attributed the QS rankings to both McGill having more international students than U of T because it has drawn from the eastern seaboard of the US, and the fact that U of T, unlike McGill, adjusts downwards for part-time faculty. "That gives them a much higher score on student-faculty ratio, and in itself accounts for the difference in our QS rankings.

"Response biases in surveys are another problem," added Naylor, who explained it is particularly difficult for smaller schools to receive attention in these ranking schemes.

"Most systems under-recognize amazing small undergraduate universities, such as one finds on the east coast of Canada and the US."

Naylor attributes missed opportunities from abroad as another impact on rankings. "One thing that hurts us is [...] that Ontario does not provide per-student grants to international graduate students. B.C. does it, and that really helps UBC in recruiting."

Naylor acknowledged that additional discrepancies exist as a result of methodology. "Every ranking system has biases as well as sources of imprecision [...] Quirks illustrate why no one should take any individual ranking too seriously or get too excited about year-to-year variation. Small differences in methods of counting different items make big differences in how a school does."

Naylor adds that there also seems to be a lack of a standard to normalize data into information, causing further discrepancies. "Some progress is being made by adjusting for citations of papers rather than numbers of papers, as well as adjusting for the size of the university in relation to the research outputs. But even then, there's disagreement. Do we adjust for numbers of faculty alone, or should one also adjust for the numbers of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows?

"But in the final analysis, no single rank or score can ever reflect a big complex place like a university with all its strengths and weaknesses."

To see an e-interview with The Varsity and David Naylor visit our website at thevarsity.ca



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Toronto Women's Bookstore reopens

Sandra Degrandis
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

After facing the possibility of bankruptcy as a result of financial problems, the Toronto Women's Bookstore has undergone renovations and has officially re-opened its doors to the public.

The space has been made more open amd has a cosier atmosphere, now including a café, lounge area, and backyard patio. New owner Victoria Moreno said there are also plans to provide Internet and other services. "I'd like to use the space for different things; I'm open in that sense."

While business was slow in August, Moreno hopes that it will pick up in September. "I am really, really excited to have taken on this project having made the Toronto Women's Bookstore survive. But I will still need all of your support," Moreno told a gathering at the TWB.

The bookstore has historically been involved in the local community, especially the women's community. Moreno hopes to keep this legacy alive by continuing to host events such as book launches, author readings, and fundraisers; with the possibility of having art exhibits or "a night of arts and culture" in the near future. The bookstore already has a fundraiser fashion show slated on September 24 in support of the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre and the Multi-cultural Women Against Rape.

"We support the community and sell tickets for events," said Morino. "We will continue to do that."

The renovations to the store also involved a review of its financial woes, which have included many liabilities and outstanding accounts. When Morino acquired the bookstore in the spring she saw the importance of keeping this institution alive out of"love of the bookstore and its importance to women and the community."

During the TWB's difficulties last year they acquired an unfavourable relationship with some U of T professors who had ordered books but had difficulty receiving them on time, if at all.

Professor Bergen from the history department recalls having difficulties when ordering books for her Holocaust class last year.

"I had a very difficult situation last year with the Toronto Women's Bookstore and my book orders for my classes on the Holocaust," said Professor Doris Bergen of the history department.

Moreno is hoping to get the support of professors once again and is surprised by the unanticipated support they have been offering this year despite past occurrences and hopes this will continue into the New Year. Professor Bergen is dedicated to continuing to support the store.

"In principle it doesn't seem right to hold the new management responsible for the problems in the past — and I remain supportive of everything the TWB stands for."

Moreno became owner of the TWB after first approaching the store to help with their financial issues. "I was worried about the bookstore. I approached them when they had their fundraising event earlier this year... I never thought I'd be taking it over. I just thought maybe I could help with some consulting, see if there was a way I could volunteer my time."

The TWB supplies to a variety of departments including History, Anthropology, and Aboriginal Studies.

More information on the TWB can be found at http://www.womensbookstore.com.

With files from Zakia Chowdhury



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A house divided

Will this parliamentary session be as unproductive as the last?

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



Both the Conservative government and the opposition are to blame for last year's dismal parliamentary session. *RENATO LORINI*

Last year's parliamentary session was among the least productive in Canadian political history. Parliament sat fewer days and passed fewer laws than ever before. A series of pseudo-scandals culminating in the Guergis-Jaffer affair monopolized the parliamentary calendar and further diminished the already low esteem in which Canadians hold their representatives. The government introduced several important bills, including one reforming the refugee claims system and another creating a new complaints review system for the RCMP, but did so too early in the parliamentary session for them to be debated. The bills that parliament did pass were passed without much debate and not enough information for the scrutiny we expect of parliament.

Unless there is an election this fall, which seems increasingly improbable, this year will not likely be any more productive. Indeed, if the opposition takes a more combative tack, something which Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff finally seems prepared to do, this year may be even less productive as every folly and gaffe on the part of the government is transformed into the day's political ammunition. Normally, having an active opposition would be mark of a healthy parliament, but the Canadian political situation is so dysfunctional that a stronger opposition might actually make it worse.

This unusual situation is not, as some have snidely suggested, the result of there being no real problems for parliament to deal with. True, Canada is faring far better economically than Britain or the United States, but this is not to say that there are no major issues, economic or otherwise, that we need parliament to address. Parliament will not and cannot solve every problem in Canada, but there are some on which only it can act. Unfortunately, these tend to be controversial and intractable questions. That is not reason enough for parliament, especially when no party holds a majority of the seats in the House of Commons, to abdicate this high responsibility.

Indeed, the onus of ensuring that parliament can effectively address the issues facing Canada is not solely on the government, as some commentators seem to believe, but also on the opposition. There have been a few moments in the past year when the opposition took seriously its shared responsibility to govern in times of minority parliament to strike deals with the government. This it did when it reached an agreement with the government on proposed reforms to the refugee claims system, which were introduced in a bill shortly before the House rose in May.

The opposition, especially the Liberals, fear cooperating too often with the government because they believe that it might make them appear weak and make it harder for voters to distinguish them from the Conservatives come election time. This fear is not unjustified, but it should be balanced with the competing responsibility of the opposition to Canadians in a minority parliament to ensure that the business of parliament gets done. This does not mean that they should acquiesce to every request made of them by the government, but that they should use their position to ensure that the bills adopted are as good as they can be.

Unfortunately, Canadians are not used to this kind of wheeling and dealing between parties because we have relatively little experience with minority governments and even less with coalitions. Minority parliaments require a much greater political maturity on the part of both government and opposition than do majority parliaments. There is currently an unprecedented maturity deficit in parliament combined with one of the most dysfunctional minority governments in Canadian history, in terms of its willingness to cooperate with the opposition.

And all of this despite the fact that parliament will face some pressing questions this fall including Canada's ballooning budget deficit, proposed changes to the oversight of the RCMP, and the prime minister's plans for asserting Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. First will be the long gun registry, which a private member's bill supported by the government proposes to abolish. Though it seems that it will be narrowly defeated, further challenges on gun control in Canada are sure to come. Yet the government seems unprepared for a real debate on the issue and the opposition chronically incapable of responding and defining its own gun control agenda. Presently, New Democratic leader Jack Layton claims to have secured enough votes of rural NDP MPs to defeat the bill, but the vote will likely be very close.

To be sure, the opposition alone cannot transform parliament, but it is certainly capable of more than what it has been doing. The government is unlikely to improve its behaviour and cannot easily be forced to do so. Instead, it is up to the opposition to out-govern the government so that it can persuade Canadians that it can deliver on its agenda in the next election.

IRKS & QUIRKS

How Katy Perry ruined my summer

I want those four months back, damnit

Alex Nursall
VARSITY STAFF

Some day, I will track down the disc jockeys who choose what songs will be put on heavy rotation on Top 40 stations, and I will promptly club them all with my shoe. It's not that I have had much of a problem with them in the past. I tend to find that my relationship with Top 40 tends to be a pleasant one. They give me stuff to dance to in the shower and I won't sue when I eventually slip and crack a rib. But this summer, we hit a snag. At first, it seemed like something we could work past. Something minor that appeared to be a mere annoyance, nothing else. But then the summer progressed, and I could feel myself getting more and more irritated, until finally I found myself standing there at work, part of an espresso maker in my hand, screaming, "THAT'S IT! I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE! I CAN'T HANDLE THIS! NO ONE PERSON COULD EVER HANDLE THIS."

I'm talking about Katy Perry, "California Gurls," and how my summer was repeatedly ruined by one, utterly wretched song.

The song, in itself, is relatively innocuous. It's a bland, catchy bit of pop drivel that has stupid lyrics and a completely irrelevant video (apparently Perry decided to reinvent herself from fake bisexual to a game piece from CandyLand). But somewhere along the line, someone decided that this would be "the" summer song. You know the song: it's the one that plays over and over again on every corporately-run station in an attempt to make the incredibly lucrative yet intensely stupid youth market buy the song as their "soundtrack" for the summer, meaning more sales in CDs, tickets, merchandise, sex toys, and spray cheese.

Let me just put this out there: Katy Perry is an awful singer. She yells everything, over-enunciates like she's announcing a volleyball game in a cave, and tries too hard to sound like a young girl trying to be Madonna trying to be a dying cat. Even just writing this article, I can just hear the poorly sung chorus in my head:

"CAL-LI-FORN-YAH GURLS, THEY'RE UN-DEE-NYE-ALBULL,
DAY-SEE DUKES, BIKINIS ON TOP."

"ENOUGH," I'd be shrieking, standing on a chair in the middle of a store. "THIS SONG CAN'T KEEP PLAYING THIS MUCH."

And yet, it played on, and on, and on. I could feel myself hating summer for the proliferation of this song. I wanted to never see candy again. I wanted to kick the Beach Boys for ever talking about girls from California in the first place. Hell, I was even mad at Snoop Dogg for appearing on this track. The hate was getting explosive and irrational. I had to find a way out, but there was nothing I could do, although sometimes, it'd come on at work and I would find myself contemplating crushing my own skull with the waffle iron on the counter just to finally end it all.

Katy, if you're reading this, I just want you to know that I have no real problem with you as a person, nor with that life-sized muppet that you're planning to marry. Sure, I thought you're girl-kissing stage was nothing more than a tired attempt for publicity by co-opting a legitimate sexual preference in the attempt to get boys to think you were attractive, all the while delegitimizing actual outpourings of female-to-female lust. But the song was at least mildly catchy. I even kind of liked that "Hot N' Cold" song, even though the lyrics were apparently written by a 13-year-old with absolutely no imagination. But this song may have ruined you for me. I can't handle it anymore. You can't keep writing crap like this, no matter how many cupcakes you try to work into the video. I have to stop talking about this, I have to. In fact, I'm just going to stop writing about it. Right now.

Europe's extreme plight

By not having frank discussions about its welfare and immigration policies, Europe risks radicalizaing it's politcal base even further

Dylan C. Robertson
VARSITY STAFF

Thilo Sarrazin, a politician and outgoing executive of Germany's national bank, has ignited fierce debates over Europe's "Muslim problem."

A few weeks ago he published *Deutschland schafft sich ab* ("Germany is eliminating itself"), a 450-page manifesto on the failure of the country's integration policies.

Sarrazin says his country's Muslims refuse to integrate and are soaking up generous welfare reserves. He cites his country's declining birth rate and notes how Muslim families with very little education are having what he considers too many kids, thus making Germany a poor and stupid nation. A passage from the book, translated by *The Economist*: "With higher relative fertility among the less intelligent, the average intelligence of the population declines."

This isn't the first time Sarrazin has made headlines. Last year, he said many Muslims in his country had the intellectual capability of fruit vendors and opined that "I do not have to acknowledge anyone who lives by welfare, denies the legitimacy of the very state that provides that welfare, refuses to care for the education of his children and constantly produces new little headscarf-clad girls."

In his latest book, he advocates changing welfare policies to boost fertility among smarter families. In a country where the Holocaust was engineered, the promotion of eugenics is profoundly disturbing. High-profile political and media figures have denounced the book and the mainstream socialist party in Germany is considering revoking Sarrazin's membership.

But the book sold out within a few days. German pollster Forsa found that half the population supported his views and a fifth would vote for a party if Sarrazin created one.

Sarrazin's book has revealed two things. First, European political parties have been urging political correctness to the point of alienating the public's frustrations. More importantly, assimilation has failed.

Like all of Western Europe, Germany has a significant and growing Muslim population, largely immigrant families from Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt. Similar to ghettoization in France, many live in low-cost suburban apartment buildings were unemployment and violent crime is high. Illiteracy is commonplace, as is a lack of fluency in the country's language.

Meanwhile, European voters are continuously told to shut up over racial issues. Mainstream parties promote diversity while ignoring public frustration. A telling example occurred in the UK election this spring, when then-prime minister Gordon Brown famously called a woman a "bigot" for complaining about EU nationals from Eastern Europe taking all the jobs in her city.

Sarrazin's book has revealed two things. First, European political parties have been urging political correctness to the point of alienating the public's frustrations. More importantly, assimilation has failed.

Only far-right nationalist groups are responding to widespread anger by proposing radical, inhumane solutions such as mass deportations, reverse-affirmative action, and internment camps.

And they're gaining support. Last year, Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician known for his anti-immigrant views and his documentary linking the Qur'an to extremist violence, was voted the country's second-best politician in three separate polls. In France, the extreme-right Front National consistently grabs 15-20 per cent of votes, with similar numbers in Austria and an alarming near-30 per cent in Switzerland.

The situation is volatile, but not helpless. European political culture needs to change. There need to be frank debates over what to do about immigrant communities that underperform (many don't). Solutions from both left and right political views could be implemented, such as welfare and immigration reform, linking welfare to school attendance, and community services in minority languages.

As it stands, the only people having engaged in this debate are extreme-right radicals. And if rising minority populations don't feel welcome in their own countries of birth, they're likely to turn to radical extremism against their compatriots.

Now is the time for mainstream European parties to speak openly about these sensitive issues and find workable, humane solutions. Otherwise populations on both sides risk becoming polarized and radical.

Copy rights

Why Bill C-32's more stringent requirements on file sharing undermines our basic rights and freedoms

Jon Foster
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Until now, the act of copying and sharing files such as songs or videos has been a grey area of Canadian law. There has been no law in place that has restricted citizens from doing this, but not for lack of effort.

A decade ago, the federal government tried to make our copyright laws more stringent and in line with American copyright law with Bill C-61. The bill was easily defeated in parliament due to backlash from voters, and there was no consultation with the public on how it would actually work. So with the death of the bill, Canadians were free to get media through file sharing software like LimeWire and BitTorrent.

This brings us up to the present. The federal Conservatives are tabling Bill C-32 which will drastically change the copyright laws in Canada, giving big media firms recourse in the event that someone has obtained copyrighted material without purchasing it.

So what does this mean?

Firstly, it changes what we can do in the privacy in our homes and the anonymity we can maintain with our Internet Service Providers. Bill C-32 gives the government and the police sweeping powers not only to monitor traffic that contains copyright material, but to potentially monitor files on personal computers.

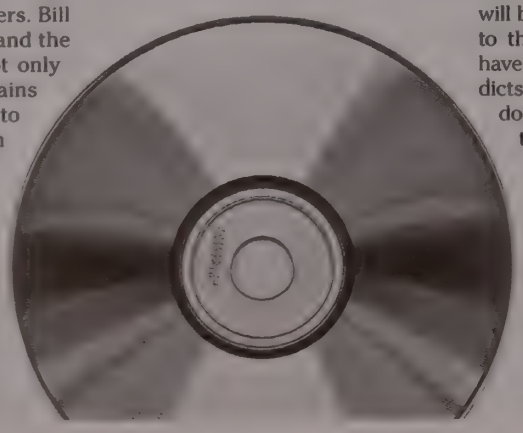
Canadian citizens are concerned that this is a major invasion of their privacy. The bill has been criticized by both consumer groups and academics for how it marginalizes and even criminalizes the sharing of media to an extent detrimental to fair use. Where does this monitoring end? How do we know that only information about copyright material is distributed to the government agencies? Are we not enforcing a kind of censorship on the Internet similar to what exists in China?

The answers are unclear. How would we ever know what information the government has covertly obtained about our surfing habits through our ISP? We wouldn't. The government and corporations could very well keep a file on each citizen, especially those who are charged with illegal file-sharing. Information about our surfing habits, what we purchase, what we view. Everything could be monitored.

On the flip side of this government action are the Canadian artists that willfully and knowingly put their material on the Internet for the purpose of sharing. Under Bill C-32, even this would become illegal to download. That would seriously hinder the promotion and success of Canadian artists who would become unwilling victims in this bill. Also, under this bill, artists would have severe restrictions on songs considered 'covers.' The bill clearly states that "a person who performs a published sound recording in public or communicates it to the public by telecommunication is liable to pay royalties." This means that bands or performers have these restrictions on the songs they can perform. Furthermore, think about the impact it would have on groups and artists that are just starting out, or work as semi-professionals in the entertainment industry. A simple wedding singer could be held liable to pay royalties for covering a song at a reception!

Specifically for students, a provision that sets out the rules of 'fair use' of copyright media, however is almost contradictory in another section of the bill. For example, I could not figure out what the new rules would be when it came to accessing articles, video, or audio recordings for the purpose of research. This area is quite confusing, but at first glance it could possibly be interpreted that students would have to pay for access to resources already obtained through licenses from their post-secondary institution.

In conclusion, if the bill is passed, we all have to become very aware of the content that we download or share by any other means than those set out in Bill C-32. Privacy concerns will be abundant, and I am sure there will be challenges that could even go to the Supreme Court of Canada. I have little doubt that this bill contradicts our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and, in doing so challenges the very notion of what it truly means to be Canadian. Let us just hope that this bill suffer-scthe same fate as Bill C-61.



Bill C-32 gives the government and police sweeping powers to monitor files on personal computers that may have copyrighted material.
DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

LETTERS

Re: Double standards, September 13

American reports about Iran's nuclear intentions are not based on suspicion. Iran is open about its intents to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran poses a huge threat to international peace, not only because it does put forth a destructive agenda, but also because it ensures the Middle East remains a highly unstable region by funding non-state actors and terrorists to do its dirty work.

Iran funds Syrian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, an arrangement worth keeping for Syria. The funding that Iran provides help these terrorist organizations commit illegal activities every day.

Once they acquire these weapons, Iran will have a new status in the Middle East and frankly, the thought of such a corrupt regime, which denies basic civil rights to its own people, owning nuclear weapons and the status that goes along with it is frightening.

America's democratic history ensures she remains open and up front about her foreign policy. Iran's history ensures they continue striving to threaten the regional system.

VICKY TOBIANAH

Re: A new approach to UTSU, September 13

"With students continually occupied with essays and midterms there's no such thing as too much notice."

There are enough people screaming and yelling around campus already, and enough paper being wasted on posters and handouts that don't give a lot of information at all. It's not that students don't hear about it (how can they not? The posters and screamers during election week are so annoying); some people just don't care. They've become so apathetic about the student government.

I agree with the rest of your points though.

TIM

Re: McGuinty less than liberal, September 13

Not to mention McGuinty's funding and pushing through of laws which are against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and also general decency. And the funding of massive numbers of police particularly focused on extracting revenue from the general public. The cost of policing Ontario has skyrocketed with his stewardship.

STEVE

Re: Chemicals that changed the world: Methadone, September 13

Excellent concise summary of what is often ignored in the lay press. And note: the "recent increases in overdose deaths" in the USA has been found consistently to be primarily related to the use of methadone prescribed for pain - prescribing that has increased geometrically in the past ten years. And finally: the US Food and Drug Administration and the manufacturer of methadone, until Nov. 2006, recommended (!) a dose of methadone for analgesia of up to 80 mg per day, an amount that unequivocally can kill patients who are not tolerant. References readily available.

ROBERT NEWMAN

CLARIFICATION

In the September 13 issue of The Varsity, an op-ed entitled Double Standards was published. This op-ed incorrectly stated that Germany has imported nuclear weapons from the United States and produced nuclear weapons for France. In fact, Germany merely receives nuclear weapons as a member of NATO and these weapons are distributed throughout U.S. Air Bases in the country. It does not specifically import them and it has no control over their deployment. Furthermore, it has previously refused France's help in developing a nuclear program and does not produce nuclear weapons. The Varsity regrets this error.

An unfair trial

Omar Khadr's trial violates several international law and he should be repatriated to Canada

Salahuddin Raffiquiddin
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Omar Khadr has been incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay since 2002. *JTF GUANTANAMO*

Omar Khadr was arrested in Afghanistan in 2002 for allegedly killing an American soldier with a grenade and has since been detained at both Bagram Air Base and Guantanamo Bay. Though his trial has just begun, the proceedings have already had their share of complexities. In July, Khadr fired his legal team before the trial and then on August 12, his lawyer collapsed near the end of the first day of proceedings. The trial has been postponed until October 18.

Khadr, a Canadian citizen, is the youngest of the 176 detainees and is the only Westerner currently being held at the facility. The United Nations and Amnesty International have expressed concern over the trial.

Khadr was recruited to fight for the Taliban at the age of nine and was captured by American forces at the age of 15, which makes him, under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child soldier. International law ensures that child soldiers are not to be tried as adults, as Khadr is currently. According to the Optional Protocol, children should be treated as victims and rehabilitated so that they may be reintegrated into society. Khadr has not received such treatment and the prosecution has made it clear they will seek life in prison if he is convicted.

Khadr has received the exact opposite to what he is entitled to under the rule of law. What makes his case even more confusing is that the United States recognizes the legitimacy of each law it is breaking.

Under the Convention of the Rights of the Child, children are to be detained separately from adults. Yet, during his time at Bagram Air Base and Guantanamo, Khadr was kept with adults.

International law also makes it clear that children are not to be tried and especially not by a military tribunal. Every aspect of Khadr's trial is being run by the military. His lawyers, the prosecution, the judge, and the jury are all on the Pentagon's pay roll.

The laundry list of violations does not end there. It is no secret that the Americans have tortured people during the war on terror using techniques such as water-boarding. Under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention, prisoners may not be subjected to torture or cruel and degrading treatment. The interrogator at Bagram Air Base who was in charge of Khadr's interrogation has been court-martialed for his mistreatment of prisoners whether Khadr's treatment was a factor is still unknown. Khadr alleges he was tortured and threatened with rape as early as 2003 and has said he had been used as a human mop after he urinated himself. Further, government documents have proven that in 2004 Khadr was subject to the "frequent flyer" program at Guantanamo where he was deprived of sleep and moved every three hours during interrogation to make him more 'willing to talk'.

When captured, Khadr was not provided legal counsel nor did he have an adult present to ensure that his rights were protected. Khadr was first interrogated while being handcuffed to his stretcher after receiving major surgery at Bagram Prison. It was not until two years after his capture that Khadr finally managed to receive legal aid. In a civilian case, this would be unheard of and would border on criminal. Yet, the Canadian government still regards his trial as fair and refuses to repatriate him.

Khadr was finally charged three years after his initial capture and to date has been in prison for eight years. International standards regarding justice for juveniles says that children must be dealt with promptly to prevent them from being victimized again. I do not believe eight years is prompt by any measure.

When captured, Khadr was not provided legal counsel nor did he have an adult present to ensure that his rights were protected.

What if Khadr were an American being tried in Canada under the same circumstances? Would the Americans allow a citizen to be tried in these conditions? The implications of this case are not limited to the future of Omar Khadr's life but also include how Canadians regard the rule of law and human rights.

Other Western nations, such as Australia, have repatriated their citizens. The Federal Court of Appeals in Canada has pressed for Khadr's return to Canada on the grounds that his charter rights have been violated. Despite this and the slew of violations that have made Khadr's trial possible, the federal government refuses to uphold the rule of law and bring him home to face trial. If Khadr's trial proceeds and if he is found guilty, the rule of international law and Canada's obligations to the international community will be dealt a considerable blow.

An unneccessary controversy

How a media frenzy and misinformation has contributed to the villianizing of an Islamic community centre

Mehreen Imtiaz
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Plans to build a 13 storey American-Muslim community centre at 45-51 Park Place, two blocks from where the September 11, 2001, attacks took place, has caused great controversy in the United States. The proposed facility, which would include a culinary school, swimming pool, September 11 memorial, and a prayer space, has been accused by opponents of being "unnecessary provocation" and a sign of disrespect to the victims of the attacks of 9/11 and their families. It therefore being asked to relocate. The centre is a project of the non-profit Cordoba Initiative which wants to promote cross-cultural understanding between Islam and the West.

The argument of the opposition is not one based on legalities. The first amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees "the right of the people peaceably to assemble. " Therefore, the builders of the community centre have the constitutional right to build the community centre.

As the issue became a hot media topic, President Obama commented on the right of Muslims to build a place of worship, thereby giving Republicans a new platform for criticism leading into the midterm elections in November.

Calls for the center to relocate are based on the premise that the closeness to the location of the attacks is an affront to the victims of 9/11 and their families.

However, the issue of geographical location and sensitivity should only come up if there is a connection between those who carried out the attacks, and those who are now building the community centre. By associating the building of the community center with the 9/11 attacks, opponents are associating millions of law-abiding American-Muslims with terrorists working under a murderous political agenda. This is not only makes for a flawed argument, but also further generates feelings of distrust and hatred between Muslims and non-Muslims in America.

Given the flawed nature of the argument the main question is why this issue has evolved into a national debate. The responsibility lies with the media, which earlier this summer also gave an undeserved and unprecedented amount of attention to a Florida pastor, Terry Jones, thereby fanning anti-Western sentiment and demonstrations across the globe. News of the "Ground Zero" community centre and the Terry Jones issue began to go hand in hand, and politicians began taking stances. As the issue became a hot media topic, President Obama commented on the right of Muslims to build a place of worship, thereby giving Republicans a new platform for criticism leading into the midterm elections in November.

Despite the ridiculous media frenzy, obvious political motivations behind the issue and complete irrationality of the point of view of the opponents, polls currently show two-thirds of Americans oppose the construction of the centre on the proposed site. So much for promoting cross-cultural understanding.

The Genius Suite

There is no shortage of brilliant mathematicians at U of T, but **CLAYTON PAULETTE** probably has the best stories to tell

by Abdi Aidid

The University of Toronto's Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences occupies a four-storey, mostly redbrick and limestone structure at 222 College Street. Flanked on its west side by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and on its east by the Koffler Centre, the building can appear rather unimposing, especially by U of T's often exaggerated architectural standards. If not for an odd-shaped aluminum sculpture on the building's lawn, perhaps no one would notice it. The sculpture — a gift to the centre from the late British sculptor John Robinson — is an artistic rendering of the Borromean Rings, a mathematical concept first appearing in second-century Buddhist art. The rings — in this case hollow triangles — are interlocking, though no two components are actually linked to one another. Studied by knot theory mathematicians, it may seem perplexing but is actually quite simple, if you let Clayton Paulette explain it.

"It's a rather interesting concept," Paulette says. "Each component lies at a different plane or sphere — it becomes trivial if you remove any one component."

With that, he launches into a detailed explanation. Paulette, 50, works at the Fields Institute as a computer projects consultant. He is, by all accounts, a math genius. The Fields Institute is full of those — the staff is mostly comprised of professors and post-doctoral research fellows. But Paulette doesn't have a degree. In fact, he hasn't finished high school. Paulette, who is also a cancer survivor, spent much of the last three decades wrestling with a debilitating cocaine addiction, one that he says nearly cost him his life on a number of occasions.

"I dropped out [of school] and left home when I was 15, I couldn't take it anymore," he says. "My mom had remarried when I was 10. The guy hated me and made my life hell. When I wanted to leave, my mom said 'whatever, I was planning to kick you out in a month anyway.' Her husband gave me a packsack for all my things, my mom gave me 60 bucks and I was on my way."

It was shortly thereafter that Paulette began experimenting with drugs. "I started with methamphetamines. That first time was the best I've ever felt — and then it became an addiction I struggled with for nearly 30 years," he says.

Despite his drug use, Paulette's considerable talents helped him carve out an otherwise comfortable existence. Throughout the past two decades he supported himself by building computer systems and consulting for companies, putting to use skills that became increasingly valuable in the Internet age. After a while, his weekend cocaine binging spiraled into unmanageable addiction.

Before Paulette hit rock bottom, he was allowing other addicts to use drugs in his Sherbourne Street apartment.

For Paulette, who has been clean for six years, an escape was mathematics, an area in which he had always been recognized as a whiz kid. While working with computers, Paulette remembers spending time generating groups of numbers on spreadsheets that were virtually unsolvable.

"It's always been an interest of mine and been something I was good at," he recalls, carrying him into a story about his time at St. Simon's Shelter (where he stayed intermittently).

"There was this one guy who worked at the shelter, Musa. I was always doing math — generating these random sets of numbers on Excel spreadsheets that couldn't be cracked. When I was staying at the shelter, Musa would give me these sets of problems he'd find in books. I'd see him coming towards me with this big grin on his face and I'd know what he was up to."

"I'd always get the answers, but they'd be different from the ones in the books. Still correct, though. I used to have to explain to him that certain questions can have more than one solution. It'd just drive him crazy."

By the time Musa's quizzing became a regular occurrence, their good-natured exchanges would draw a modest crowd at the shelter. "It became a fascinating thing for the people at [St. Simon's]. After a while, they'd just come sit by me when they heard Musa start," he says.

Paulette's transition from homeless recovering addict to being employed as a consultant at an academic institution is a substantial feat for someone without a high school diploma. The story behind this transition is even more remarkable.

Spurred on by a colleague's suggestion, he enrolled in Woodsworth College's Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program, which accepts about 600 mature students annually.

"The guys at Woodsworth said I didn't have any math credits past 10th grade and gave me the choice to either redo math or write the challenge exam," he says. "I wrote the challenge exam."

Suffice to say, Paulette passed. "I didn't even have a calculator — I arrived at all the answers by deriving. I'd provide the proof, but never an answer to the exact decimal place."

Though working, Paulette was still homeless when he applied for admission, and supplied the shelter's phone number and address as his main line of contact. When they called to inform him of his test score, the program coordinator was caught so off guard by the fact that he had called a homeless shelter that he was absolutely convinced he had dialed the wrong number.

Paulette recalls his reaction when he heard of his acceptance into the program: "I was jumping up and down, ecstatic," he says. "But I never went to class. They were teaching calculus, I don't need to learn calculus. I know calculus. All I needed was a library card. I spent all my time at Gerstein."

Individuals who seek to become masters of their craft — in music, mathematics, or otherwise — have historically tended to be some combination of reclusive and eccentric. Paul Erdos, the famous Hungarian mathematician, who Paulette describes as "talented and tenacious," was legendary for his eccentricities, most notably his amphetamine habit and his voluntary homelessness. Erdos famously referred to those who died as having "left" and those who stopped doing math as having "died."

I met Clayton Paulette while interning at JUMP Math, a non-profit founded by John Mighton — Paulette's colleague at the Fields. He was charged with building a new website and content management system for JUMP. Considering Paulette's vast technical know-how, he was left with considerable time to talk while working on the project. Channeling Erdos, Paulette once asked me: "Do you still do math, or are you dead?"

While he rejects the notion that people of remarkable talent have to be odd ("I don't think we're necessarily weird, that's unfair"), Clayton Paulette certainly possesses a quirky streak. At times, talking to him can feel like watching an audition tape. Case in point: "I don't like writing things down. I just try and remember everything, writing things down shows weakness," or "I don't like relationships, they're mostly a distraction." At other times, he can come across as remarkably meditative and self-critical — a disposition one can only assume comes after years of difficulties and uncertainty.

Portions of Paulette's story have garnered modest media coverage — a *Toronto Sun* article by Mark Bonokowski titled "Back from the brink" describes Paulette as someone whose hobbies include "abstract mathematics and quantum physics."

Through a computer certification program Paulette attended in Rexdale, he learned of a posting at the Fields Institute, where he's now worked for two years. His colleagues have already taken note of his substantial mathematical ability; he says he's already begun research on a paper he'll be working on with Mighton.

"I used to walk by the place all the time when I had nothing to hold on to," Paulette recalls. "Mathematics was my dream, the romance of my life. I used to tell people: 'one of these days, my name's gonna be on that door, and I'm not walking in until I get invited in.'"

For Paulette, a job at the Fields Institute meant working amongst his heroes. "It just so happens I finally get invited in for my interview. I walk in there — they gave me a little tour — and I walk into the presentation room and I look at the pictures on the wall, and these guys are some of the biggest names in mathematics since probably the First World War.

"So I'm in his office," Paulette continues, talking about his first interview with the Fields Institute's Juris Steprans, a professor of math and statistics. "I'm sitting there talking to this guy and he wants to know what my interests are! And I'm tongue tied for the first time in my life."

"He looks at me like: 'what the hell is going on with you?'" Paulette says. Paulette had read some of Steprans' papers, and was very familiar with the mathematician's work. "I told him he was like a Bobby Orr to me!"

"There I was, on my way to fulfilling my life's dream."

arts' arts

Burnt offering
Dave Proctor

After, we walk to the old restaurant,
tipsy from the wine,
not talking,
just to see where we once worked.

To remember trading shifts with Rachel
and sneaking beers into the movies,
sucking on lips and everything
we had to hide.
And finding reasons to go shopping
together,
though we were buying Christmas gifts
for other people,
never really talking about it,
and enjoying the silence.

We round the corner,
shoes pressing the sidewalk for answers,
but the restaurant is burned to rubble.
Rachel is still working there,
cleaning up cement blocks,
and the soot stains on her arms resemble nothing.

The Jane Hotel, New York
Tea Hadziristic

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photographs by Laura Kathleen Maize

Charmed, I'm sure: An interview with Rob Christian

The up-and-coming Toronto jazz musician talks U of T, life experience, and why success means happiness



Rob Christian strikes a pose with one of his many great loves. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Elizabeth Haq
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Alcohol, cigarettes, energy drinks, women: Rob Christian, a 21-year-old saxophone-toting, flute-playing jazz prodigy, loves it all.

"Oh, and music too!" he clarifies as he downs a shot-sized boost of caffeine and sugar.

As a frequenter of Toronto's Annual Beaches Jazz Festival for the last couple years, I had made a point to catch the slender, effortlessly skilled multi-instrumentalist blaze through set after set, admiring his ease in front of a crowd and, I'll admit it, falling somewhat prey to his palpable charm. It was always obvious that Christian's undeniable skill was not the only thing that drew audiences to his little corner of Queen Street East every summer. My three-hour jaunt with the Markham-born musician ended up being as much a serious, journalistic assignment as it was the realization of a back-burnered fixation with an artist who is just as entertaining trading snaps with the festival crowd as he is pumping out innovatively remixed standards and pop-synthed original pieces.

Christian's path to prominence in Toronto's music scene began early: he got involved with the Beaches Jazz Festival at the age of 14, stunning old pros with his fresh approach and self-assuredness. Gathering fans and gaining prowess, Rob flexed musical muscle on the piano and with vocals and toyed with the temptation of expanding his repertoire beyond jazz and blues. He released mixtapes and samplers, assisted by his brother Scott Christian, a U of T graduate, and Juno-award-winning producer Eddie Bullen. Rob applied to U of T's jazz music program and was awarded the Moe Koffman Memorial Scholarship, a prestigous award granted to one first-year student in honour of the Canadian jazz legend. The program however, often touted as the best in the country, turned out to be not-so-great for the teen. Halfway through his third year, he dropped out.

"The place I am at with music didn't jive with U of T. U of T is a straight-ahead jazz program and my interests are in a different place." While Christian recognized that his time at U of T made him technically proficient, and he detected a "night and day difference" between the beginning and end of his first year in school, he could not justify the time and effort spent in class while the other aspects of his career were

SEE 'CHRISTIAN' - PG 17

'The Third' is rich with humour

Hart House's latest Shakespeare production does the Bard justice

Ariel Lewis
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Theatre lights dim, the stage is black and a single spotlight shines on a misshapen Richard III. The spotlight goes out and a rush of lights and powerful, drum-heavy music fill the stage — then the Battle of Tewkesbury ensues. Jeremy Hutton's vision of a play that reflects the malicious inner workings of Richard III's twisted mind begins with the killing of Henry VI, and though this battle is not a part of Shakespeare's original *Richard III* but rather from the end scene of *Henry VI Part III*, Hutton's choice to begin the tale of a murderous tyrant with his first murder seems quite fitting. This is not the only choice on Hutton's part that makes this theatre going experience unique — the extensive use of lighting and sound shape and develop the play to the extent that they become as prominent as the characters they highlight.

Throughout the play Hutton uses sound to accentuate mood; lighting creates a series of montage-like scenes, and Hutton even ventures to play with recorded sound and acting doubles to allow his actors to travel from one spot to another in impossible time. Though the strong presence of these effects can at times become overwhelming or even cheesy — Queen Elizabeth in spotlight, silently wailing while heavy drums play over the speakers comes off as overdramatic and somewhat contrived — for the most part these elements feed the dramatic and humorous qualities of the play. Sound, and its contrasting silence, is particularly used to its full effect in Richard's speeches, highlighting the scheming qualities of his soliloquies and adding a mischievous humour in his asides to the audience. Richard's cunning deceptiveness is even made humorous to the extent that it could be likened to the comedic duplicity of Ferris Bueller.

The music further produces a Celtic, ritualistic undertone, pervasive throughout the play, particularly in Queen Margaret's scenes. Hutton's set and costume design is simple — a dead forest lies in the background throughout the entire three hour play and the costumes are abstract Elizabethan, leaving the play's specific time and place ambiguous.



Queen Margaret (Annemieke Wade) confronts the audience. *DANIEL DIMARCO*

It is often the case that if a reviewer spends a significant portion of time highlighting sound and lighting it is because compliments cannot be found elsewhere in the production. This was far from the case in *Richard III*, so I feel I should pause from blathering on about the brilliant use of lighting and sound and give the cast their due. Richard's scheming soliloquies work well because Andre Sills instills the part with morbid villainy and delivers his ominous lines with quick wit and bite. The actor's dominating presence on stage perfectly suits that of a tyrannous ruler. I am, however, unsure of whether the actor slips in his speech on more than one occasion due to nerves or because the character is meant to be played with a speech impediment. If it is the latter, he should have played this aspect more boldly.

Annemieke Wade's Queen Margaret and Neil Silcox's Duke of Buckingham also give remarkable performances that deserve mention, and Jim Armstrong and Andrew Knowlton play excellent bumbling henchmen to Richard. The cast neither falters nor stumbles in their performance, including the two younger performers Nathan Wilson and Ian Hanson, playing Edward IV's children.

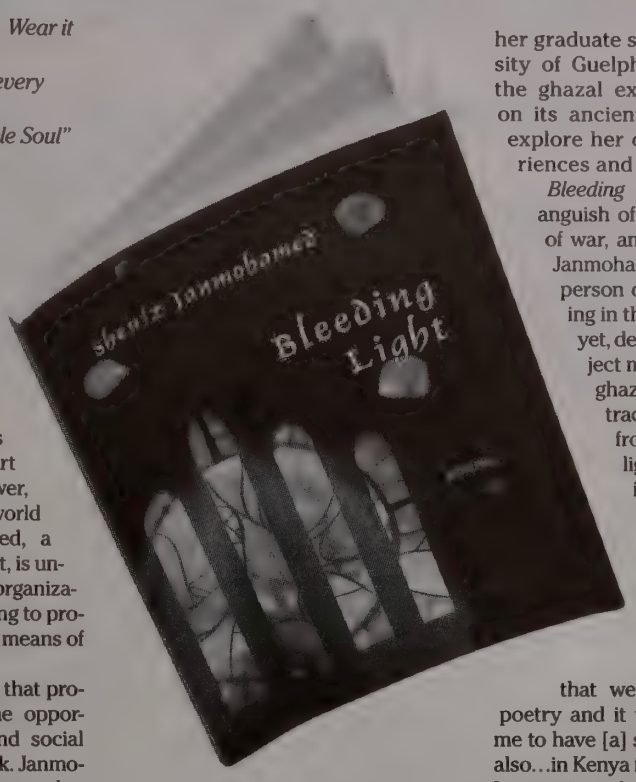
The overall effect of Hutton's *Richard III* is a powerful one, and the experience is enjoyable. Each element of the play works to produce a morose vision of the world as seen through the eyes of a disturbed man. A quite refreshing aspect of this production is that its architects managed to incorporate original modern techniques to the popular Shakespearean tragedy without falling back on the old switching leotards to jeans and castles to subways trick.

Ignite for your rights

Sheniz Janmohamed's Ignite Poetry project fires at the political sphere

"This poem is your talisman. Wear it like a cloak of stars.
I will stitch you a galaxy for every black hole."
- Sheniz Janmohamed, "Noble Soul"

Brigit Katz
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

It's easy to be skeptical about the ability of creative expression to make any real impact on the political sphere, and it often seems impossible to imagine that art could combat the wealth, power, and violence that dominate world politics. Sheniz Janmohamed, a writer and spoken-word artist, is undaunted, and through her organization Ignite Poets, she is striving to promote literary expression as a means of instigating social change.

Ignite Poets is an initiative that provides young poets with the opportunity to promote peace and social awareness through their work. Janmohamed started the project as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, when she was first emerging as a spoken-word artist. According to Janmohamed, Ignite's original purpose was to provide young artists with an alternative to open-mic style shows, which dominate the spoken-word scene and are usually comprised of a series of individual performances.

"It just seemed like there weren't enough opportunities for new spoken word artists to work together collaboratively on a project," she says. "I liked the idea of integrating our pieces into one show...I started [Ignite] to see... if there was a way we could use our talents together to create a new genre within spoken word."

In order to foster collaboration between young poets, Ignite's first show featured seamless transitions from one poet to the next, weaving individual presentations into a single, cohesive performance.

"I looked at [the performers'] poems very carefully and I found ways of connecting each piece," Janmohamed continues. "There were no introductions between each piece, it just went from one...to the next."

Ignite took on another dimension last year, when Janmohamed began planning to launch a Kenyan branch of the initiative with a show featuring Kenyan artists (Janmohamed herself is of Kenyan ancestry). Because she primarily worked on the show from Toronto and was not directly involved in the details of its production, Janmohamed focused less on the show's structure and more on its potential to serve as a vehicle for political and social change.

The local poets who performed at Ignite's show in Kenya addressed some of the many issues that Kenya has faced since 2008, when a hotly contested presidential election sparked horrific bouts of violence throughout the country. They also donated the proceeds from the performance to a girls' school in the slums of Nairobi. Janmohamed was struck by the performers' eagerness to use their art as a platform for the peaceable resolution of political and social strife in Kenya.

"The desire for transparency and accountability and awareness that they have...is really an example of what we should be like here," she says. "I think everyone can learn a lesson from Kenyan poets...because they really are the voice of that nation."

Janmohamed believes that poetry's pathos makes it an invaluable medium for addressing social and political issues, particularly in Kenya: "Newspaper, or radio [are] effective in a way, but [don't] necessarily tug on the heartstrings of people," she says. "Poetry can do that...it can challenge people's ideas and challenge the status quo. I think that's why Kenyans, specifically after...the election violence, found that the most effective way to channel their emotions and frustrations was through this medium."

Janmohamed experienced the power of poetic expression herself when she was working on *Bleeding Light*, a compilation of poems that is set to be released at the end of the month. *Bleeding Light* is a collection of *ghazals*, an intricate poetic form that dates back to seventh-century Persia. Janmohamed wrote the compilation as part of her graduate studies at the University of Guelph. After researching the ghazal extensively, she drew on its ancient form and style to explore her own thoughts, experiences and struggles.

Bleeding Light addresses the anguish of love, the devastation of war, and the challenges that Janmohamed has faced as a person of Eastern descent living in the Western world. And yet, despite such intense subject matter, the sequence of ghazals in *Bleeding Light* traces a woman's journey from darkness into the light of dawn. According to Janmohamed, this reflects the personal catharsis that she experienced through the composition of her poems. "I was dealing with specific issues that were surfacing through poetry and it was the only way for me to have [a] sense of release. I was also...in Kenya for a chunk of the time I was writing them, so some of that imagery is because of the fact that I was actually on a journey."

Now that she has returned from that journey and finished writing *Bleeding Light*, Janmohamed has turned her sights back to Kenya, with plans to establish a permanent branch of Ignite Poets there. "I'd like to see if I can partner with some sort of organization... [to] create something sustainable that can be run by Kenyans, but stay true to what Ignite is about," she says. "I want to promote literacy and the importance of literary expression as a more productive way of channeling your frustrations."

VarCity

The Varsity's guide to Toronto's best shows



ALDEMIO GARCIA

M.I.A.
Infamous poptress and queen of controversy, M.I.A. plays Sound Academy on September 22. Known for her activism and "guerilla art" fashion fetish, M.I.A. Is known for high-energy shows with an emphasis on style.
Sound Academy, $33.50. September 22. All ages.

Rogue Wave
San Francisco alternative rock band Rogue Wave play the famed Opera House on September 24. Upbeat and fresh, with a dance vibe and infectious lyrics, this show with Texas band Midlake is sure to draw a stylish, indie-loving crowd.
The Opera House, $19.50. September 24. 19+

Best Coast
The pop trio from sunny LA bring their particular brand of washed-out, psychedelic, 60's-inspired, drug-hazed, low-fi rock-pop to Toronto.
Lee's Palace, $13.00. September 25. 19+

Klaxons
Want to meet the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and have fun at the same time? Check out the electro-post-dance-punk sound of Klaxon, whose spacey sounds generate fantastical imagery in both their recorded work and their live show.
Mod Club, $20.00. September 27. 19+

The xx
The three-person group creates a slew of intricate, perfect-break-up-songs with one pulsing bass guitar and a single sound effect. Low-key and sad, the moody trio references bands such as Joy Division and The Cure, but still manages to sound fresh.
Massey Hall, $54.39. September 29. All ages.

Deerhoof
Catch Deerhoof, the long-time indie rockers whose musical artistry has influenced the likes of the Flaming Lips and Sufjan Stevens.
Lee's Palace, $19.50. October 3.

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550 Highway 7
Woodbine Centre
RioCan Marketplace
Promenade
Pickering Town Centre
Oshawa Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Bramalea City Centre
Lime Ridge Mall
Meadowvale Town Centre
Eastgate Square
Jackson's Square
Oakville Smart Centre

75 Hanna Ave.
5825 Yonge St.
2432 Eglinton Ave. E
2940 Finch Ave. E
8750 Bayview Ave.
1360 Kingston Rd.
1615 Dundas St. E
310 Harwood Ave. N
837 Danforth Ave.
1151 Dundas St. W
1289 Marlborough Crt.
1629 Lakeshore Rd. W
320 Main St. N
450 Appleby Line
125 The Queensway

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'CHRISTIAN' – CONTINUED FROM PG 14

taking off at such an extraordinary pace. "I would have all of these amazing experiences and was making all of these great connections, and then I'd be back in class. It just didn't feel right."

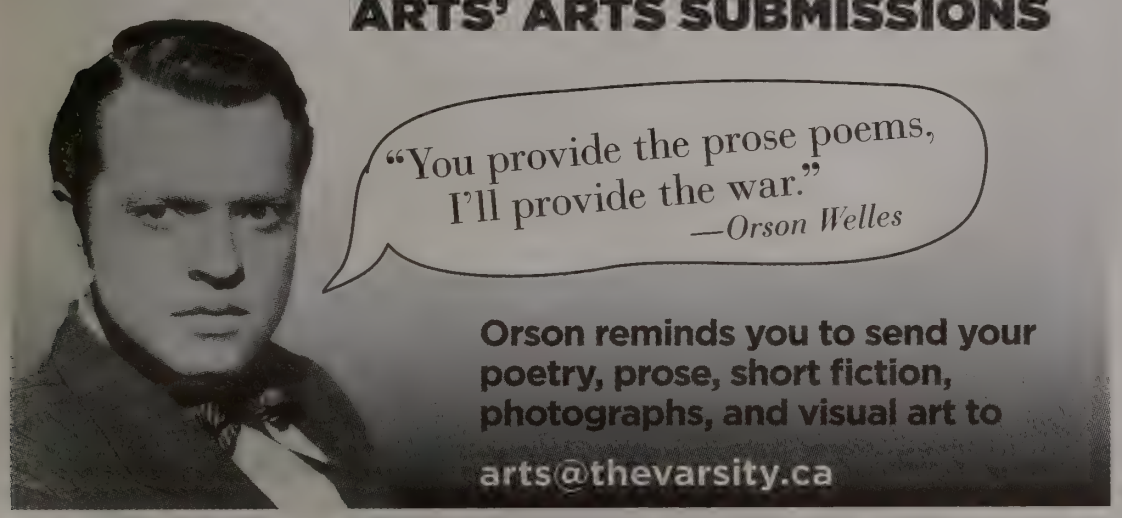
Christian explains that he is comfortable making unorthodox decisions because of his life experiences thus far. "No matter what you think you like or what your tastes are, make sure you maintain an open mind. You can learn from everyone, no matter their skill level. At U of T, I was a part of a closed-minded mentality because it was such a specific program, but you should be open to learning everything, it'll only help you."

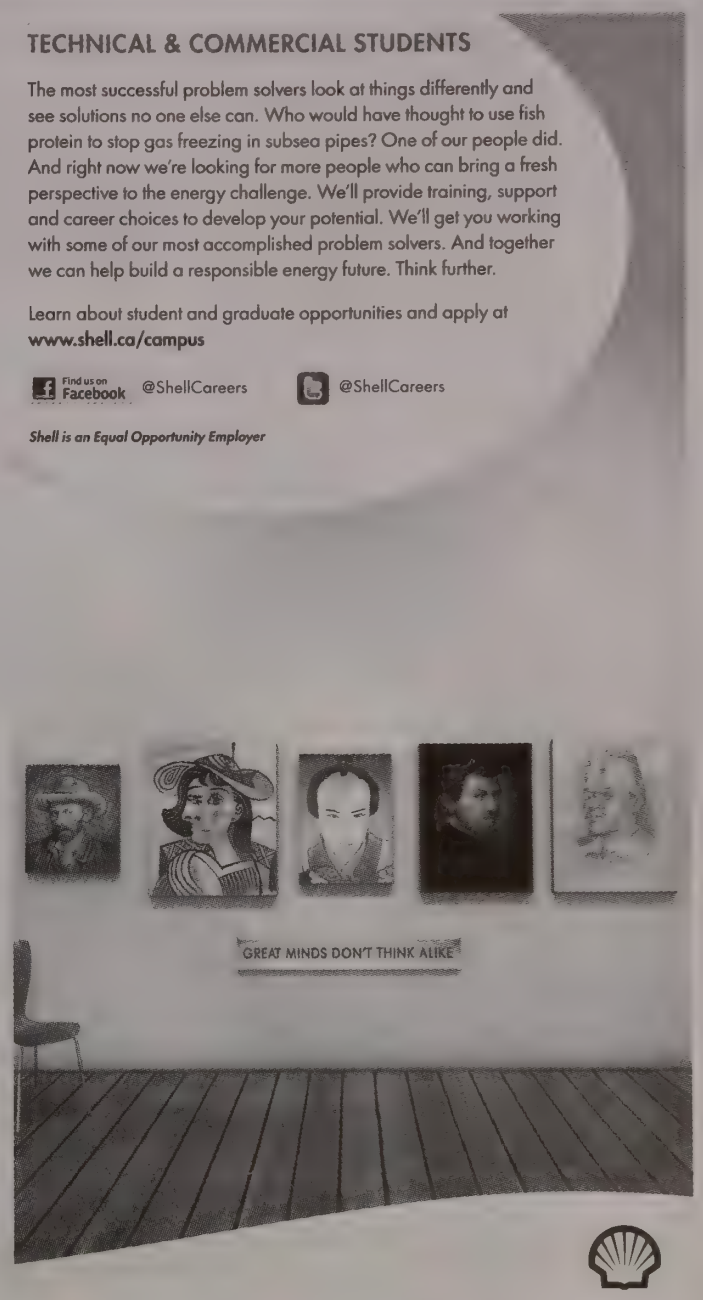
And there aren't a lot of learning opportunities that Christian hasn't considered. He consciously surrounds himself with diverse influences — from aspiring local rappers, one of whom guest spots on "Cat Meow," an original tune off of his latest release called *Mixtape*; to Eddie Bullen's son Quincy, a close friend and bandmate who has followed in his father's jazz and blues footsteps; to Haley Small, an R&B songstress who boasts Christian's seal of approval. Deliberate about diversifying his influences and striving for a sound that is both relatable and original, he sidestepped the standardization that often accompanies formal training in the arts. "I don't even want people to be able to hear the Toronto in my music, much less the U of T."

Taking swigs of his pint, Christian explains that success means happiness, which translates to the ability to support and lift up those around you. The idea that so-called musical integrity goes hand-in-hand with obscurity and little to no financial return, the mantra of many in this increasingly Bieberified age, is not a mentality to which Christian subscribes. "Pride gets you hurt," he says simply, as if this single belief governs his entire life. He peppers conversation with detailed references to jazz and hip-hop legends, then laughs excitedly when he's told he has a Justin Bieber vibe: "Really? Well, he is the man...."

At once self-aware and self-doubting, Christian is the kind of 21-year-old that spends Bonnaroo hopped up on drugs to the point of near unconsciousness and plays a gig at Lee's Palace on his birthday, throwing up all those good-times minutes before taking the stage. He's also the kind to take a few moments to explain how much he loves his mom (who doubles as his manager) and rave like a proud parent about a particular 11-year-old he tutors in saxophone. He challenges his students with pieces far beyond their skill level, but doesn't tell them that: "It removes that mental block, that obstacle in your mind that's really just an illusion. These kids are doing the same stuff I'm doing. And they're doing it well."

I reach for my wallet as we prepare to leave, and he waves me away without a second thought. "You get the next one," he says, and I get the unshakable feeling that I am part of something big.







Beeware!



Decline in bee pollination could be due to climate change, JORDAN RIVERA *explains*

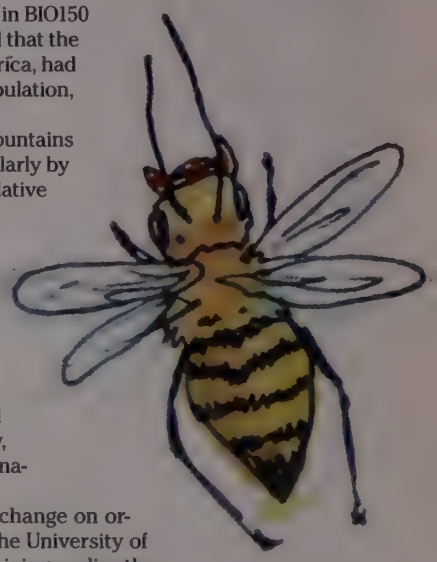


Since 2006, numerous reports have been accumulating on a global drop in bee populations, observed mainly in Europe and North America.

Research by the University of Toronto's ecology department has made a startling find: bee pollinators are on the decline.

The 17-year-long study led by Prof. James Thomson — known to most as the ecology instructor in BIO150 — has attributed the steady pollinator decrease to the effects of global warming. The study found that the flowering rates of the glacier lily *Erythronium grandiflorum*, a flower found in western North America, had decreased significantly over the course of the study — a strong indicator of an absent bee population, the lily's primary pollinator.

The study took place on a remote plot of land purchased by Thomson in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and required examining two sets of glacier lilies. One set was pollinated regularly by hand, while the other set was allowed to be pollinated naturally. The study found that relative to the control, the second set was flowering significantly less.



In his paper, Thomson lists three possible explanations: either the pollinator populations have declined, the lily flowering and pollinator emergence have become less synchronous, or pollinators have shifted their activity away from the lilies, presumably by visiting other plant species. Thomson is quick to dismiss the third explanation, since the only other flower species existing in the area has not changed in density or timing of flowering.

The second explanation, he argues, represents a growing phenological mismatch between E. grandiflorum and its best pollinators — in other words, the life cycles of the plant and pollinator are no longer in sync. This could be due to the early blooming of the glacier lily, which sensitive to recent temperature increases, while bumblebees' emergence from hibernation occurs much later.

Thomson is not the first ecologist to make such a claim about the effects of climate change on organism-environment relationships. He references a similar paper by researchers from the University of Maryland, which states that migrating birds, signaled by rising air temperatures, are arriving earlier than the start of the local growing season which is controlled by the melting of the previous year's snowpack. What's more, present data is indicating that American Robins are arriving 14 days earlier than they did in 1981, and the interval between their arrival date and the first date of bare ground has increased by 18 days. The paper also mentions the effects of climate change on hibernation behaviour in yellow-bellied marmots, which are emerging 38 days earlier than they were 23 years ago, apparently in response to rising spring air temperatures.

Thomson's first possible explanation for the decreased glacier lily flowering rates cites a declining pollinator population, and brings to mind the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Since 2006, numerous reports have been accumulating on a global drop in bee populations, observed mainly in Europe and North America. Although the causes of the syndrome are still unknown, many researchers attribute CCD to biotic factors like mites, and insect diseases such as pathogens, malnutrition, pesticides, and even stresses related to environmental change.

Although the long-term ecological consequences of a global decline in bee populations is still not fully understood, there is no denying the importance of bees to agriculture and plant diversity. In fact, about 35 per cent of the world's crop production is dependent on pollinators such as bees, bats, and birds. Similar studies in tropical regions where plant diversity is high and heavily dependent on bees found plants to be frequently insufficiently pollinated.

In an interview with the CBC, Thomson cautions, "To my mind, it gives some additional legitimacy to that concern that pollination systems are in trouble." He recalls how at the start of the study two decades ago, he saw no evidence that the bees were in decline. "My general sense from walking around in field is that there are as many as there used to be."

With regard to the significance his study holds to the continuing debate on climate change, Thompson explains, "If the flowers are starting so early that the weather is really bad, bees may have broken out of their hibernation, but they may not be working that hard visiting flowers."

However, he explains that the findings may not be applicable to other plants, and cautions to keep the nature of similar studies in context. "You can't look at questions about the effects of climate change with short-term studies," he said. "You simply need a pretty extensive time span to detect whether an effect is worth paying attention to or not."



Illustration by ALEX NURSALL



WONDERLAND in space

Navigating through Neptune

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



THOMAS DEUSING/FLICKR

While most of our solar system's planets were discovered through telescopic observations, Neptune was the first planet discovered through mathematical predictions. When analyzing Uranus's trajectory, the French mathematician Urbain Le Verrier and the English astronomer John Adams detected surprising differences between the planet's hypothesized and observed orbit. To resolve this dilemma, they proposed the existence of an eighth planet to explain Uranus's unexpected orbit. By using Le Verrier's and Adams's calculations, Johann Galle of the Berlin observatory was able to locate the planet just one degree above its predicted location.

Neptune orbits the sun every 164.79 years. Thus in 2010 the planet will have completed one orbit since Galle's observation, on September 23, 1846. While Neptune's neighbouring Pluto has recently been reclassified as a dwarf planet, even when it possessed its majestic place as the ninth member of our solar system, its elliptical orbit temporarily positioned it closer to the Sun than Neptune. This routine occurs once every 248 years, and the two planets exchange positions for approximately 20 years, making Pluto the eighth and Neptune the ninth planetary body during that period.

Due to its great distance from the Sun, prior to the 1989 Voyager 2 mission, astronomers were unable to delve into Neptune's details, and consequently presumed it to be a dull and featureless planet. Yet as Voyager 2's cameras demonstrated, the fierce storms raging across its surface make it anything but bland.

In the southern hemisphere of the planet, Voyager 2 observed a gigantic dark storm adequately named the Great Dark Spot, similar in characteristics to Jupiter's Great Red Spot. While the dark spot was presumed to be a large stationary version of Earth's hurricanes, to astronomers' surprise in 1994, the Hubble Space Telescope was unable to locate the storm. On various occasions, similar dark spots were observed but never in the same location, nor of the same magnitude. One such reoccurrence happened in 2007 when Mate Adamkovics of the University of California re-spotted a cloudy patch in Neptune's South Pole, and observed that over the course of a few days it split into two smaller entities.

Neptune's atmosphere is made up of layers of clouds of frozen methane, helium, and hydrogen sulfide, which at lower altitudes and higher pressure compress into a liquid layer that surrounds the planet's rock and ice core. While this layer is virtually liquid-like, an abundance of hydrogen molecules prevent the formation of true liquid water by inserting themselves into the water molecules. This keeps them from condensing into water, and yet forms a water-like substance.

Similar to the rest of the outer planets of our solar system, Neptune also possesses a system of rings. Although they are comparable to Jupiter's rings, the difference lies in the uneven spread of the dust they are composed of. The most distinguishable example is Adams ring, which is composed of discrete arcs named Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood, and Courage. Astronomers believe that the stability of the arcs may be due to the ring's interaction with Galatea, one of Neptune's thirteen moons.

Although Neptune's original nine satellites were observed by Voyager 2, the final four were discovered in 2002 by Mathew Holman and his team. The largest of Neptune's moons, Triton, was discovered in 1846 by William Lassell, and is the coldest place in the solar system, with temperatures reaching -235 degrees Celsius. Triton's surface is covered with active volcanoes which erupt nitrogen ice crystals up to ten kilometers above its surface. It is hypothesized that the volcanoes may once have spewed the mixture of ammonia and water which now coats the Triton's surface in a frozen layer.

After plunging into Neptune, we set course for an asteroid belt extending past Neptune and surrounding our entire solar system. Until then, the night sky awaits your exploration.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Autism linked to misfolded brain proteins

An international team of scientists, led by researchers at the University of California, San Diego, has identified molecular deviations — predominantly misfolding — in a key brain protein associated with autism spectrum disorders. The findings report that trafficking deficiencies, which may lead to abnormal communication between neurons, result from the misfolding of a protein called neuroligin-3, a problem that can be attributed to genetic mutations.

Genetically-based misfolding of neuroligins has been documented in patients with autism, and is thought to impede normal function and formation of neuronal synapses. Using live neuron cultures, researchers found that different mutations caused different degrees of protein misfolding, resulting in varying levels of trafficking deficiencies and distinctly different congenital disorders in the nervous or endocrine systems.

The findings of the study offer insight into possible drug therapies that target misfolding in key proteins, such as neuroligins. Co-author and research scientist at Skaggs School of Pharmacy, Davide Comoletti, believes that identifying the mutation early could be central in rescuing "affected neurons before abnormal synaptic connections are established." — ***SHERINE ENSAN***
Source: University of California, San Diego

Amateur astronomers observe giant impact on Jupiter's surface

It is unlikely that the explosion of a 250 to 1,000 kiloton nuclear bomb would go unnoticed here on Earth. Yet this is certainly not the case on Jupiter.

A tantamount event occurred when an eight to 13-meter wide asteroid smashed into our largest planetary neighbour on June 3, 2010. While this incident bears nowhere near the same magnitude as the famous explosion in Siberia in 1908 — which was caused by the air burst of a meteoroid fragment, and produced a 40 km radius impact — its effects are comparable.

The significance of this observation is intensified by the fact that it was observed by two amateur astronomers, rather than academically acclaimed planetary scientists. While it is logical that a planet of Jupiter's size would constantly experience asteroid bombardments, most often they go unnoticed due to the lack of continuous planetary surveillance. Consequently, these amateur observations are very important in determining the behavior of meteoroids entering a planet's atmosphere at sundry angles and speeds.

Since asteroid behavior is the same when entering any planet's atmosphere, amateur observations of Jupiter provide an excellent observational platform. Continuous amateur observation could not only lead to the establishment of a space-bound planetary research lab, but could also make way for major scientific development. — ***ALEXANDRA I. EREMIA***
Source: Sandia National Laboratories

Robots can demonstrate deceptive behaviour

Chicanery is no longer an ability specific to living things. Ronald Arkin and Alan Wagner have developed algorithms allowing robots to choose when to deceive and lure a fellow robot or human into a trap by creating a false trail. While this ability would rarely be used by social robots, military intelligence machines could benefit from it when conducting search and rescue operations or battlefield maneuvers.

The algorithms were tested by conducting 20 hide-and-seek experiments with two military intelligence machines. The seeker could identify the position of the other hiding robot through the pattern of markers that the hiding machine had knocked over. By changing direction part way through its travel, the hiding robot was able to deceive the seeker and escape.

These experiments demonstrated a 75 per cent success rate, the failure rate being attributed to the robots' failure to knock over the correct markers. While it is clear that this development could have substantial impact on military conduct, the ethical implications have yet to be thoroughly discussed. — ***AIE***
Source: Georgia Institute of Technology

Researchers show evidence of brain activity in patients in vegetative state

The diagnosis of being in a vegetative or minimally conscious state is becoming increasingly controversial, as new research demonstrates the persistence of consciousness despite the abysmal verdict. A study led by Dr. Martin Monti, recently published in The New England Journal of Medicine, sought to determine whether patients could modulate their functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) responses to yes-or-no questions. This method would indicate conscious awareness and would create a way to detect such responses.

In the study, patients with a clinical diagnosis of being in a vegetative or minimally conscious state following traumatic brain injury were examined between November 2005 and January 2009. Five of the 23 patients showed an activated supplementary motor area and parahippocampal gyrus while performing motor and spatial imagery tasks.

The presence of brain activity demands additional extensive evaluation of patients before a diagnosis is made, to reduce an already high rate of misdiagnosis. This study suggests that the future of cognitive neuroscience will include imaging techniques used to perceive expressions of thoughts, which will profoundly affect patients' quality of life. — ***NANCY KOU***
Source: Discover

Estrogen responsible for higher injury risk in female athletes

A study published in The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research has found that chronically higher levels of estrogen in female athletes result in differences in the mechanical properties of tendons, potentially imposing a higher risk of injury. Estrogen, found in both sexes, but at higher rates in females, promotes the development of secondary sexual characteristics and regulates some aspects of the menstrual cycle.

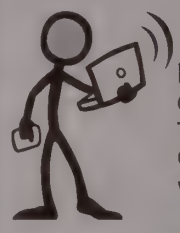
Researchers measured several properties of the patellar (knee) tendon, including elongation, torque, and strain, in 23 active young women throughout the menstrual cycle. They found no evidence that variations in hormone levels during the menstrual cycle affect tendon properties.

Previous studies have linked higher estrogen levels to decreased tendon stiffness, which may predispose women to higher risk of injury during stages of the menstrual cycle when hormone levels are higher. However, this new study does not support this highly debated theory. Instead, researchers found that injury risk remains constant throughout the menstrual cycle, but that "intrinsic," or chronic differences in hormone levels between women affect tendon properties via complex hormonal interactions.

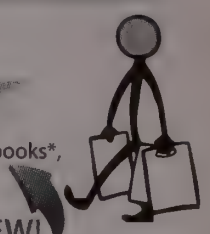
The findings of this study are pivotal in understanding the effects of chronic estrogen exposure on athletic performance, and may also help explain the difference in mechanical properties of tendons and injury rates between males and females. — ***SE***
Source: Walter Kluwers Health



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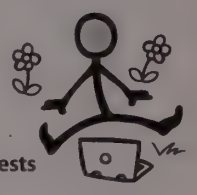


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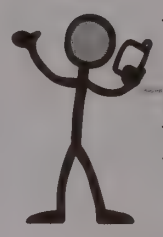
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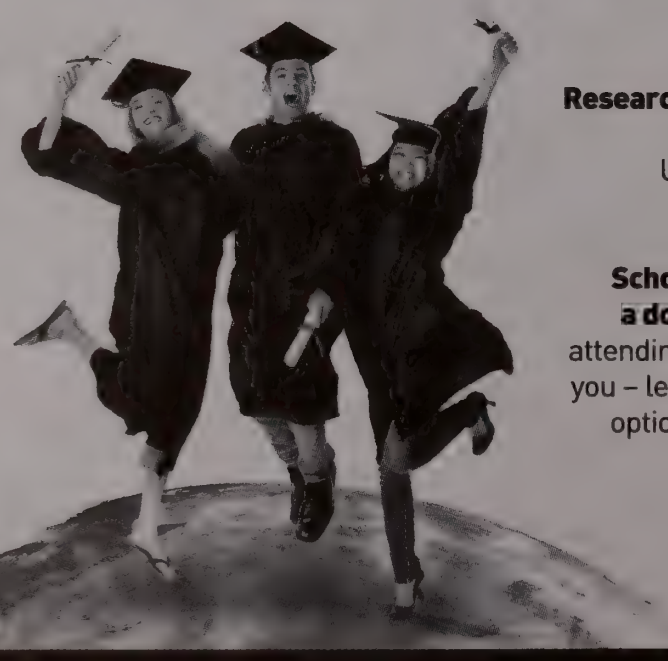
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Football team fields win

The U of T football team wins their third game in four years

Roberta Bell & Perry King
VARSITY STAFF

While the league record of the University of Toronto Varsity Blues football team is indisputably, abysmal, they managed to garner their fourth win in three years against the York Lions over the weekend.

The Blues took on the Lions in the 41st annual Red and Blue Bowl at Varsity Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Despite hoards of fans who attended to cheer on the visitors, the Blues squeaked past the competition 24–19 .

It was at the 39th Red and Blue Bowl in 2008, that Blues crushed the Lions 58–7, and took their first Argos Cup since 1995. Last season, although by a considerably smaller margin, the Blues did it again, and walked away 45–27.

After the first quarter started off as a back-and-forth battle for field position, the game heated up quickly minutes into the second frame.

The Blues took control and were on the scoreboard almost immediately. Blues quarterback Andrew Gillis fought off Lions defenders and drove the ball into the end zone for the first touchdown of the game.

It seemed as if York might be on the road to recovery after kicker Ramsey Aburaneh scored 33 yard field goal, but it was the 49-yard run and subsequent touchdown from Blues rookie running back, who according to Gillis is "a hell of an athlete," Aaron Milton, that really set the tone for the second half.

Milton said that the Blues had been "working on that play all week."



Blues quarterback Andrew Gillis scored two touchdowns against the York Lions. *HAI BAO/THE VARSITY*

The third quarter was a juggling contest, complete with multiple fumbles and back-to-back turnovers coming so quickly it was nearly impossible to keep count. But with just two minutes to go in the frame, Gillis got the Blues on the board again, and ran in another touchdown that brought the score to 21–3 going into the final quarter.

Unwilling to go home without a touchdown to their name, the Lions made a comeback as the clock ticked away in the fourth. Five minutes in, Lions running back Dallas Smith entered the end zone off a two yard run.

Although they conceded both a safety and a rouge to the Blues, and choked in the face of the perfectly lined up touchdown, it was the Lions who dominated the final minutes of play.

Lions quarterback Nick Coutu connected with slotback Alex Bugdahn on a 41-yard pass under two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

Much to the relief of the coaches who had to watch their team give away 16 points in 15 minutes, the Lions last ditch attempt fell short, and the game wrapped up with a final score of 24–19.

The Lions gave up four interceptions, and two of those four were made by Waterloo transfer and player of the game, Hugo Lopez. To earn his title, Lopez made an astounding eight solo tackles.

Blues passing was 16 for 25, and totaled a meager 151 yards compared to the Lions 320.

But for the Blues, who accumulated 180 running yards, it wasn't about the passing.

"We thought we could run the ball on [the Lions], and it worked out well for us," said Milton. "We want to be able to run the ball this year because we've struggled in the past. It's a big effort for us to get the running game going and we've got a great quarterback in Gillis who can also run the ball."

Gillis added, "The last few weeks we haven't really been running the ball that well so we wanted to establish a running game early."

Both Milton and Gillis acknowledged that the Lions have some solid players on their roster, and are not to be underestimated.

"I knew that they were going to come out pretty heavy," said Gillis. "But we came out lucky today and executed better than they did."

A good sport



The CFL does not suck

Is there actually a valid reason why football fans choose not to support Canada's professional football league?

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Even if you don't know the first thing about a football fan, you wouldn't have any trouble tracking one down this time of year. What are they up to? Watching the NFL of course, with its full slate of opening-long-weekend games.

It's hard not to get swept up in the atmosphere as the NFL kicks off. Football in the U.S. draws a following that rivals and exceeds that of many world religions; it is such an ingrained part of life for some that it's probably tough for a casual-at-most NFL fan like myself to accurately describe "that feeling" NFL fans get in early-to-mid September.

But boy, those folks in Canada who choose to follow the NFL to the exclusion of all others are sure missing out. What they should they be watching — not instead of, but alongside, the NFL — is the Canadian Football League.

Instead, the CFL is generally held at arm's length by Canadian fans, shunned like a socially awkward cousin who has his own merits in private but can't be expected to impress anyone in public.

The mainstream argument, usually stated verbatim, is that "the CFL sucks."

Those who claim "the CFL sucks" must surely be referring to the players (and they usually are).

For the most part, the players in the CFL are just not as good as those in the NFL. Many

SEE 'CFL' – PG 23

Kyle Drabek makes highly anticipated MLB debut

The future looks bright for the Blue Jays and their new pitcher



Kyle Drabek, the Jays' talented new pitcher, can throw a fastball reaching speeds as high as 97 mph.

Silvio Sansano
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Blue Jay fans managed to get a glimpse of the future last Wednesday when the 22-year-old pitcher Kyle Drabek made his highly anticipated big league debut against the Baltimore Orioles.

The right-handed Drabek has been in the spotlight since the beginning of spring training when just last December the Blue Jays made the biggest trade in club history.

General Manager Alex Anthopoulos was faced with the difficult task of trading Roy Halladay, one of the best starting pitchers in all of baseball, to the Philadelphia Phillies. Highly-touted pitching prospect Kyle Drabek was one of the most important acquisitions once the decision had been made.

Kyle Drabek, the son of 13-year veteran and 1990 Cy Young Award winner Doug Drabek, was drafted 18th overall in the 2006 First Year Player Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies. Although he blew out his elbow in his first pro season, which caused him to miss most of 2007 and 2008 due to Tommy John surgery, he had a strong return in 2009.

Drabek dominated the minor leagues. He played in the Class A Advanced Florida State League and then made a successful transition as a 21-year-old into Double-A. Between those two levels in 2009, Drabek went 12–3 with a 3.19 ERA in 25 starts, logging 158 innings and recording 150 strikeouts. His strong return in 2009 is an important reason as to why the Blue Jays targeted Drabek as one of the main pieces in the Halladay trade.

Drabek has continued to excel with the Blue Jays organization since being traded. He had an incredible season pitching in Double-A with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats — the Jays minor league affiliate. In 27 starts, Drabek went 14–9 with a 2.94 ERA, pitching 162 innings and recording 132 strikeouts.

SEE 'DRABEK' – PG 23

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You show, you score!

The Varsity offering sports writing workshop… and you're invited!

Have you always dreamed of hitting a home run with that play-by-play or scoring some points from your audience with your detailed athlete profiles? You can learn how to do just that at The Varsity, the University of Toronto's unofficial journalism school. All you have to do is attend one class and you'll be scoring touchdowns with your editors in no time!

The Varsity's sports writing workshop will be taking place at 8 p.m. this Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the team's headquarters on the second floor of 21 Sussex Ave.

The Varsity's Editor-in-Chief Luke Savage, Sports Editor Roberta Bell, Associate Sports Editor Elisabeth Laratta, and I will all have our game faces on — ready to listen, learn, and even pass some on our own tips. We will also be speaking about what the paper looks like this year as a weekly, the implications for the sports section and its content, and who to turn to for advice.

Special guests for the evening will include veteran sports journalist and opinions writer for Roger's Sportsnet.ca, Perry Lefko, and recent Ryerson University School of Journalism graduate Erin Valois. Valois was the former Sports Editor at The Eyeopener, Ryerson's independent student newspaper, and is currently a web producer at *The National Post*.

While Lefko will explain how to write a sports newspaper article and speak about important aspects of sports journalism, Valois will discuss her trials and tribulations as a student sports journalist and provide insight as to how she broke into the biz.

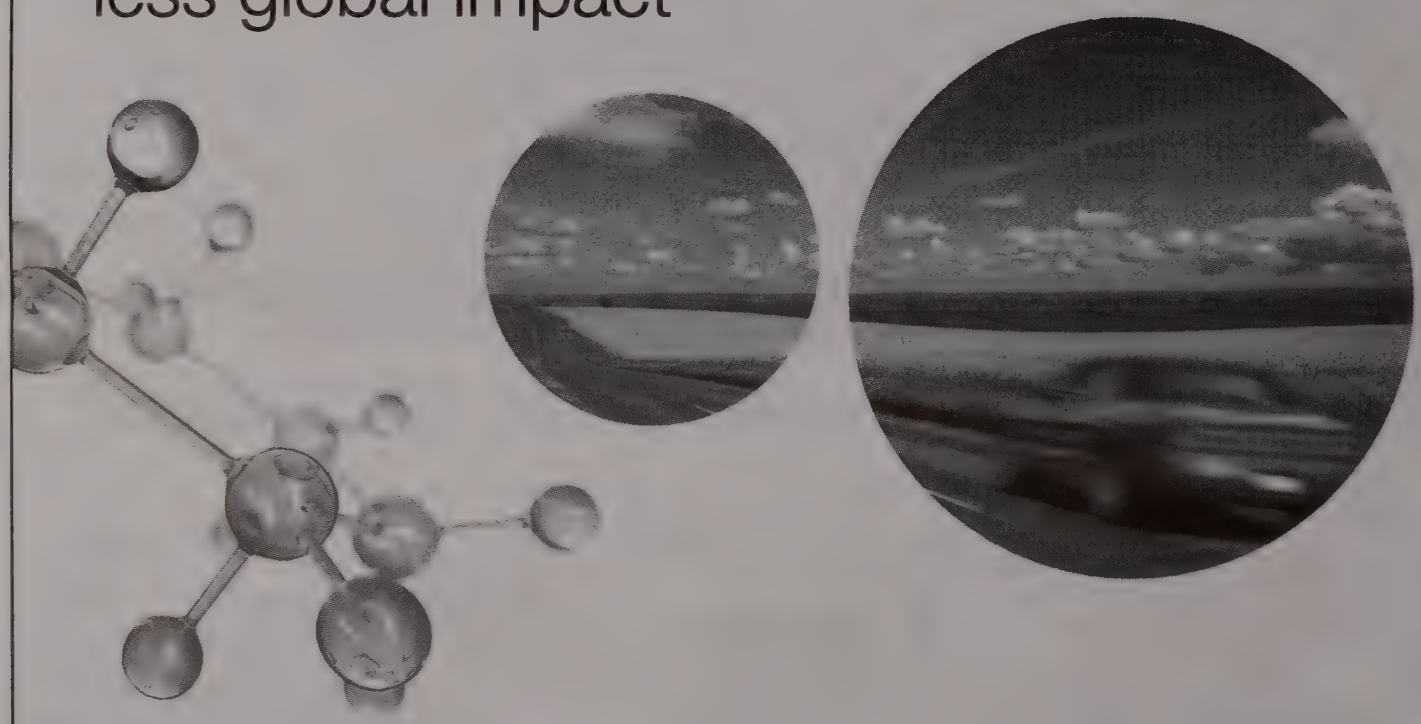
"You have to know how to tell the story beyond the statistics or the main plays of the game," said Valois of finding a voice in the world of sports journalism.

"Sports writing is something that's completely different from any other type of writing you'll ever have to do. It involves a lot of feature writing and the same people who have to write the features are the same people writing game stories. It's always different types of journalism and skills you'll have to have in one job. It's one of the hardest types of writing to get into."

Versatility is very important in sports writing. It is because the sports journalism industry is just as competitive (if not more so) as the world of professional sports that The Varsity has decided to host this workshop to explore different techniques and styles of sports reporting with writers.

Get in the game!
Amanda-Marie Quintino
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'CFL' – CONTINUED FROM PG 21

players actually come to the CFL having failed to make an NFL team as even a third-string player.

Granted, that is pretty "sucky." A poor NFL team would kill an exceptional CFL one, no argument there.

But let's extend that argument a bit further. Playing an NHL team, no independent or even minor-league hockey team would stand a chance. That does not, however, prevent OHL teams from becoming a deeply ingrained part of their communities.

The same idea extends to baseball. A dollar for every independent league in the United States that has an unfailingly loyal following would end global poverty, and yet an all-star team from any one of those leagues would be rolled up and smoked by the lowly Baltimore Orioles.

No one has ever made the argument that CFL players are the best in the world, and the above examples show that argument does not need to be made to validate the CFL.

So where does that leave the CFL? At a talent deficit, certainly. But "sucking?" Come on now, you're smarter than that.

The CFL features just as many nail-biting moments as the NFL and the playoffs are fast approaching. Give them a chance.

'DRABEK' – CONTINUED FROM PG 21

Ranked as the 25th best overall prospect heading into the 2010 season according to Baseball America, Drabek features a fastball that sits comfortably around 90–94 mph, even touching 95–97 mph at times. His power curveball goes at about 84–86 mph with hard tilt. Some scouts rate his curveball a 70 on the 20–80 scouting scale.

While his fastball and curveball are plus pitches showing the potential he has to become an ace, he also throws a hard cutter and changeup. Drabek will, however, need to find consistency and refine a third pitch if he wants to become a number one starter.

In his first big league appearance against Baltimore, Drabek allowed three earned runs on nine hits, walked three and struck out five over six solid innings, throwing 53 of 88 pitches for strikes in a 3–1 loss.

It was an impressive debut, as Drabek displayed glimpses of his potential. He ran into some trouble in the first inning, but held his composure and minimized the damage. After giving up back-to-back singles to Brian Roberts and Nick Markakis, which were followed by a double steal, Drabek struck out Ty Wigginton with a 3–2 curveball. He also got cleanup hitter Luke Scott to ground out to second baseman Aaron Hill which scored Roberts, and finished off the inning by striking out Felix Pie.

However, what was most impressive about Kyle Drabek's debut was his mound presence and poise throughout the game. He never looked intimidated against Major League hitters, even when he ran into some trouble. His power curveball looked incredible with great depth and a very sharp break. He was throwing it for strikes and was generating swings and misses.

Drabek's MLB debut demonstrates why fans should remain optimistic — there are great days ahead in the near future. He is expected to make two more starts this season for the Blue Jays, his next being against the Seattle Mariners at the Rogers Centre on September 22.

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MOVIES:

Soirée Film: Un Prophète
EFUT is presenting a French film (with subtitles, don't panic!) this week at Hart House. The film is a saga about France's seedy underworld, and has already been honoured with nominations for a Golden Globe, a César, and a BAFTA. Go see what all the buzz is about!
- *September 21st at 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House Arbour Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

Trans Film Event: Double Feature
The Trans Inclusion Group is hosting a free screening of Kyshia Williams' "Red Lips (Cages for Black Girls)" and "Cruel and Unusual", a documentary about trans women in the men's prison system. Come learn more about Prisoners' Justice and challenge which bodies get criminalized and institutionalized. There will be a discussion and snacks afterwards.
- *September 21st at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People at U of T (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free*

FORUMS:

From Revolution to Evolution: The Development of Politics and Activism in the Canadian Queer Press
This panel will address a wide set of concerns ranging from the corporatization of print media, to the quality and content of today's mainstream queer publications. One of the aims is to explore the history of the queer press in Toronto and to negotiate its current role in the community.
- *September 22nd at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Small World Music Festival
In celebration of emerging Canadian artists of various ethnic backgrounds, Small World Music Society hosts its annual festival. The 10-day event, featuring Somali-Canadian rapper K'naan, also showcases innovative performances by musicians of various genres including Indian classical music, reggae, African roots, jazz, dance and funk.
- *Starts September 23rd*
- *Various locations*
- *Price depends on event. Check www.smallworldmusic.com*

FESTIVALS:

Word on the Street Festival
The Word on the Street Festival occurs yearly across Canada in September. The festival celebrates and encourages literacy by displaying the work of some of the country's top authors. It also offers a large variety of workshops and interactive performances to help and encourage new authors develop their craft.
- *September 26th at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.*
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MOVIES:

Plunder: The Crime of Our Time
Toronto Socialist Action presents Rebel Films, a series of films to be shown at OISE with open floor discussions afterwards. Rebel Films begins with "Plunder: The Crime of Our Time", which looks into how the economic crisis developed. It was written and directed by Danny Schechter, a multiple Emmy award-winning journalist.
- September 24th at p.m.
- OISE Room 2-212 (252 Bloor Street West)
- $4 donation requested

SHOWS:

Banana Shpeel
Banana Shpeel is one of Cirque du Soleil's newest productions, styled as a vaudeville comedy. The cast includes a collection of talented dancers, jugglers, and acrobats all performing to live music. The production features a ton of slapstick comedy, dancing of all styles, and spectacular acrobatic moves.
- On till October 10th, various showtimes
- Canon Theatre (244 Victoria Street)
- $25

Fernando Knapp Wrote Me This Letter
The first in the Canadian Stage Company's 2010-2011 season, this play tells the story of Fernando, a millionaire who returns to his hometown and vows to marry Julia, the most beautiful woman in the city. She is angered when the marriage is arranged against her will, and both Fernando and Julia must learn how to deal with the complexities of their relationship.
- *On till October 16th, various showtimes*
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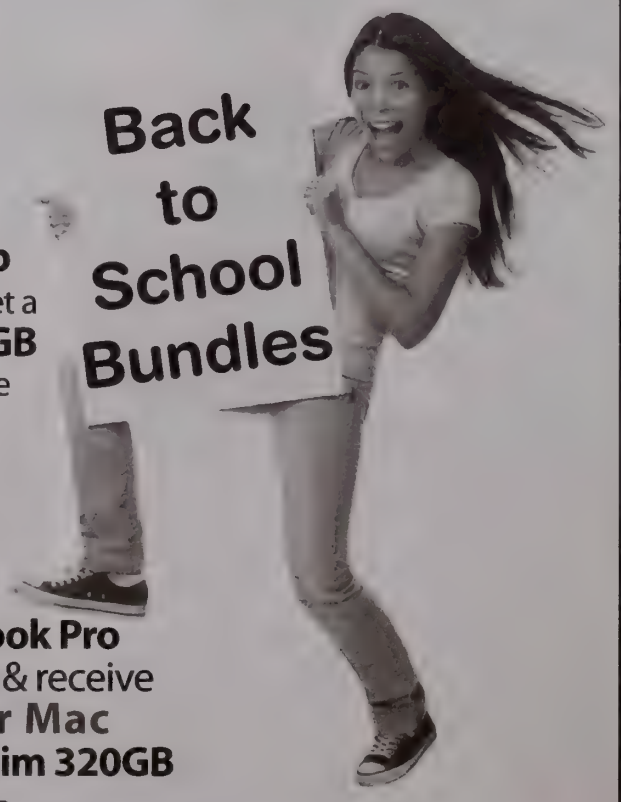
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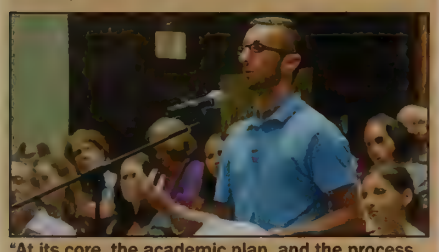
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27 September 2010

"The recent explosion of brain science across so many domains of knowledge has led speculators to forecast an impending 'neuro revolution.'" – Erene Stergiopoulos **p9**

FROM THE TOWN HALL



"The best way forward to advance these discussions is to start discussing models with specific stakeholders at the table." — **Meric Gertler**, Dean of Arts and Science



"At its core, the academic plan, and the process around it so far, has actually been pretty insulting." — **Adam Awad**, UTSU President



"As students we are not only interested in studying Asia's languages." — **Julianne Kelso**, East Asian Studies Student

ARTS AND SCIENCE

Emotions high at town hall

Affected students and faculty protest Arts and Science restructuring

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The atmosphere was volatile at a town hall hosted on Thursday by the Faculty of Arts and Science. Hosted by Dean Meric Gertler, the first of two forums solicited feedback on a 40-page academic plan published by U of T's largest faculty in June.

By the event's start, the large auditorium at OISE was nearly at capacity with a mixed crowd of students, faculty, and staff. Gertler opened with a 20-minute presentation on the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Plan, 2010–2015.

He began by describing the "uncertain times" the faculty is facing, citing the "provincial grant freeze, dramatic slowdown in retirements, and world economic slowdown" as causes of the faculty's financial defecit. He called past management of resources "unintelligent and undirected," referencing the faculty's $22-million annual deficit and $56-million accumulated deficit, as proof of the need for a "shift from across-the-board cuts to a strategic approach driven by academic priorities."

These priorities include expanding the research opportunities available to undergrads, and building on initiatives such as The Socrates Project, and the colleges' writing centres and undergraduate offices which link undergrads with grad students and staff in relevant disciplines.

Gertler also advocated "reinvesting in teaching capacity" by increasing the number of appointments, and "freeing up resources to adress our students' needs."

The latter goal was the impetus behind the controversial School of Languages and Literatures, which would draw departments such as East Asian Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Italian Studies, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures into one larger department, which Gertler suggested would reduce administrative overhead costs significantly.

Though Gertler stressed that the name of the new school was "a placeholder only," a block of East Asian Studies students and staff, sitting at the front and nearly all wearing red, uttered several boos to the name after a note was circulated that read "Boo when Gertler mentions the L&L."

Following Gertler's presentation, a long queue immediately formed behind each microphone.

UTSU President Adam Awad spoke first, criticizing the plan as allowing the provincial government to continue cutting funding to students with its goals. Awad also criticized the lack of student involvement in the forming the plan, which was raised contiuously throughout the discussion. "At its core, the academic plan, and the process around is so far, has actually been pretty insulting," said Awad. "For us [students] the message has been clear: that our contributions can't be meaningful, or insightful in any way," further stating that the Strategic Planning Committee "operated in a way almost secretively."

To this point, the Dean cited monthly meetings with ASSU president Gavin Nowlan, and the union's three hour presentation to the Strategic Planning Committee by ASSU.

Nowlan, in an interview with The Varsity the following day, said he believed that was the only student consultation, and it had been a "shocking moment to realize that that was it, three hours in front of the Strategic Planning Committee," claiming that usually with matters such as this the committee at least has a "token" student.

Gertler, in a later interview with The Varsity, said that they were "mindful of the fact that [such as position] would be a huge burden on the student" — some 200 hours — and that the "best compromise" was to "do it the way we did it."

Gertler cited the plans they received from each department which were supposed to represent the student perspective as well as the multi-stage nature of the planning process

SEE **'ARTSCI'** – PG 3

DIPLOMA RECALL

UTM diploma typo prompts recall

Abrupt admin response followed by sincere apology

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Maria Syed was not impressed when she received an e-mail on September 7 from U of T: "It has come to our attention that the diploma that you received during the Spring 2010 convocation period contains an incorrect signature title."

Syed, a management specialist graduate, was one of 1,345 UTM graduates issued diplomas that titled then vice-president and principal Ian Orchard as "Vice-Principal and Principal".

"My first reaction was anger. The first e-mail sent was very poorly written so it caused students to be angry not at the mistake itself but more at the deadline," said Syed.

"Unfortunately, the incorrect signature title on your diploma makes the document invalid," reads the e-mail, sent by U of T Office of Convocation Production Coordinator Karen Williamson. "We would, therefore, like to offer to replace your diploma.... To obtain your replacement diploma, you must return your original diploma to our office by no later than December 17, 2010."

"How does a well-established institution like U of T make such a mistake and then have the nerve to tell students there's a deadline to return diplomas?"

The e-mail details that there is no cost for the replacement diploma, and that it must be exchanged in-person by the individual or an authorized person.

"How does a well-established institution like U of T make such a mistake and then have the nerve to tell students there's a deadline to return diplomas?" said Syed.

"I am currently not in Toronto so it bothered me how I was going to get my diploma. When I called the Office of Convocation, they explained the situation and assured me that my current degree was, in fact, valid. They needed to replace them on principle. They were co-operative and apologetic. Another e-mail was later sent out properly explaining the situation, as should have been done from the start."

The follow-up e-mail, sent September 10 by Silvia Rosatone, director of the Office of Convocation, had a conciliatory tone and said the degree could also be exchanged at UTM and sent by worldwide courier for free.

"I would like to apologize for the printing error and also for the erroneous statement that was made in the September 7 e-mail regarding

SEE **'DIPLOMA'** – PG 4

OH, BEEHIVE!



Local bee keeper **Brian Hamlin (right)** shows the beehive frames stored on top of UTSC's Management Building. The bees pollinate plants in the nearby valley, and the honey will be harvested and sold at the campus' farmers' market.

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
9°C to 19°C	15°C to 18°C	13°C to 19°C	11°C to 18°C	11°C to 16°C

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CORRECTION

In the September 20 issue of The Varsity, in an article entitled "Talks continue between U of T and Faculty Association," it was wrongly reported that the head of the UFTA bargaining team had stated that "the university [argued] it was being pressured by the province not to increase salaries." In actuality, he stated that the university had argued it was being pressured by the provost. The inaccuracy was the result of an unclear recording. The Varsity regrets the error.

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ONTARIO LEGISLATION

Keeping talent in Ontario

Opportunities Ontario offers permanent residency to graduate students



Dr. Eric Hoskins (centre) announced changes to Opportunities Ontario to better compete for international students.

Kent Kuran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Ontario wants the world's best and brightest to not just study here, but also take up residence upon completion of their education.

On Sept. 14, the province announced it is expanding Opportunities Ontario, a provincial nominee program that allows students to apply for permanent residency upon completion of their degree, even without having secured a job.

"These changes will help Ontario attract the best and brightest international students and help us compete in the new, knowledge-based economy," said Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Eric Hoskins. "Our newcomers bring with them talent, expertise, and wisdom. Helping them put their skills to work is an economic imperative for a more prosperous and open Ontario."

Opportunities Ontario is part of the Open Ontario Plan that includes goals to increase the number of foreign students by 50 per cent.

"To thrive in a global economy, we need to attract top minds from around the world — and the Provincial Nominee Program will help make Ontario the destination of choice for international students," said Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy. "These students are a vital asset and we want to help them put their outstanding knowledge, skills and experience to work in Ontario."

These developments require no additional provincial funding. Other provinces also compete for international students. British Columbia provides graduate grants to foreign students. The developments are expected to make Ontario more competitive in the international market.

"Ontario will be much more attractive to international graduate students in part because...graduate students tend to choose programs in a region where they will subsequently seek employment whether it be not-for-profit, government, or an industry," explained Heather Kelly, Director of Student Services, School of Graduate Studies.

"This program will positively affect the university in our recruitment and retention efforts in attracting those international students who wish to see a pathway for education and employment opportunities in the province of Ontario," she added.

Greg West, the graduate science student Governor and Graduate Students' Union Vice President Internal agreed that this was a positive development. "Keeping more highly qualified personnel in Ontario will lead to a positive economic impact on the province through increased innovation in research and development. I think this is a big win, both for international graduate students and prospective employers in Ontario."

International student Adolreza Karami, an engineering doctorate student, also sees the benefit of this program. "This is a beneficial move forward to facilitate the process in becoming an immigrant for educated people from around the world," she said.

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'ARTSCI' - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

as means of student representation in the plan. We are now in "step four, where we see consultation opening up again," the town halls one way of consulting with students.

At OISE Gertler admitted that the timing had been "unfortunate" — the document was released over the summer, when many students and faculty members were away — but claimed that he had been "very much looking forward to the fall as an opportunity when we could in fact engage in discussion."

Another hot-button issue was the lack of financial data supporting the proposals. Students wavered between criticizing the university for prioritizing finances — Ken Kawashima, undergrad co-ordinator of EAS, spoke passionately against the "culture of the university increasingly dictated by financial necessity" — and demanding to see hard financial evidence that the changes would actually have a positive impact, with one speaker commenting that they had no idea whether a proposal represented $800,000 in savings, or $3-million in savings.

Gertler told The Varsity that to this end, the faculty's budget was publicly available, though recognized that this "doesn't give the level of detail that people are seeking in this case.

"The best way forward to advance these discussions is to start discussing models with specific stakeholders at the table...and at that point we would get down to talking about detailed figures."

Though several departments are slated for reorganization or dissolution in the plan, EAS was by far best represented at the meeting.

Julianne Kelso, an EAS student who had written the distributed letter, cited the popularity of the department — home to over 1,000 students — as well as its global relevance, renowned research, and interdisciplinary nature as reasons for its dissolution and inclusion in the School of Languages and Literatures would be unacceptable, expressing fear for the value of her degree and future course offerings, "with only five members of our current faculty in the new program, and the remaining faculty dispersed throughout the university.

"As students we are not only interested in studying Asia's languages," she said, amongst loud cheers from the audience.

The Dean asserted unequivocally that the current EAS faculty could stay together as a unit if that was their preference (as opposed to a Chinese history professor going to the history department, for example), and pointed to the figure that 45 per cent of students enrolled in EAS courses are in language courses, as reason for its inclusion in the school.

Thomas Keirstead, chair of EAS, claimed that "this isn't really the case," as that figure was correct in 2005 but has been "steadily dropping."

"It is perhaps generally accepted that those who are most unhappy with the specific elements of the proposal are going to come forward with great intensity and express their unhappiness, and we've certainly seen that process take place," said Gertler, later telling The Varsity that "thusfar an overwhelming proportion of unhappiness has come from the units slated for restructuring, probably 95 per cent."

He maintained that there "is indeed widespread support that hasn't come to the fore in a publicly visible way yet," but asserted that they "view this as a long term process" — its appearance before the GC has been pushed back to June 2011 — and that "we are seriously interested in welcoming and engaging everyone."

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

To catch a cheat

University steps up to swat creative charlatans

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



DCJOHN/FLICKR

When it comes to stories of cheating and plagiarism, Kristi Gourlay has heard them all. "The availability of the Internet, students' facility with computers and other technology have made cheating easier, but it's also made it easier to detect." "Generally speaking, offenders tend to fall into three broad categories," said Gourlay, manager of the Office of Academic Integrity at the Faculty of Arts and Science. "The ones who honestly didn't know they were doing something wrong...the ones who made a bad choice because they were experiencing difficulties of some kind...and the ones who set out to cheat deliberately, calculating that they won't get caught."

One PhD student voluntarily confessed that his M.Sc. thesis contained fabricated data and sources, and had his master's degree recalled. He received a six-month suspension, and faced a permanent notation on his academic record.

Another student paid someone to impersonate him and write his test. The student was suspended for five years and received a notation on his transcript for seven years.

In a love-gone-wrong story, two female students unknowingly dating the same male classmate were both talked into writing tests, papers, and exams under his name. When the two undergrads discovered the scam, they turned in their ex and attended his hearing as witnesses.

"In the end he faced [84 charges] of academic misconduct and was expelled," recalled professor Edith Hillan, the U of T's vice-provost of Faculty and Academic Life. "It was one of the more egregious examples of academic misconduct we've seen."

U of T takes academic integrity very seriously. "Academic integrity matters...because we want to maintain the very highest standards in terms of our teaching and research," said Hillan. "It also matters from a student perspective because students want to know they are on a level playing field."

Political science professor Stephen Clarkson notes that plagiarism was not always as strictly enforced as it is now. "The university...used to be very lax about plagiarism; it has now tightened and toughened up considerably, but the cheating problem remains very considerable."

"Cheating because you think you can get away with it is a risky strategy," said history professor Sean Hawkins. "Even if most people could get away with it, not all do, and the consequences are not pleasant."

Plagiarism is not only unpleasant for students, but also for faculty. "All cases are horrible. The reasons for this are many, but paramount among these is the feeling of a violation of trust, which is to my mind the basis of our relationship with our students, and our students with us," said Hawkins.

"With each instance, it makes me a progressively more suspicious reader. It makes me change assignments to try to avoid extending too much trust. It makes me wonder whether a wonderful sentence was written by the student or came from somewhere else.

"It stinks. It poisons. It sucks."

UTM TRANSIT

New buses added to Mississauga Transit fleet

MiWay buses and routes to make UTM students' commute more convenient, city says

Amanda-Marie Quintino
VARSITY STAFF



New buses include larger windows and power outlets. CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

MiWay, the new Mississauga transit buses and routes, have been designed and developed to make the commute to and from the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus more comfortable and convenient.

Students travelling to UTM on the 110 University Express (City Centre Transit Terminal - UTM - Clarkson GO) or the 101 Oakville Express (Islington Subway Station - UTM - Oakville Core Terminal) will be able to experience the new blue MiExpress buses starting on October 4. There will be 10 new hybrid-electric buses dedicated to running on these routes regularly.

"Students will enjoy more comfortable seating, reading lights, power outlets for laptops and larger windows," Patricia Runzer, a marketing representative for the City of Mississauga Transportation and Works Department, told The Varsity.

On Wednesday, Sept. 8, UTM students got a sneak peek of the new fleets before they hit the streets, reported UTM's campus newspaper, *The Medium*. The bus was parked outside the Student Centre with Runzer by its side.

"We're here to show off our new buses and to show students our new name," she said, adding that students seemed to be most excited about the power outlets.

The modern features offered on the bus may be a plus for students but, also appealing about this new transit system is the reduced wait times between buses during high-traffic periods.

MiWay will be offering two types of service to UTM: MiExpress (blue buses for express travel to UTM via routes 101 and 110) and MiLocal (orange buses for local travel via Routes 1C and 44).

On September 6, just in time for back to school, the MiExpress Route 110 University began departing from the City Centre Transit Terminal every eight minutes during the morning and afternoon rush hours, and every 17 minutes during the midday rush. From the Clarkson GO station, the buses now leave every 15 minutes during the rush hours, and every 34 minutes during the midday. In the evening, buses depart stops every 30 minutes. The MiExpress Route 101 Oakville Express departs from stops every 20 minutes during rush hours only.

Director of Mississauga Transit, Geoff Marinoff, said the 42 new blue express buses will serve passengers traveling on Mississauga's current network of five express routes that extends across the city and connect to popular destinations "such as the Islington Subway Station, Westwood Mall, Meadowvale Town Centre, City Centre Transit Terminal, Clarkson GO Station, University of Toronto Mississauga campus, and the Airport Corporate Centre."

These new buses and bus routes are part of Mississauga's Bus Rapid Transit project in partnership with GO Transit, and will ease commuting throughout the GTA. The $249 million BRT project is currently underway and scheduled to begin operating in 2013. The project is planned to create an 11-mile dedicated east and west corridor running alongside Highway 403, which will allow for faster travel between Oakville, Mississauga, and Toronto.

"This transit project is unprecedented and the largest the city has undertaken in its history," said Mayor Hazel McCallion in a press release to the City of Mississauga. "It represents the future of Mississauga and our Council's commitment to develop transit. The BRT will give people more and better transit options and help support continued growth."

Muhammad Riaz, a first-year commerce student, is one of the students who will benefit from MiWay. Riaz told The Varsity he is looking forward to the reduced wait times and dedicated buses.

"The buses coming more frequently and having set routes to help UTM students will definitely make my commute easier," said Riaz, who commutes from the Square One area.

As evolutionary as this transit system may be, it does not seem to be convenient for some students or employees commuting to UTM from within Mississauga's borders.

Zamour Johnson, 18, who works in the food court on campus and is considering attending UTM next year, said MiWay doesn't make his commute to work easier simply because the route doesn't pass through his neighbourhood at Mississauga Rd. and the QEW.

"There aren't any direct routes to UTM on my side of the city which makes it incredibly difficult to get anywhere if I don't have a ride by car," explained Johnson.

These new buses also won't help nor hinder Nicole Ferreira's commute from Toronto to Mississauga. Ferreira, a second-year student double majoring in geography and geographical systems, takes advantage of the free shuttles offered from the St. George campus to UTM. However, as a vegetarian and self-proclaimed green activist, Ferreira admires the city of Mississauga for its switch to hybrid buses.

"The UTM campus actively promotes the importance of maintaining it's clean, green environment despite being built in the centre of a forest it holds much of what it took from it," she said. "I love the campus because of that so adding these routes plus hybrid/electric makes it so such more awesome for me to say 'I go to UTM.'"

A mobile site which will display the next three departure times or the full schedule for any day of the week for any bus stop in Mississauga will be available for smart phones soon. An Iphone application is also in the works.

For more information on the new buses or routes, visit miway.ca

TAXES

A head start on tax season

September isn't too early for students to be thinking about taxes

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

With all hustle of back-to-school, taxes are the last thing students want to think about. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario has released their annual tax tips for students. The tips are essentially a list of options, benefits, and credits available for students, which can turn into tax deductions or even some extra money.

"Many people, notably students, believe that if you don't owe any taxes, you don't have to file them," says Jennifer Horner, a senior manager specializaing in national taxes at BDO Canada. "This is true, but you would be missing out on future benefits as well as immediate benefits in not doing so."

If students have a scholarship, or living, moving, or transit expenses, they are eligible to file a tax return. If a student's income is lower than $10,382, there is the added bonus that they won't actually have to pay income taxes.

Post-secondary students are eligible for a non-refundable tax credit to assist with textbook costs. "The textbook tax credit is calculated based on $65 for each month a student qualifies for the full-time education tax credit, and $20 for each month the student qualifies for the part-time education tax credit," said a media release from the Ontario Chartered Accountants.

Students can also receive tax credits for moving expenses and transit expenses. Even if students are not expecting a tax refund, filing a tax return could prove beneficial in the future. "Students with earned income should always file a tax return because it will generate Registered Retirement Savings Plan contribution room," said a media release from the Ontario Chartered Accountants.

If a student does not claim their tax credits, they can transfer the cost of tuition fees to any supporting parent, grandparent, or spouse, who can then get tax deductions. The "supporting adult" will have a significant yearly income, and unlike the student they are supporting, is paying taxes and can immediately benefit from the tax deduction.

Horner suggests that many students are hesitant to complete what they believe is a confusing tax claim process.

"From a philosophical point of view...the government wants you to be able to complete your own tax return. It's not supposed to be so complicated that you can't figure it out," said Horner.

'DIPLOMA' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

the validity of the document," says the e-mail. "The error does not affect the validity of your degree."

"Your diploma parchment, however, is the public manifestation of your accomplishment and it should be correct in all respects. Accordingly, the university wants to make every effort to provide you with a corrected replacement as expeditiously as it can."

The error appeared on diplomas of 283 students who graduated in November 2009, while the remaining 1,062 graduated this June.

"Students would obviously be quite upset by this," said Terry Johnston, assistant director at the Office of Convocation, "which is why our office is acting so quickly."

Johnston added that a message was sent to every student's e-mail address and those who did not reply within a week were pursued by phone numbers in the university database. He said most students have appreciated the university's efforts to fix the error. Incorrect diplomas can be folded and mailed in; postage expenses will be reimbursed for those who cannot afford them. Over 300 diplomas have already been exchanged.

UTM graduates affected by the error are being asked to contact the Office of Convocation at convocation.office@utoronto.ca or 416-978-3629.

COMMENCEMENT CONFUSION

Turns out the University of Toronto isn't the only school to have difficulties spelling

JUNE 2001: 700 graduates of the prestigious Stuyvesant High School in New York City were given diplomas boasting that the school specialized "in science and mathemetics."

JAN 2003: 158 high school students were rewarded by Massachusetts' education department after successfully appealing that they should graduate despite failing standardized tests. The congratulatory certificates issued had the word "mathematics" spelled incorrectly.

DECEMBER 2004: Over a thousand graduates of Kent State University were awarded for completing a degree with "all the rights, and privilieges and honors pertaining thereto."

JUNE 2005: Graduates of Franklin High School were given diplomas from the Elk Grove United School District of California. Instead of printing "United," it read "Unified."

JULY 2005: Leon Edward Shal Jr. of Connellsville, Pennsylvania was charged with fraud after working as a children's mental health counsellor. His degree, awarded in 1986 from London, UK diploma mill Shaftesbury University, contained two spelling mistakes.

MAY 2008: Graduates of Dickinson College in Pennsylvania were awarded diplomas written in latin. They were dated "annno" before the Roman numeral 2008.

JUNE 2008: 330 graduates of Westlake High School in Cleveland, Ohio were given diplomas from the local board of "educaiton." "I was sick to my stomach," said Principal Timothy Freeman, adding that the diplomas had already been sent back for corrections once because of problems with the signatures.

MAY 2009: Graduates of Arizona Western College were given certificates proclaiming them "hereby grated" an Associate of Arts.



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RSC MEDALS

Three faculty receive medals from the Royal Society

Six additional faculty elected members of the organization

Mahsa Alimardani
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Three University of Toronto faculty have been recognized with medals by the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding achievement in research and scholarship. Six additional faculty were elected members of the organization.

The Royal Society of Canada presents scholars with 12 medals and awards every year. Founded in 1882, the society is the oldest association of scientists and scholars in Canada. The society is dedicated to promoting education and the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities.

Robert Bothwell of the Munk School of Global Affairs, Shahrzad Mojab of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and Andrei Yudin of the Department of Chemistry received medals in their respective fields.

ROBERT BOTHWELL

Professor Robert Bothwell was awarded the J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal. A scholar of international history and Canadian political history, Bothwell received the medal specifically for his work on the history of Canada.

The RSC recognizes the work of scholars who integrate their teachings with their research, an attribute Bothwell claims helps him guide his work and shape his conclusions.

"There is no dichotomy between research and teaching — to me, they are part of a whole," he said in an e-mail to The Varsity.

Bothwell jokes that he expected students to "strike matches on [him] to see if [he] was sufficiently statute-like," after they found out about his medal.

Currently, Professor Bothwell is the Director of the International Relations program, and a published author of a dozen or so books including the Penguin History of Canada.

SHAHRZAD MOJAB

OISE Professor Shahrzad Mojab is the winner of the Award in Gender Studies. The award recognizes significant contributions by Canadian scholars in the humanities and social sciences to furthering understanding of issues concerning gender.

"I consider myself a scholar-activist," Mojab told The Varsity in an interview. Her work is centered on issues concerning women, war, and learning. Feminism, anti-racism pedagogy, and adult education in comparative and global perspectives are also key components in her work.

The greatest hallmark of Mojab's work lies in the innovative ways in which she disseminates her research projects. Her recent project Memories, Memoirs and the Arts featured female political prisoners from Iran relating their stories through different mediums of film, dance and story telling workshops

Mojab's work has been cited extensively in the Canadian court system and in UN studies and reports pertaining to gender and equality.

She considers the award an honour, but she insists her colleagues and students deserve the recognition as much as she does: "I like to think about it as a contribution to a collective. My work is built upon the work of many of my other colleagues at the institute. It's also the encouragement, support, and demand of my students who push the boundaries of my scholarship to be a better researcher and teacher."

ANDREI YUDIN

Chemistry Professor Andrei Yudin is the winner of the Rutherford Memorial Medal in Chemistry that recognizes outstanding research in any branch of physics.

Yudin has developed versatile mixtures that allow rapid synthesis of complex biologically active molecules.

SEE 'ROYAL SOCIETY' – PG 6





Robert Bothwell (top) and Shahrzad Mojab (bottom) both have received medals from the Royal Society. JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY

What are your thoughts on the Faculty of Arts and Science's proposed restructuring?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC AND ANDREW RUSK



Jake
1st Year, International Relations
"The proposed cuts...jeopardize the integrity and image of the institution. Certain programs are seen to take precedence over others."



Isaac
2nd Year, Jewish Studies
"It not only damages the reputation, but the integrity of U of T as an educational institution."



Eli
4th Year, History
"U of T is such a massive school and having one amalgamated faculty will leave students in the cold."



Martina
2nd Year, Croatian and English
"I've already noticed that a few courses have been eliminated this year and further cuts would be problematic."



Josh
1st Year, English
"I have no idea."



Abdi
3rd Year, History and Political Science
"The fact that they want to combine all those separate areas of specialization and language together just doesn't make sense."



Neil
4th Year, Diaspora Studies
"[It doesn't] affect me directly, but ... I don't want [my friends] to have to deal with any problems which may arise."



Samantha
2nd Year, Italian and French
"I came to U of T for a specific reason, which is to study Italian, and it's just a stupid idea."



Rohil
2nd Year, Commerce
"What are the changes?"



John
1st Year, Engineering
"I have no idea."



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FUNDING CUTS

Decline in essay assignments

Professors attribute funding priorities to essay cuts in social science courses

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Increased class sizes and a decrease in the number of teachers and teaching assistants has forced professor Robert Brym to replace essays, short answers, and any written work from his first-year sociology class, with multiple-choice tests and exams.

"Essays are critically important to an undergraduate education," said Brym, whose experience in having to assign few essays is not uncommon. A recent survey released by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations claims that the no-essay trend is a provincial problem.

"Multiple-choice is really just asking you to retrieve empirical information. An essay requires you to have a thesis, a plan, and a clear line of thinking that pushes the intellectual boundaries of a student to think critically," said confederation President Mark Langer.

The report surveyed 1,400 professors, of which one in three claim that classes have become so large they have been forced to push the essay aside and succumb to solely multiple-choice testing.

Associate Chair of the English Department Nick Mount has also noticed what he calls a gradual decline in essays. "It has gone down from the amount it was in the past, though, over a period of 40 to 50 years. Back when I was an undergraduate I had to write an essay every two weeks.

"As a faculty member, I would say: I want more essays, more TAs, and smaller classes," said Mount, "But as associate chair, I know how finite the resources are, and I know how hard we are struggling to maintain our standards with the resources we have. It's hard. There's no two ways about it. I think so far, we are holding our own. If we dip much lower it's going to be hard."



SOC101 has moved to a purely multiple-choice method of student evaluation. *AMY JIN/THE VARSITY*

Professor Mount has continued to assign three essays a year for his first year English courses. "I don't really think a student learns how to think unless he or she is doing the thinking themselves."

Brym has cut essays in SOC101 due to a lack of a labour pool to mark 1,400 essays, a reality brought on by university-funding decisions. "The money is not being squandered. Other courses are more expensive to teach. For example, science courses with labs use expensive equipment. However, the university has apparently decided to allocate very little money to [the course] Intro Sociology.... A colleague of mine at McMaster teaches an introductory sociology class the same size as U of T's but she has 22 TA's compared to my seven."

"The increase in class size is not a force of nature," explained Professor Brym. "It's a result of provincial funding cuts and internal, administrative priorities, and decisions."

Tutorials to Brym's course have also been cut. "There are few tutorials — just seven this year, which is not enough.... Students used to attend a tutorial every week. That means they would have something like 20 tutorials a year. We've been cut to a third of the old rate. That being said, the cutback happened years ago."

Mount acknowledges that there are ways to continue critical thinking in the classroom, but stresses that the essay is a crucial part of the education process. "Discussions and tutorials in class also help contribute to a student's development to think critically."

Langer adds that this critical thinking is central to the true role of universities. "We are not only churning out people to have careers.... We are also training people to think critically. In a democracy it is important to have an informed and critically thinking citizenry."

Brym suggests that this shortcoming may be addressed through creative thinking from the university. "We could hire senior undergraduate students to work as TAs. Those who have done well in the first year course could be trained as teaching assistants and perhaps even receive a course credit for their labour.

"It really comes down to how much the administration is willing to invest in undergraduate education."

UTSC PERSONNEL CHANGE

UTSC has new Dean of Student Affairs

Desmond Pouyat replaces Tom Nowers

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

UTSC has a new Dean of Student Affairs. Desmond Pouyat has filled the position following the summer retirement of former dean, Tom Nowers.

Pouyat joins UTSC at a time when he feels the campus is experiencing significant growth with the new instructional centre set to open next year, the coming Pan Am facility, and what he says is the university's plan to grow the student body and internationalize the campus.

"UTSC is a diverse and rich community and [I have] an opportunity to be a part of that. As a person who grew up in Jamaica and a person of colour, to be here at this time is a fantastic opportunity," said Pouyat.

Pouyat left Jamaica when he was 19, coming to Canada as a landed immigrant. He attended McMaster University for an undergraduate degree in political science and sociology and decided to stay.

Initially wanting to go into law, he chose a Masters of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University because law focused more on a winner and a loser than helping people accomplish things together. "It's been great because [social work] allowed me to do many different things," said Pouyat.

He proceeded to work in social work services at a psychiatric hospital at McMaster, became an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and then moved to St. Joseph's hospital in Chatham, to work in children's mental health services.

Pouyat first moved into student-related services at McMaster two and a half years after Chatham. He became the Director of the Centre for Student Development and stayed on for seven years before moving to UTSC.

His interest in student services comes from the opportunity he sees in working with what he terms as some of the most fortunate people on the planet, those able to attend university. "It is a privilege to be here...with people who are going to be the next generation's leaders impacting life decades to come. The chance to work with each incoming class is a huge opportunity."

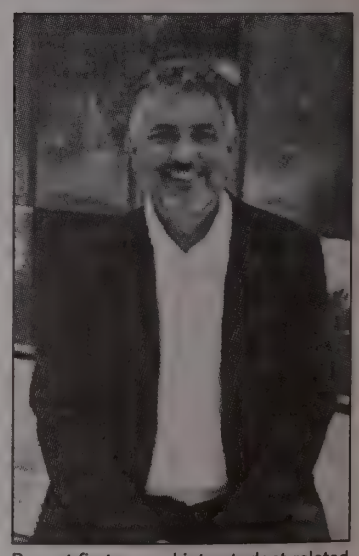
He is glad to work at UTSC because it allows him to expand the work he did at McMaster, and allows him to work closer to home — he commuted every day from East York. He is also happy to have come out successful after such a competitive hiring process.

"I want to build a relationship with student government...and work in partnership with the campus community. I want to [make] sure goals are set to...create a fantastic campus and student life experience."

Pouyat hopes to create a transformative experience for students through his work as Dean. He wants them to enjoy their university life and feel supported, safe, comfortable, respected, and above all, successful. "I hope [students] won't be the same person when [they] finish as when [they] started."

Outside of work, Pouyat is very interested in sports. He looks forward to attending games and possibly participating in a few, such as cricket on the new pitch he said is being set up.

Nowers retired in June 2010 citing his desire to develop his interests, travel, and spend time with his family.



Pouyat first moved into student-related services at McMaster.

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Andrei Yudin is the third faculty member to receive a medal from the Royal Society. *JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY*

'ROYAL SOCIETY' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

According to Yudin, his lab has produced a synthetic reaction that can convert proteins into rings, forming molecules with immunosuppressive properties that can be useful after organ transplantation. His method of making the molecules has been used in collaboration with other labs.

"We have a number of therapeutic targets in mind and at the moment we are concentrating on making molecules with antibacterial and anticancer properties on the basis of reactions my students and I developed," said Yudin in an e-mail to The Varsity.

Yudin plans to celebrate this honor with a night of drinking with his lab group.

"It is a closely knit lab and we like to celebrate these things because there is just so much hard work that goes into advancing science."

The awards and medals attached to each of these honours will be given out at an official awards ceremony at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa on November 27.

Why is Rob Ford so popular?

ARASH AZIZI *reads the political tea leaves to find the answer*

If the initial news of his candidacy was met with jeers and sneers from liberal critics, Rob Ford's astonishing 24 per cent lead in recent opinion polls has left them horrified.

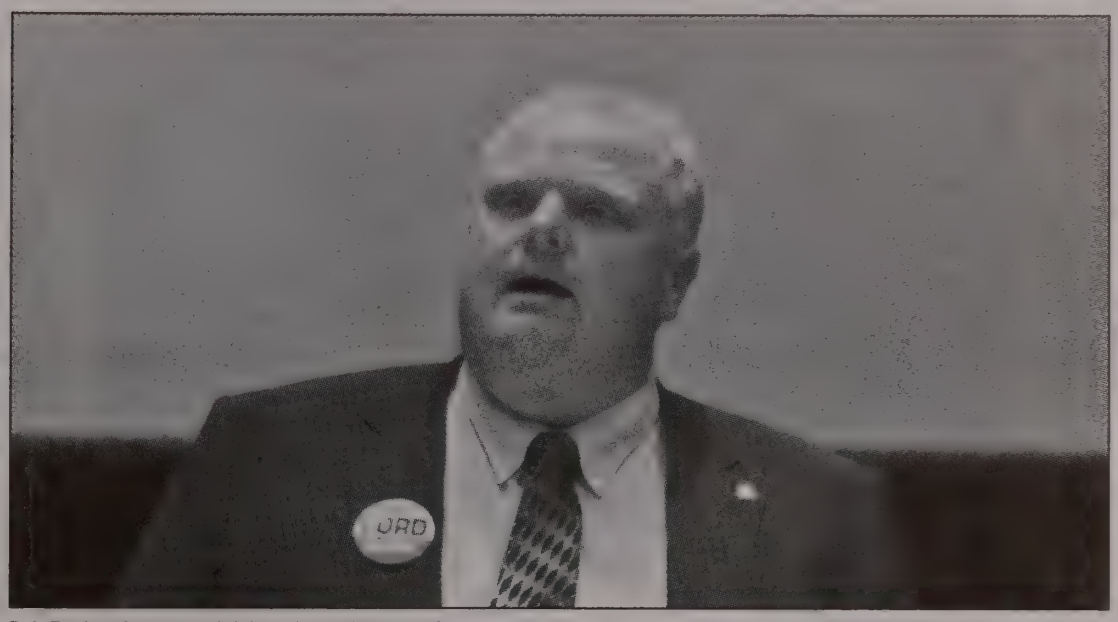
Ford's critics, who extol a diverse, multi-cultural, tolerant vision of Toronto, are waking up and asking themselves: what went wrong? Or as one columnist recently asked, why have people suddenly gone "nuts"?

Those who, like myself, analyze politics from a Marxist perspective are not surprised. In fact, I predicted the threat of his rise back in April when Ford first declared his candidacy.

Despite what our liberal council establishment will have us believe, the people of Toronto haven't gone "nuts". Nor does Rob Ford's rise signify a general shift to the right in the city. Rather his rise is symptomatic of the current economic crisis. During such crises there are two options. People may flock to left-wing candidate who promises to fight against the status quo attacks on social services. However, in absence of such a candidate, they will flock to a right-wing populist candidate who nevertheless is angry with "status quo" and ready to take on "elitist politicians", a crew generally hated by the general populace.

This is precisely what has happened with the rise of Rob Ford. His message is simple, direct, programmatic, and consistent: let's all rally against those councillors who use taxpayer-funded expense accounts for expensive meals and cab rides. Ford attracts those angry voters, especially in the suburbs.

The working people of Toronto have good reason to be angry and frustrated with our supposedly left-wing councillors and the regime of David Miller. After the reign of Mel Lastman ended in disgrace, mired with controversies, Miller was elected in 2003 against the liberals' favourite, Barbara Hall. This was because he presented himself as a left-wing candidate. He came with a broom to clean up the city. He was the first elected New Democrat to be mayor of Canada's largest city. This, coupled with the election of many other New Democrats in that year's municipal elections, was Toronto's hope to move past the Harris years. More than seven years after Miller came to power, it's clear this has not happened.



Rob Ford at the mayoral debate hosted at Innis College on September 15. *TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY*

What went wrong? Or as one columnist recently asked, why have people suddenly gone "nuts"?

Decent, affordable housing is still next to non-existent in the city. The homeless still fill-up downtown streets, even in the dead of winter. Fares for public transit have steadily increased while transit service itself is truly dismal and not deserving of a city as large as Toronto.

To add insult to injury, Miller's government was also involved in two nasty strikes with TTC workers and joined the government and media in attacking their cause. Finally, the crowning achievement of his tenure was displayed in the last summer where he took on city workers in a strike. He wanted to solve the financial crunch on the back of the city's workers while approving a $4 million dollar renovation of the Mayor's office and a pay hike for city councillors.

Thus, it is not surprising that the only nominally left-wing candidate in the race, Joe Pantalone, is in a distant third. Not only does he support Miller's past regime, he has never offered even a slight criticism of it. He is seen as a symbol of status quo, as he is himself an inside bureaucrat who spent the last 25 years at City Hall.

What's worse, he has run an uninspiring campaign that lacks a political program to rally and mobilize people. Saving trees is nice but this is not an answer to people's everyday problems.

It is true that Rob Ford will truly be a nightmare for anybody who loves this city. His reign will be one of attacks on the working people of Toronto and the public services that comprise it. He is promising to consider major privatization of the city's key service and a reduction of public spending, including possibly scrapping the Transit City plan and reducing streetcar lines downtown. Ford has also never hid his racist, homophobic, and bigoted views and we can imagine what kind of city government he is hoping to lead. He was previously quoted as saying: "Those Oriental people work like dogs" and, on another occasion, "if you are not doing needles and you are not gay, you wouldn't get AIDS probably, that's bottom line."

There are those, however, who would argue that with Ford's rise, "progressives" should unite behind somebody like George Smitherman, Liberal ex-deputy premier, to defeat the right-wing Ford. This "lesser evil" approach will lead nowhere. There is not an ounce of "progressiveness" about Smitherman who has promised to consider privatizing TTC and other assets and also freezing wages for the city workers.

The only feasible way to defeat Rob Ford would have been for the candidate that is supported by the labour movement as well as the NDP, Joe Pantalone, to adopt a radical socialist program that would put working Torontonians first. This would include a program that would institute a socialist plan that attacks the ever-rising police budget and fights against the Harris legacy of downloading federal and provincial services onto the city. In no other major city in North America are costs such as welfare and transport downloaded to municipal governments. We needed a candidate that would remind us a socialist city need not be afraid to mobilize against this and fight for people's services. If Ford actually goes on to be elected, we are set to see a surge of movements and protests against him. Such movements need to be equipped with the abovementioned perspectives and program.

Scrapping the long gun registry

Despite its survival, Canadians should still advocate for the removal of this expensive and unnecessary program

Patrick Langille
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Although the long gun registry survived by only two votes, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has vowed to continue the push to have the registry scrapped. All Canadians should also advocate for the scrapping of this expensive and unnecessary program.

The long gun registry has been a contentious issue in Canada ever since it was enacted 15 years ago. The registry is a large list of "long guns", which include rifles, shotguns, and other non-automatic firearms larger than a handgun. Numerous sportsmen's associations as well as the far-right Christian Heritage Party of Canada have been especially vocal. Harper claimed in Thunder Bay two weeks ago claimed that "opposition to [the registry] has not diminished, it has only increased."

The basic worth of the long gun registry should be evaluated based on whether or not it reduces crime. Overall, the gun registry has been a non-factor in deterring violent crime and stigmatizes perfectly legitimate portions of society, such as hunters and rural Canadians. Additionally, it proves to be a divide between rural and urban Canadians. Interestingly, in the United States, where gun laws are less restrictive, relaxing concealed weapon carrying laws actually reduced murder rates by 8.5 per cent, according to the US Bureau of Statistics. These statistics run contrary to popular wisdom that tighter gun laws reduce crime.

Only one third of violent crimes are committed with long guns. (It is worth mentioning that handguns have been subject to a registry since 1934). The murder rate has lowered marginally in these years, and is more likely the result of an aging population rather than the registry. Moreover, virtually all these crimes were committed with unregistered firearms. The registry has not even been useful in the criminal investigation over the guns. This is due to the vast majority of registered firearms which belong to hunters, and nearly every murder in Canada is committed with an unregulated arm, often smuggled in from the United States. It is simple to smuggle guns from the United States and other countries.

There roughly 7.5 million registered firearms in Canada, most of which can be foun in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia. The long gun registry has forced many Canadians to give up long guns, which are cherished family heirlooms. A story in the Globe and Mail it from 2003 reported one Canadian family was forced to give up their Brown Bess musket, the standard small arm of the British Empire for a century, which dated from the War of 1812.

An argument that is often put forward for the registry is that gun owners must be "accountable" for their ownership. So, mandatory safety courses are not enough? Often, gun ownership runs in families, so is being taught to respect firearms from a young age not enough? The gun registry is a waste of Canadian taxpayers money which serves an esoteric purpose, and has questionable results.

Canada is a newly urbanized society. Prior to the 1960s, more than 70 per cent of Canadians lived on farms. Rifles, used for hunting small game to eke out a living in the rugged terrain of 19th and 20th century Canada, were a part of daily life. As well, citizen militia formed a significant part of Canada's military history. Canadians from the frontier fought alongside British regulars defending Montreal and Queenston Heights against foreign invaders and additionally, one of our longest lasting regiments, The Lord Strathcona Horse, was a citizen militia, and remains so to this day. Guns and rifles are a part of Canada's frontier history.

Ironically, the only party leader not to have answered a question as to whether he had had ever fired a gun was Stephen Harper. Every leader, including Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe, admitted to at one time firing a gun. Proper gun ownership is a widespread and legitimate hobby. It is simply wrong to punish sportsmen on the grounds that there are occasional abuses. It is misuse of firearms, and not their mere existence, that leads to crime. The gun registry is expensive, and has not achieved its goals, as it cost over 2 billion initially and varies between 80 and 100 million annually to be maintained. In addition, it has not changed gun crime but merely changed the nature of it. It is entirely unnecessary and must be revoked.

Rethink the restructure

Why we should continue to question the proposed restructuring of Arts and Science

Gavin Nowlan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The proposed restructuring of the Arts and Science faculty has met with a great deal of controversy.
REMI CARREIRO/THE VARSITY

There has been quite a bit of discussion over the past few months over the future of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The faculty is currently engaged in a contentious academic planning process which has drawn criticism, both from organizations here on campus and from people all over the world. As it stands, the faculty faces a $22 million deficit this year, and an accumulated debt of somewhere in the vicinity of $60 million. In no uncertain terms, there are tough decisions which need to be made to ensure that the faculty can provide both a stable financial and academic future for its students.

Unfortunately for all involved, this academic planning process has become mired in mistrust and mixed messages, which threaten to hamper any chance of finding meaningful solutions to the problems of the faculty.

One of most controversial issues to come out of the Academic Plan is the proposed School of Languages and Literatures. During the initial planning process, the Arts and Science Students' Union highlighted the woeful lack of language support in the faculty. In asking for more resources for languages, we stressed that language learning is not just about being able to converse, but being able to understand different ways of thinking. Obviously, this School of Languages and Literatures is not what we had in mind in terms of language support.

Dismantling East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature (to name two examples out of many), two incredibly diverse and interdisciplinary programs, and folding them into this proposed school is not the way to enhance the quality of education in our faculty.

The furor around the proposed School of Languages and Literatures demonstrates exactly why the current academic planning process is as dysfunctional as it is. In order for something as important as a plan for the future of the faculty to succeed, it must take into account the needs of students, faculty, and the administration. In this case, students and faculty have been shut out of the most crucial aspects of the procedure. Much was made last year of the number of planning documents which were submitted for discussion from across the faculty, but when it came time to draft the actual plan, the doors were firmly shut in favour of expediency. That closed-door process and lack of consultation has given birth to the current uproar which threatens to derail the planning process, and U of T administration has only itself to blame.

All is not lost though. Nothing whatsoever in the plan has been approved yet. As of now the plan is just that: a plan. What needs to happen now is what needed to happen much earlier in the process: affected parties throughout the Faculty need to be brought in and made active creators of a renewed plan. This is no mere sentiment—the plan, as a number of faculty members have alluded to in letters to the Dean, will be "intellectually bankrupt" without the participation of those who have a direct connection to teaching and research in this faculty.

What cannot happen here, as happened with the disastrous Flat Fees program in 2009, is the inrtoduction of bad ideas in as short a time as possible, all in the name of saving the faculty. True, the faculty has a tough road ahead of it, but there is no reason, with thoughtful planning, why these challenges cannot be overcome. At this moment the gravest threat to the Faculty of Arts and Science is not the financial problems it faces, but the threat posed by those who claim to be its savior. We must do better.

Gavin Nowlan is the President of the Arts and Science Students Union.

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LETTERS

Re: UTSU and OPIRG host restructuring debate, September 20

Tavakoli considered the academic plan as evidence of the commodification of higher education and privatization of decision-making in the university.

Well, I guess he knows as much about the definitions of commoditization and privatization as one could expect from a professor of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations.

Newsflash: responding to everything you don't like with "rah rah rah capitalism, blah blah blah globalization" instead of rational and reasoned arguments, is not a strategy likely to get you anywhere with U of T central administration or any intelligent person, for that matter.

Rishi Maharaj

Re: Wonderland in Space: Neptune, September 20

I had the distinct honor and pleasure of being present at the invitation of the Smithsonian to be present with my father Rene LeVerrier and my sons Paul, Philip and Michael LeVerrier to view the first transmitted photos from the Voyager II spacecraft as it passed by Neptune. It was a memorable experience as three generations of LeVerriers were present to visually see what their ancestor had founded but never was able to see.

Rick LeVerrier

Re: Copy rights, September 20

Canadians were never free to get media from Limewire and Bittorrent. This bill does not change what we can or cannot do in our homes in the way the author claims.

It does not give the police power to examine our computers or monitor our internet traffic. Perhaps the author is thinking of ACTA or Bill C-47 (which died on the order paper last year) or MITA (a Liberal private member's bill).

It does not make it illegal to download music that is made freely available by the artist.

It does not alter the ability of bands or wedding singers to perform cover songs. This was always subject to a licensing fee which is normally paid by the venue.

There is no 'fair use' provision in Canada, but that's a minor point. The 'fair dealing' provision is indeed contradicted later in the act, but not in the way that the author seems to think. The contradiction is that there is no provision for removing DRM from protected media to exercise those rights. Students are free to do anything with licensed material that the license permits. That is the point of the license.

Billy Barnes

Re: Copy rights, September 20

Billy is right, it doesn't give the police the power to monitor our internet traffic, it gives corporations the right to monitor internet traffic in general and then demand the real identities of the people whose internet traffic they are monitoring.

Basically it means that if I was a corporation I could demand from thevaristy.ca the ip address Billy Barnes used when he wrote his comment. Then I could go find out which ISP used that IP address and demand from them the real identity of Billy.

Somehow this seems worse then police getting the power to do the same thing.

Jason Carr

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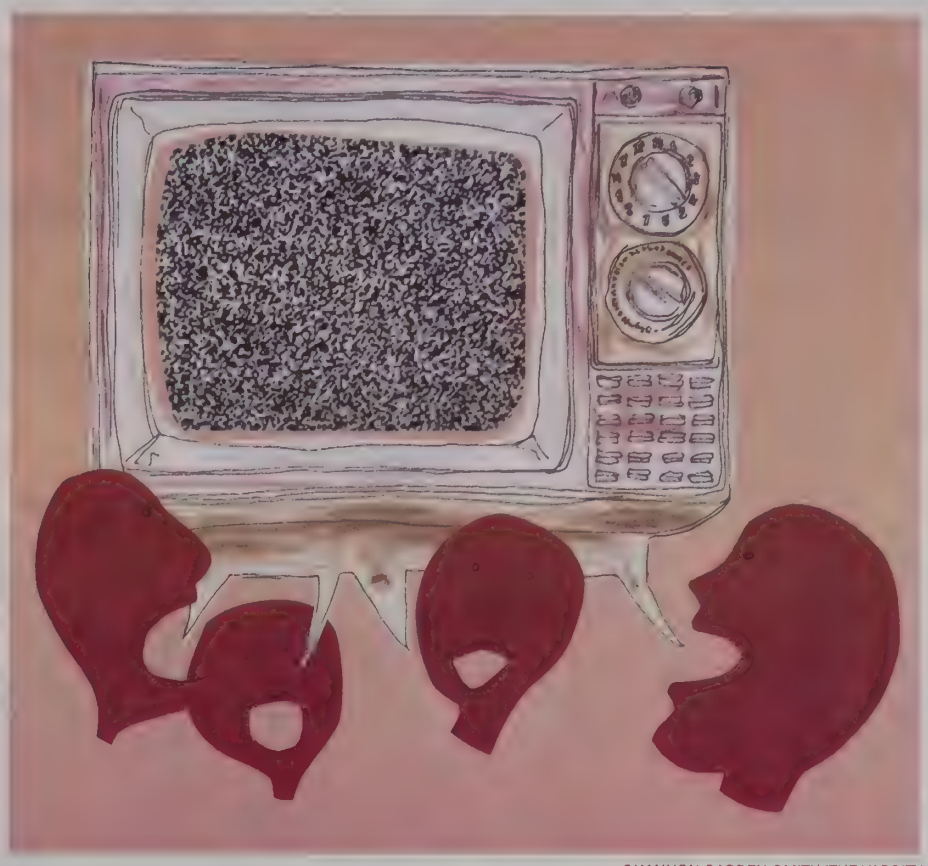
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Opinions submissions are also welcome.

Sun TV not a rising star

Why Quebecor Media Inc.'s proposed right-wing channel will not enhance public debate

Abdi Aidid and Alex Ross
VARSITY STAFF



SHANNON GARDEN-SMITH/THE VARSITY

On July 5, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, denied Quebecor Media Inc.'s request to make its Sun TV News channel a "must carry" service. If their request had gone through all cable and satellite television providers would have been required to carry Sun TV in the same manner that they are required to carry CBC and CTV. Sun TV has since re-applied for Category 2 specialty channel status, though it has requested once again that it have mandatory access for three years.

Its application process became troubled when Kory Teneycke, who was heading Quebecor's Sun TV effort, abruptly resigned on September 15. Teneycke cited recent controversies as the reason for his sudden departure. In August he referred to CBC and CTV collectively as the "lame-stream media" and had called former CBC journalist Don Newman "the Helen Thomas of Canada."

Coinciding with all of this has been the Conservative Party of Canada's continued assault on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for being "left-leaning" and "liberal." The CBC was most recently accused by the Conservatives of being "agenda-driven" for a story aired on September 13 that reported, accurately, that the National Rifle Association was aiding Canadian gun lobby groups in their campaign to have the long gun registry scrapped. In a terse two page letter to the CBC's ombudsman, Jenni Byrne, the Conservative Party's director of political operations, stated: "This type of reporting is neither objective nor accurate and does a disservice to all Canadians."

This sniping at the CBC by the Conservatives has been dubbed a "culture war." Information war is a more accurate designation and it is a war that Canadians should hope that Quebecor and the Conservatives do not win. Despite any claims to the contrary, Sun TV will not give a wider range of opinion for Canadians, but will exist solely to narrow it. While the CBC provides objective news coverage and will also pair commentators from left-wing and right-wing perspectives for controversial stories, Sun TV will adopt no such pretence. Instead, it will have a solely right-wing slant on political events and will exist, much like its closest comparison, the Fox News Channel in the United States, to legitimate non-factual claims about current events. A survey of incidents involving Fox News will provide a good case in point:

1) In July, Fox News ran a bit that accused United States Department of Agriculture head Shirley Sherrod of race-baiting. The selectively edited video, shown by conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart, apparently captured Sherrod saying she favoured black farmers, a damning charge considering that she helms an organization that distributes benefits. The clip — with running commentary from Breitbart — was shown at peak hours and viewers called for Sherrod's resignation. The Obama administration promptly fired Sherrod without viewing the rest of the tape, in a move that was widely seen as an overzealous reaction to the backlash. Once the rest of the tape was released — which reveals Sherrod said nothing of the sort — she was reinstated and an apology was issued.

2) During the public health care debate in the U.S., Fox News actively spread misinformation, including claims that "Obamacare" would subsidize government-administered euthanasia for seniors. Analyst Peter Johnson Jr. — a regular on the network — claimed that Obama was plotting to facilitate the deaths of the chronically ill, only to later say that "no one is saying the President wants to kill old people." Despite the back-pedalling, a survey concluded that 75 per cent of Fox's viewers believed Obamacare would put senior citizens to death. In the end, the lack of public knowledge of the details of the Democrats' proposed bill stalled legislation significantly.

3) For the last two years, broadcasters on Fox News, and particularly popular anchor Sean Hannity, have been suggesting that President Obama is secretly a Muslim. The fact that these individuals use the word "Muslim" as pejoratively aside, the claim is simply false and has done much to stroke already gestating anti-Muslim sentiment. Despite the President's consistent affirming of his Christian faith, Fox went to great pains to report Obama's "pandering to the Islamic world" and his "soft spot for the Muslim world."

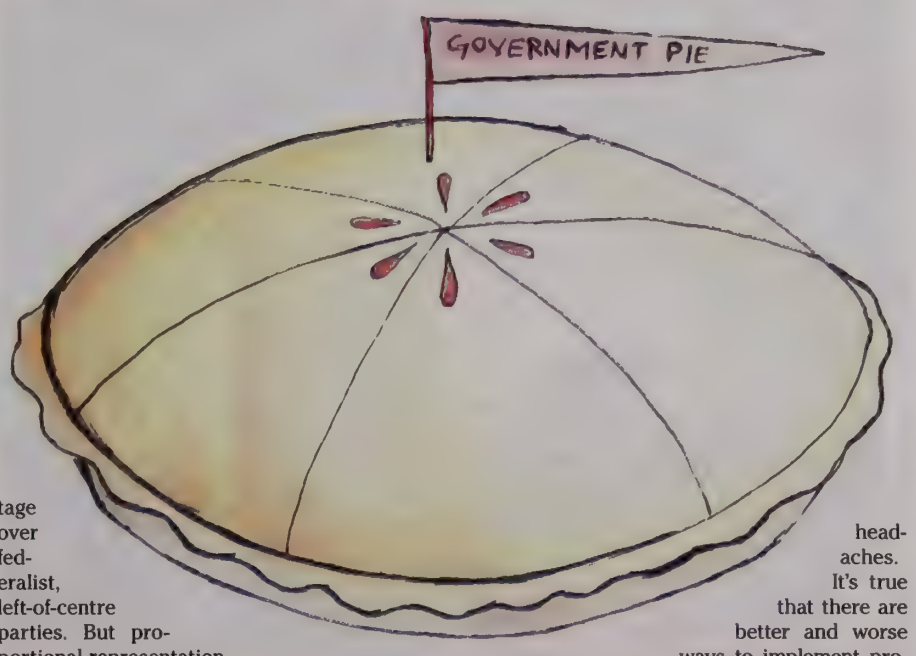
These are just a few incidents that have been the result of the Fox News Channel injecting debate with dubiously factual claims about current events, which have significantly altered the public's perception of those events in an unethical way. Although we are granted freedom of speech, news organizations are also expected to maintain a standard of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness. It is our concern that Sun TV News Channel, like Fox News, will not uphold these journalistic values.

Is there a better way to share the political pie?

Although proportional representation is attractive, it still has significant flaws

Illustration by EMILY SMIT-DICKS

Stephen Bank
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



This past August the Green Party of Canada met in Toronto for their annual party convention. Once again, the Green Party endorsed proportional representation, specifically proportional representation for the election of the Senate.

Under our current "first-past-the-post" system Canada is divided into ridings and inhabitants of each riding elect a member of the House of Commons. The candidate with the most votes wins and represents the district in Parliament. This means that if a Conservative candidate gets 34 per cent of the vote and the Liberal and NDP candidates split the remaining 64 per cent of the vote, then the Conservative candidate wins. Worse still, under the first-past-the-post system, the composition of the House of Commons doesn't necessarily match up with the national vote. This especially hurts the Greens, who received nearly seven per cent of the vote in the last election, but have no seats in Parliament. Under proportional representation at least some of Parliament would be elected according to each party's share of the national vote.

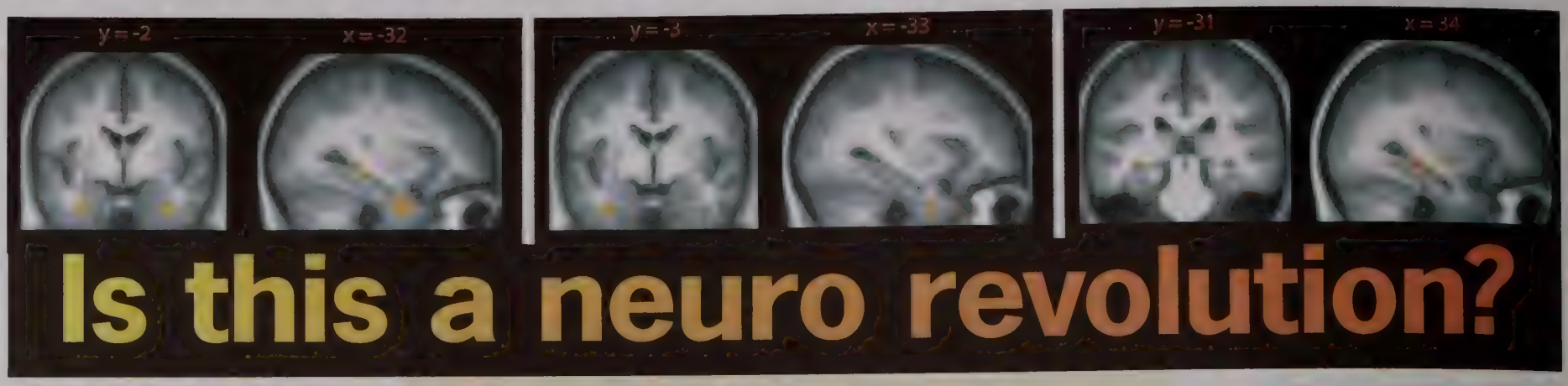
Proponents of proportional representation think that the current system gives the Conservatives and the Bloc Quebecois an unfair advantage over federalist, left-of-centre parties. But proportional representation won't solve all of Canada's problems, and proportional representation has problems of its own as well.

The Green Party plan, which calls for Senators to be elected by proportional representation in addition to House members, is simply a bad idea. Under the current system Senators are appointed by the Prime Minister and serve until they die; Senators have no real legitimacy. Elections would confer legitimacy on the Senate—but that isn't necessarily a good thing. In theory, the Senate has many legal powers to hurt legislation, but in practice the Senate is more like the Queen: it is an old and largely pointless body. An elected, legitimate Senate could paralyze Parliament with constitutional and legislative headaches. It's true that there are better and worse ways to implement proportional representation, but even as an abstract proposal, proportional representation just isn't right for Canada.

Proponents of proportional representation don't seem to realize that our political system is dynamic; if we change our political institutions then parties, policy, and coalitions will change as well. So, even if Canada had a system of pure proportional representation, the House of Commons would not mirror the current Canadian polls. It might seem like the current system gives the Conservatives an unfair advantage over the left, but that's only because, to outsiders, any political party looks more cohesive than it really is. Keeping Conservatives together is difficult, and that difficulty is one of the reasons Harper has had no real political victories. Proportional representation would carve the Conservative party at its joints, but it would make it stronger. And while proportional representation might reduce regionalism, it would strengthen smaller parties. Small extremist parties could even exploit prejudice against immigrants or other groups for electoral gain. It may be uncomfortable to form a coalition with the Bloc Quebecois, but forming a coalition with extremists would be morally wrong.

Germany currently elects half of the German lower house by proportional representation. And in Germany, far-right and undesirable political parties are even stronger than in Canada. To put it in Canadian terms, the social conservatives have the most seats but they need the libertarians' support to pass bills, so the welfare state is in more danger.

I share the NDP's vision of a green social democracy, but there are better ways to achieve that vision than proportional representation, such as a renewal of private sector unions, or equal representation for cities. More importantly, if we are going to change something as fundamental as how we elect our government, we should be able to state our reasons in terms of shared Canadian values, not just naked political gain.



Is this a neuro revolution?

Some say the increasing presence of neuroscience in our everyday lives has the potential to radically alter contemporary culture. But is it all just hype, or is this really a revolution in the making?

Erene Stergiopoulos
VARSITY STAFF

They say a revolution is brewing.

We won't see it in the streets and people won't be talking about it on the daily news. Instead, it will happen in dimly lit laboratories, where human subjects lie with their heads in white tubular machines. In fact, it's happening right now — as figures in lab coats crowd around a computer monitor, watching smudges of colour populate the screen. They are observing what's happening inside a living human brain.

Neuroscience, the study of how the brain works, has become one of the fastest-growing fields in science, and has managed to infiltrate even the most unlikely areas of knowledge. 10 years ago, there was no such thing as neuromarketing, neuroliterature, or neuropolitics — and yet today it seems every discipline is competing for the coveted "neuro" suffix to add to its resume.

The recent explosion of brain science across so many domains of knowledge has led to forecasts of an impending "neuro revolution." Some even believe it has already begun.

Zack Lynch, author of *The Neuro Revolution* and co-founder of the neurotechnology market research firm, NeuroInsights, describes the neuro revolution as an upheaval of the social, economic, and political planes of our lives, leading to what he calls the neurosociety. He explains that these changes are driven by neurotechnology, the tools used to understand and influence the brain.

"My thought on the neurosociety is that it really begins this year, quite frankly," says Lynch. "The neurosociety begins to emerge in 2010 and takes us through 2060."

"What we're already beginning to see," adds Lynch, "is that neuroscience and neurotechnology are beginning to infiltrate multiple aspects of our daily lives."

Take, for instance, the field of neuromarketing. In recent years, a whole host of companies have sprung up, promising their big-business clients — corporations like Google, Hyundai, and Microsoft — a window into the consumer's psyche.

Neuromarketing is based on the principle that consumers don't generally know why they make certain choices about products: we don't know why we like what we do. So while focus groups might lead to a fraction of that answer, technologies that allow companies to see the brain's physical response to advertising materials seem to offer an even deeper insight into the consumer's subconscious needs and preferences — the ones that marketers target in order to sell a product.

It's this rationale that neuromarketers have used to ply their wares, and so far, they haven't been hard to sell. The website of neuromarketing company Mindlab International opens with a video intro of faceless crowds walking up and down the street: "Wouldn't you like to know what's going on in their minds?"

Yes, we would.

And how about neuroaesthetics, the field that studies our brain's reactions to different works of art? Or neurotheology, the science of neural processes underlying our beliefs in god? What about neuroeconomics, neurowarfare, and neuropolitics? We'd like to know what's going on in our minds there too.

Perhaps the most notable application of neuroscience has been in courts of law. The field of neurolaw is responsible for bringing brain imaging into the courtroom for applications like brain-based lie detection. By monitoring activity in the brain regions associated with memory, researchers believe they can detect whether the accused was involved in the crime if corresponding memory areas light up when he is shown the evidence. Because let's face it — we'd really like to know what's going on in the mind of the accused.

In a heavily publicized case in 2008, a court in India convicted a 24-year-old woman of murder, based on the results of a brain scan. While these methods may appear tried and true in scientific literature, it is still unclear whether the results translate outside a lab setting.

"fMRI-based lie detection, for example, can do as well as 80-90 per cent correct in simple laboratory simulations where college students commit mock crimes and then lie or tell the truth, as instructed," says Martha Farah, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and Center for Neuroscience and Society.

"But how does that percentage change when it's a real criminal defendant, facing prison time, for a real crime that he undoubtedly has all kinds of strong feelings about? We just don't know, but the worrisome thing is that lawyers are trying to introduce these tests as evidence in court."

Ed Vul, a researcher at MIT and the University of California, San Diego echoes these worries. "The practical use of these [technologies] has outpaced their actual validation in the scientific community. So the use of fMRI and EEG in court, for instance, seems very, very dubious. I think it's somewhat scary given that you can convict somebody based on somewhat shaky scientific principles."

Within the general public, shaky scientific principles have raised both questions and eyebrows. Even in the neuroscience community itself, there have been heated disputes over the correct methods for analyzing neuroimaging data.

In 2009, Vul and his colleagues published what would become one of the most talked-about neuroscience articles of the year. The paper, entitled "Puzzlingly high correlations in social neuroscience," reviewed the statistical methods used in 50 different fMRI studies — including several published in high-prestige journals like *Science* and *Nature*. It also demonstrated that the correlations these studies were reporting were dramatically inflated. In other words, the results of these experiments looked far more important than they actually were.

Although the article sparked considerable debate in the scientific community, Vul describes that the overall response was positive, and led to the general adoption of techniques to avoid these statistical errors.

But it is the very statistical nature of fMRI data that we often tend to ignore. As one of the most widely used techniques for visualizing brain function, to most people, fMRI seems like a magic mirror into our mental workings. Even in the field, fMRI has been the subject of clear enthusiasm. In 2007, an average of eight peer-reviewed articles using fMRI technology were published every day. But as researchers have noted, it's all too easy to get carried away with the persuasive nature of pictures.

"I think that people find neuroimaging data somewhat convincing, because of the fact that it shows you a picture of a brain — and people find pictures very satisfying," Vul explains. "But the statistics that go into producing the pictures are certainly not nearly as convincing as the pictures themselves.

"Probably the most important thing to keep in mind when looking at fMRI data for the common person is that it's not a picture of a brain, it's not a photograph, it's not as veridical as you might imagine. What you're looking at is an average of lots of very noisy data."

With a more complete understanding of the nature and limitations of neurotechnology, it becomes clear that we're facing some serious issues — especially if we expect these machines to herald a burgeoning neuro revolution. According to Farah, "The high-tech aura of brain imaging inspires confidence that is not always deserved."

This begs the question: is this really a revolution after all? Can we really say we're headed toward massive social upheaval based on technology that's not quite as reliable as it looks? Or perhaps the recent excitement about all things "neuro" is simply a trend that will eventually die out.

Addressing the skeptics, Lynch argues, "to suggest that the neuro revolution is being driven by, and will continue to be driven by specific technologies of today — let's say, fMRI — that would be sort of like saying the information revolution was going to be driven by vacuum tube computers. We still haven't even reached the point where we have effective technologies that will actually be driving the revolution. What we have today are precursors to those very cheap, very widespread, very powerful technologies that will accelerate the exponential increase in new technologies to push the neuro revolution forward."

It seems we are left to speculate as to what neurotechnology will do for societies in the future. For now, there is no real way for us to tell what that technology will look like. But one thing is certain: society's interest in the brain is far from a recent development.

According to Delia Gavrus, a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, much of the importance we attach to neuroscience comes from the notion of "brainhood" that emerged in the 18th century. Brainhood is the idea that we are our brains, and that the brain is where the self resides. Therefore, as knowers of the brain, we see neuroscientists as having the epistemic authority to speak about the self in ways we ourselves can't access through introspection.

In describing his own fascination with the brain, McGill neuroscientist and author of *This is Your Brain on Music* Daniel Levitin explains, "I see it as one of the last great frontiers of knowledge. We already know a lot about the origins of the universe, and the fabric of space-time, and we've decoded the human genome. But one of the great mysteries is how it is that the simple firing of neurons gives rise to all of our hopes and dreams and desires and beliefs and sensory experiences."

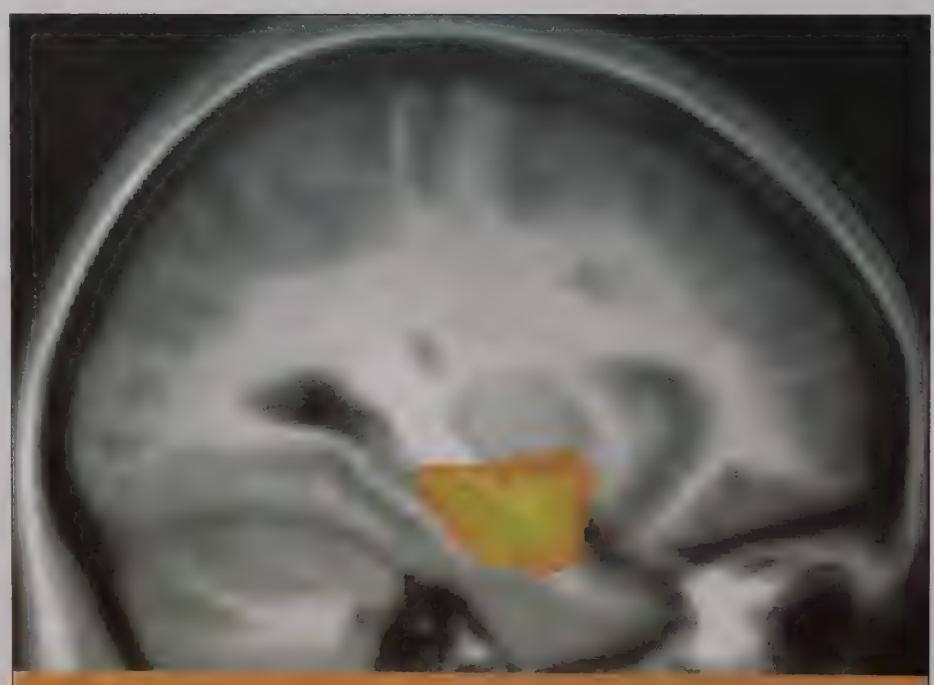
These insights into the human mind will come with some major responsibility — especially when the technology used to gain these insights is spreading increasingly outside the scientific domain. According to Farah, that's where the field of neuroethics comes in.

"As in any science, when applications begin to be profitable, there is sometimes a conflict of interest — for example, between the desire to sell your brain-based lie detection, or brain-based market research or brain-based educational technology, and the obligation to assess it accurately and honestly. This is where the community of neuroscientists can help correct or at least question assessments that might be overly optimistic."

According to some, it is not only the dialogue between neuroscientists that is crucial, but also opening up the conversation to the public.

"All the sciences are finding their way into public consciousness," says Levitin. "We talk about the genome, which would have been unthinkable forty years ago. We talk about the Big Bang theory...and thirty years ago it was an obscure notion among a few physicists. So I think that a trickle-down of science to public consciousness is a good thing."

Maybe we are racing toward a neuro revolution or perhaps this is simply a false start. Either way it makes sense to at least fasten our seatbelts.



fMRI: HOW IT WORKS

Functional magnetic resonance imaging — fondly referred to as fMRI — is the primary tool neuroscientists use to monitor the brain regions active during specific mental tasks. fMRI works by detecting changes in blood flow in the brain, which produce an indirect measure of neural activity called the blood-oxygen-level dependence, of BOLD signal.

In a typical fMRI study, researchers look at the average of the BOLD signal evoked while the participant performs one task, and subtract it from the average BOLD signal evoked during a different task. The image at the top of the page shows regions of the brain that are more active when participants make perceptual discriminations about famous faces, compared to perceptual discriminations for non-famous faces. The study, performed by Dr. Morgan Barense of U of T's Department of Psychology and colleagues, was published in the journal *Hippocampus* in 2010.

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / SOOK-YIN LEE



The filmmaker, radio host and Toronto icon sits down with The Varsity's **ALANA LEPRICH** *to discuss first love and soliciting men for sex in a parking lot.*

PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE



In the heart of Kensington, on a hidden street, lives a modern renaissance Sook-Yin Lee. She is an actress, musician, filmmaker, radio host, media personality, and provocateur.

Sook-Yin Lee entered the Canadian collective consciousness as a VJ on MuchMusic. She gained international attention for her controversial role in *Shortbus*. She wrote and directed the recent film, *Year of the Carnivore* — all the while working as a radio host for CBC's *Definitely Not the Opera*.

[Sook-Yin Lee's house. Kensington Market. Night.]

THE VARSITY: *How long have you lived in Kensington?*

S: I've lived in Kensington Market for almost 10 years.

TV: *What made you pick this part of town?*

S: I lived and grew up in Vancouver, and one of my favorite streets was in Chinatown, in Strathcona. It was kinda like a group of impoverished artists and Chinese immigrants and children living in the same block…. We really knew each other well… And so when I moved to Toronto, it was at, like, John and Adelaide-

TV: *Ew.*

S: -and it was so… gross. It would always be like, you know, people coming in to party in the discos, and they'd end up squirting condiments in the entranceway, and there'd be wafts of donut smoke or hotdog smoke wafting into my place. So it was really hard, and I kind of hated it down there. And then when I found this place, and saw that it reminded me of my home in Vancouver, just physically, and also it had the same or similar aura. So I was like, I had to buy this place.

TV: *You're quite diverse in terms of your career. Do you ever see yourself ultimately pursuing one form of creativity over others? Following one path?*

S: Unfortunately, no…. I've never really quite fit into one discipline. I feel like all the mediums are kind of propelled by one force. And its just curiosity, and… a desire to communicate and existential curiosity, and whatever happens to be the big questions in my head, everything is sort of informed by those pulses. But some forms are better suited for certain expressions. So I feel like I need to have a large paint box to choose from, and use whatever paint is the best one to communicate or articulate the question that I have. And they all inform one another, so what I love about singing will inform me as an actor. There are many interest crafts, permutations. Like, editing movies is music to me. It must have… a musical quality….

TV: *And then, your opera… sorry, your radio show, Definitely Not the Opera. I just started listening, and you cover a lot of ground.Is there an underlying theme you try to adhere to?*

S: For the show? Well, each week we wrestle with a new theme. But what focuses each of the episodes is just trying to examine life and do it in a curious, authentic and playful way. And we talk to supposed cultural experts, cultural creators and also regular people that you would never hear from. Essentially, every Monday I plant myself on the street and I bother strangers. A lot of people who work in the media, they hate going on the street and talking to people, because it can be risk being rejected. But maybe it's because my microphone is covered in cat fur, or maybe because I don't really look like I'm a roving reporter, but people really have a tendency to open up to me. And every time I go there, it just never ceases to amaze me.

TV: *So, your film,* Year of the Carnivore. *Why the title?*

S: Well, I just always liked that ring of 'year of the carnivore.' It's sort of a funny reference to year of the horse, year of the rat, year of this, year of that. But then carnivore, I like the connection that it has to carnal, and meat, and devouring in the sort of human sense. So, it's the year that Sammy, the main character, kind of takes a bite out of life and tries to figure out what the heck is going on in terms of herself, loving another person, and her body.

TV: *So how did you come up with this story?*

S: I felt like my first feature ought to start somewhere in my earliest recollection of something that was meaningful in my life. Not to say that the movie is autobiographical, but it is sort of reflects a kind of difficult passage I had as a young, very nerdy and inexperienced person, making a ton of mistakes when it came to trying to fit in, trying to seduce others, trying to navigate through love and getting my heart broken. So it seemed to be the logical place to begin.

TV: *Right. Well then, because your work is 'close to home,' is it ever awkward with the family? Are they allowed to see your work?*

S: No. My older sister really has no desire to see my films. She's a bit more like, "Oh, did you have to…", like, some of the stuff makes her squeamish to watch. She certainly wasn't about to line up in the queue to see *Shortbus*… And I mean, my mom said "Oh, you're just worrying about it, I'm sure it's artsy!". But she respected my desire to not have her watch it.

TV: *There are definitely some really challenging scenes in* Year of the Carnivore. *For instance — spoiler alert — the parking lot scene, when she [Sammy, the protagonist] is soliciting men for sex. Were there complaints?*

S: Yes. Interestingly enough, it seems to be okay for guys to do it. Like, we see guys seduce and solicit sex constantly and they're a 'player', and they're 'cool.'

TV: *Exactly…*

S: But when a woman like Sammy does she's sort of totally confused. And makes some decisions that are mistakes people make. But, yeah, when a woman does it it's somehow morally corrupt. Some people react very strongly because they're not used to seeing a woman be so completely assertive….

TV: *Or in that dominant of a position.*

S: That's the thing that I feel weird about, that that's what people have such a hard time with. I'm interested in the mistakes people make. I've certainly been 'morally bankrupt' in several situations in my life. And it seems remised that we don't illuminate those moments of humanity.

TV: *It seems like people don't quite know what to think.*

S: I thought I was making a sweet tale. I look back on my first love, and man, we really put each other through the wringer…. But there was love behind it, and we had to get through the bad shit in order to get to the place where it actually dropped that stuff and meet one another. And he's still one of my best friends. I went in there thinking I was making a very sweet coming of age story.

TV: *Any final advice for young kids in this big bad city? Anything you'd tell yourself at 21, 22?*

S: I would tell my 21-year-old self — and myself today — to not be so hard on yourself. It's just like, implicit in our culture that so many of us are hard on ourselves. Sometimes that actually pushes you to achieve, to go for things, but at the same time there's a point where you just got to ease off.

For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

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Still life



Michael Winter's *The Death of Donna Whalen* was released on August 31. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Cinéma-vérité for the page, Michael Winter's latest book returns to the grisly, real-life murder that enthralled him as a young man

Jade Colbert
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

In 1993, a single mother was stabbed 31 times in her home in St. John's, while her children slept just steps away, in their rooms. The brutal murder, as well as the botched police investigation and mistrial that followed, shook the city. Meanwhile, a young writer, fascinated by the story, pored over court transcripts, intending to turn them into a book in the style of Truman Capote. Then he put the book down.

In most cases, a novel should not need a forward to justify its own creation. The work should speak for itself. Yet *The Death of Donna Whalen* isn't like most books, and as the only slightly less young Michael Winter — now the author of six books, including *The Big Why* and *The Architects Are Here* — explains in his forward, a book unlike other books requires its own construction. *Donna Whalen* certainly has its own innovative form. A collage cut entirely from the author's stack of court documents, the novel is a seething portrait of class, violence, and human frailty. The Varsity sat down with Winter over chips and gravy to discuss documentary fiction and the problems with Truman Capote's voice.

The Varsity: *So, how has the book been received?*
Michael Winter: Well, so far, it's had a tremendously powerful reception in Newfoundland, which was… [laughs nervously]

TV: *Were you worried about that?*
MW: Yeah! That's a big relief. And now we'll just see if it has legs and if it has universality. Can people read this anywhere and go, 'Yes, that's an interesting book. It's a weird community, what a strange thing.' But also at the same time, 'This happens here, maybe,' or 'It doesn't happen here, but I'm glad to have visited that place. And I feel like having a shower now after reading all this.' [laughs]

TV: *How old were you when the murder happened?*
MW: I was 28. So in my thirties, I had the transcripts and I was trying to write it. I wanted to write like Truman Capote, like, 'Come to my city where this thing happened. This is my sense of my city and what's going on' — like that kind of voice. And it was good, except what I was saying was: 'Oh yeah, somebody was murdered here, and her family's still alive and all that, but I want you to be entertained by my graphic description of what happened to her.' And I just felt like, I don't want to do that. I don't want to profit from her death.

The other thing too was, even though that story was good, it didn't seem to be as good as the [transcript] material just on the page. Reading on the page, it was plugged in, it was so alive.

TV: *What was it that made you pick it up again, since you put it down after trying the Capote thing?*
MW: I read a book by Nancy Lemann, who's a southern journalist. She wrote a book in the late '80s called *The Ritz of the Bayou*, which was her covering a trial of the Governor of Louisiana — what was happening, what was being said — and it had a lot of her in it, but at the same time, the testimony of characters was coming up, and I don't know Louisiana at all, but the characters, when they were talking, I could see them. She didn't describe them, but I could visualize them. And I thought, 'That's a way into this material.' I thought, 'Why don't I just use that? I'll just use that — keep me out of it."

TV: *So how did it work putting it together, then? If not a word is your own.*
MW: Yeah, that was the rule: I wouldn't add any words. So as I went through my five-foot stack of transcripts, I would highlight things that I found interesting — how somebody said something. […] I haven't added a word, but contorted it in the hopes of making a slimmer novel that's readable.

TV: *You've described your novel as a 'documentary fiction.' What do you mean by that?*
MW: This is my sixth book, and when I started writing, I started writing short stories. I'm not very imaginative in the end. I'm interested in how people eat chips, let's say, how and can I describe that in an interesting way. So I'm like a painter trying to paint a still life. I'm not imagining the fruit — the fruit is in front of me. And of course a painting of a bowl of fruit is interesting to only me and my mother — nobody else cares—so I have to figure out how do I make this bowl of fruit interesting to you? How will she go, 'Wow, that's a great bowl of fruit!' So I've learned, in using autobiographical material, to cultivate it in a way that a stranger will like it. I've gotten that cold distance from the material to know what someone who doesn't know anything about my life will still like this story, and yet it's autobiographical in its roots.

So I've done that in various forms for a number of books. This time I thought, 'Well, can I apply that same technique to found material?' Instead of the real world — I didn't witness the murder, what happened that night, I just have these affidavits from people, these testimonies — can I apply this kind of interest to that material and present it to you. So in that way, it's like a documentary, it's found footage, it's cinema-vérité, and I'm cutting a film out of this raw footage that's been presented to me. And I didn't shoot it. So in that way, it's a documentary, and yet, as my publisher said

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Like a Brolin stone

The You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger star talks working with Woody

Damanjit Lamba
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Naomi Watts and Josh Brolin think long and hard about what they'd like to do to each other.

It's evident that Josh Brolin possesses the star appeal and refinement most men need to carry out careers as leading men. What's surprising is that he doesn't necessarily want to be cast as a macho jack-of-all-trades. Brolin prefers disappearing into characters, most of whom are simultaneously pathetic and endearing anti-heroes. *In You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*, Woody Allen's latest film, Brolin plays Roy, a burnt-out writer trying to secure a living while dealing with absurd in-laws and his desire to be with a beautiful muse across the street.

One reporter at a roundtable interview during the Toronto International Film Festival asks, "Do you have a checklist now of directors to work with? It's a pretty eclectic lot."

"I would like to think I have a checklist and that I have the power to choose but I say yes if they ask me. So I guess it's my choice ultimately but I'm so moved and it's so otherworldly to me that these people are interested in working with me. And then they become friends. Woody became a friend during that movie, and the Coens have become very good friends."

Brolin has worked with Allen before, but never in such a major capacity. The last time he teamed up with the famed director was in *Melinda and Melinda* in which he held a minor role as a dentist. Still, when looking over Brolin's past efforts, one might never guess a Woody Allen film would be in the cards.

"Woody and I said to one another, 'I could never possibly pretend to be you, nor could you possibly pretend to be me. If there are two more opposite people on this planet, it's me and Woody Allen'.... I love language. I think it's an art and Woody has created a vernacular that's pretty amazing. And Woody would say to me, 'Hey man, just make it your own,' and I would do a take and he'd say 'Um, you changed it. You said cannot but it says can't.' I said, 'You're not serious are you?' And he said, 'Yeah, you broke the contraction.' I said, "I know, you told me to make it my own.' And he said, 'I know, but the line says can't.' And I thought this is just insane."

While Brolin would like to think that he has nothing in common with Roy's character, he likes delving into psyches different from his own. "I don't like Roy at all," says Brolin. "But I do like that in his desperation, need for fame, acceptance, and notoriety, that there's this pathetic soft spot in him. He's like a little kid that just wants to get noticed."

Another reporter, who just happens to be sporting a bike helmet with a video camera attached to his head says, "I was ironically reading a magazine today and your wife [Diane Lane] was talking about wanting to get a boob job and saying that you always talk her out of it."

"Dude, you are weird, you really are. I'll remember you forever," replies Brolin. "First of all, that's not true. Second of all, she's like any other vulnerable actress in Hollywood who worries about there being some ceiling to their career. I can't imagine a ceiling to my wife's career. I think she's like Gena Rowlands, she'll just be around forever.... If you look at my wife's boobs, you'll see that she doesn't need a boob job. I know that's going to be everywhere now that I've said it."

The same reporter with headgear continues with his amusing questions: "Would you rather get first dibs or the last laugh?"

"First dibs because the last laugh has a negative connotation for me. Like 'na na na na na.' I don't like those people."

"Would you rather be a dog named killer or a cat named fluffy?"

Brolin is taken aback. "You mean am I straight or am I gay? Dude, I'm going to help you come up with those and we'll do them together with other people."

I finally squeeze a question in at the end about his upcoming film *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, where Brolin is once more under the direction of Oliver Stone.

"I read that you're an octave, sorry active, stock trader."

"I like octave better. Seriously that's not a screw up," states Brolin.

"How do you think your trading experience helped you with your role in *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*?"

"I was a personal trader. I made my money doing that when I was doing Woody Allen type films and not making a lot of money. But it helped me with the vocabulary and allowed me to meet with these guys and ask somewhat intelligent questions. World finance is a different planet... But it's very interesting to me. The tough thing when talking about *Wall Street* is I try to keep it behavioural and emotional because I could talk about stock trading forever and I can see the film glaze over your eyes when I talk about it. I think it's really fascinating and nobody else really does."

You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger opens in theatres on Friday.

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

when she read the first draft, she said, 'My God, I can't believe you didn't write this. This sounds just like the way you write.' Which I had not thought of at all. I was reading it, and I thought, 'Oh yeah, she's right.' What I'd done was, out of 3 million words, I found 80,000 that sound like me. And if you went in there and wrote your book, you'd find a completely different book than mine, and it would sound like you. It's both a fiction and it's based on documents, and I've put the two together.

TV: *If you've made the still life interesting enough, in the end, it's not about the bowl of fruit.*
MW: Right! [laughs] Those fruit are all eaten. They're in the compost heap. I mean I don't think I'll ever do it again.

TV: *No? Not looking for more trial cases?*
MW: On the other hand, though, I'm surprised it hasn't been done more often. Especially in this day and age of reality TV and everybody wanting the truth of things, why don't court transcripts get abridged every day and published?

TV: *Maybe you've hit on something. We're used to creative non-fiction. This is almost the opposite of that.*
MW: That's right. And that was the last thing I wanted to write was a creative non-fiction book. I didn't want to write that.

For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

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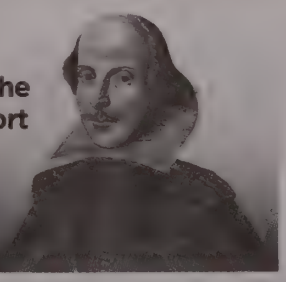
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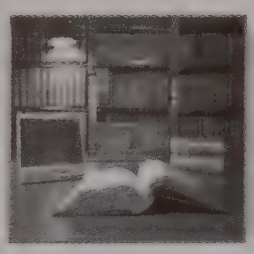


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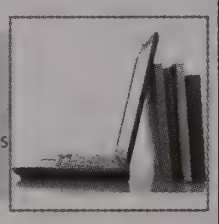
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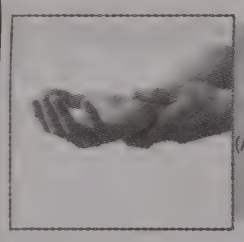
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The ten dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

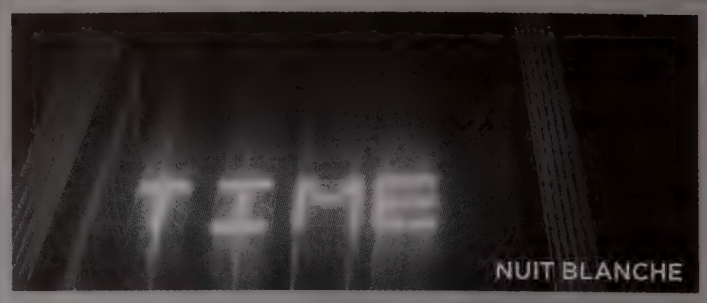
by ANDREW RUSK

Umbrella Gewurztraminer Riesling (2009)
$9.95 at the LCBO

A product of the Pelee Island Winery, this wine mixes two grapes: Gerwurztraminer from France and Riesling from the Rhine of Germany, and is crisp and fruity, featuring a slight hint of peach. It is off-dry and finishes clean Gewurztraminer is a less popular white at the LCBO and definitely deserves a try, great for pairing with Asian food. Bright and non-offensive, it's a safe choice to share with a group. The worst thing about this wine? The name. Seriously, Umbrella? Perhaps the hint of rose tips aren't hip enough to be associated with the 2007 pop cultural zeitgeist. It would be a mistake to drink this wine after Thanksgiving, or on any rainy day for that matter, but still, this is is a great wine to enjoy cooled before Toronto's first frost.

VarCity

The Varsity's guide to Toronto's best exhibits



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES IN EDUCATION
Sep 27, reception 5:30-7pm
Sep 29, artists talk noon-1pm
Sponsored by your very own U of T faculty, this exhibition features book-based performance works from Lezli Rubin-Kunda, a multi-disciplinary artist based in Israel.
252 Bloor West, Second Floor

JOHN B. AIRD
Sep 30, reception 6-8pm
This show, titled Critical Mass, is a celebration of the 82nd anniversary of the Sculptors Society of Canada. You're sure to see a variety of styles, and as you nibble on hors-d'oeuvres and take in the setting – an austere space not far from campus – you'll feel like you've entered the world of high art.
900 Bay

PROPELLER
Oct 7, reception 7-10pm
This contemporary collective has its finger on the pulse of the local scene, in tune with the new and exciting – hence, always trust the programming here. Anthony F. Saad will reinterpret the genre of Self Portrait in Face It Head On: Self Portrait Redefined.
984 Queen West

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO
Sep 28; lecture 7-8:30pm
Lucy R. Lippard will lecture on one of contemporary art's most important women – and one of my absolute favorites – Eva Hesse. $15 members; $18 public; $12 students.
317 Dundas West

p|m GALLERY
Sep 30, opening 6-9pm
Another brilliant contemporary space presents Amanda Clyne: Illusive: Portraits of an Image. The artist's work focuses on the painted surface and the relevance of painting today.
1518 Dundas West

STEAM WHISTLE ART GALLERY
Oct 1, last day of exhibit
This show displays The Fuzionists, a group of artists who collaborate through a "Drawing Fuzion" – a creation that communicates visual language through a unique and innovative method. Not quite sure how this translates, but hey, if it's no good, Steam Whistle makes a fine pilsner.
255 Bremner

NUIT BLANCHE
Oct 2
Everywhere, all night.
Downtown Toronto

BAU-XI GALLERY
Oct 7, reception 6-8pm
Alex Cameron and Janna Watson grapple with abstract landscapes and non-representational movements in this contemporary space directly across from the AGO.
340 Dundas West

Compiled by Alana Leprich

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When particles collide

BIANCA LEMUS LAVARREDA *explores physics' biggest project, the Large Hadron Collider*

This past August, the University of Toronto hosted the 21st annual Hadron Collider Physics Symposium, where the first results of the Large Hadron Collider were presented and shared amongst particle physicists.

This year, the results included the reappearance of particles captured by previous particle accelerators, as well as evidence that the LHC can capture higher energy particles than expected. The event represents the obstacles overcome by LHC over the 20 years of its development — from vast feats of civil engineering, to firing up experiments that will hopefully explain the universe's earliest stages.

The LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator (and fridge: the inside of the LHC is -271°C, making it colder than outer space). It is owned by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, and is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The LHC is a 27 km long underground tunnel, composed of two general-purpose detectors, CMS and ATLAS.

The detectors are essentially enormous cameras designed to take snapshots of particle collisions at a rate of 40 million frames per second. As for information flow, the amount of data collected by the LHC can fill 100,000 dual layer DVDs every year, solving the mystery of the relationship between physicists and caffeine. The LHC works by launching two beams of protons (or "hadron" particles) at 99 per cent the speed of light, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and — you guessed it — smashing them to analyze the resulting particle decay.

These high precision proton beams are monitored around the clock by scientists such as U of T physics Professor William Trischuk, a TRIUMF scientist and ATLAS team member. The beams inside the accelerator must be controlled so that they do not stray and cause damage to the device. In fact, it is crucial that precautions are taken for any part of the LHC, because technical problems can delay the operation for months. One such incident occured in 2007 with a broken magnet, and again in 2009 when scientists discovered vacuum leaks.

The results from the LHC are significant to the study of physics because there are many contentious issues that lie unresolved regarding the make-up of the fundamental building blocks of the universe. What we learn from the LHC may very well confirm or destroy the Standard Model of Particle Physics, the current model of the elementary particles that make up all matter.

To give you an idea of what's at stake, replacing the Standard Model of Particle Physics is probably harder than doing a decathlon, learning Icelandic, and sitting through *Gigi*. If that's not enough, throw in river dancing and completing a degree in Engineering Science. All before breakfast.

A hot topic that comes to mind when people think of the LHC is the Higgs boson particle. The Standard Model has already gone through many trials testing the kinds of particles that constitute it: leptons, quarks, and the force carriers (such as the photon). However, the mass of these particles, especially the Z boson and W boson, relies on the Higgs boson as the key to the origin of particle mass.

According to U of T Professor Pierre Savard, a TRIUMF scientist and ATLAS team member, the Higgs boson is not made up of anything. It is the simplest particle with no spin and no electric charge.

An interesting detail about the Higgs boson is that it generates a Higgs Field. John Ellis of CERN describes the Higgs Field as analogous to a field of snow in which heavy particles that travel through the Higgs Field leave a bigger imprint than lighter particles do. The reason why some particles are heavier than others is simply due to how much they interact with the Higgs Field.

Despite this and other captivating images the Higgs may generate, it is important to keep in mind that the Higgs boson is not the sole answer to the origins of the universe and life itself. The coining of the Higgs as the "God Particle" by Leon Lederman, director of Fermilab, unintentionally creates a misconstrued perception of the Higgs in the mass media.

As experimental high-energy physics professor and ATLAS team member Robert Orr confirms, this colloquial definition of the Higgs is not very descriptive of what the Higgs really is. The Higgs may have "god-like" power in confirming or disconfirming the Standard Model, but it is not scientifically accurate to assign it an alias with religious connotations.

According to Professor Trischuk, "Finding the Higgs boson will confirm the Standard Model of Particle Physics as an accurate description of the universe — or at least until the model starts to break down before the precise moment of the Big Bang." The Higgs theory will work until it is falsified using the LHC. And so for now, the Standard Model currently holds. However, a good example of an LHC-tested and disproved theory was that Earth had magnetic monopoles.

There are many exciting and terrifying conclusions that will result whether or not the Higgs is proven. If the Higgs is found, physicists will have to continue to better understand the nature of the Higgs and its ability to explain particle mass. But there are many theories that might remain unanswered, such as gravity, which continues to puzzle physicists.

It is also unknown whether the discovery of the Higgs will solve the great problem of missing mass and dark energy in the universe. Even if the Higgs is found, it will be some time before scientists are certain that it is a fundamental particle.

As Professor Savard points out, it is still not clear if quarks are fundamental particles. Quarks are point particles, meaning that physicists cannot see what is going on inside them. "For now the quark is a point particle, but we are not sure if it is fundamental," says Professor Savard. "Looking at the history of particle physics, we see changes from the atom to the proton and neutron, and so on. So there is still a chance that the Higgs may be made up of more particles."

Although it is very unlikely the Higgs will be found in the near future, this may be good news for busy particle physics professors. "If we find the Higgs, then I need to write new lectures," jokes Professor Savard.

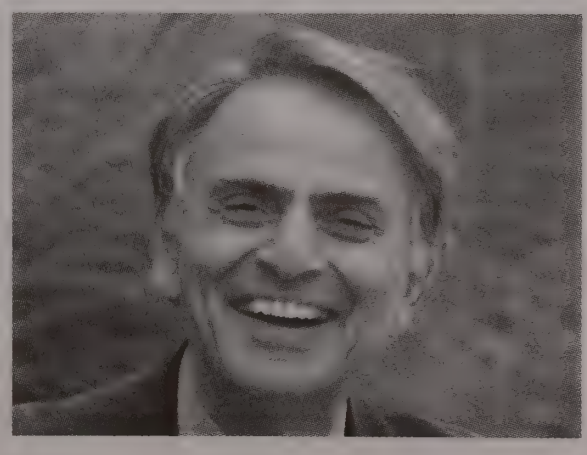
Given the question of what he believes students should take away from the LHC, Professor Savard replies that students may benefit from expanding their minds to harness the relationship between the "infinitely small to the infinitely big" in our universe.

Professor Orr eloquently adds that students can learn to appreciate the way the universe is "subtle, beautiful, and we're only starting to learn how it works."



SCIENCE: FROM FICTION TO FACT

The undeniable lure of searching for the answers to the universe has seduced philosophers and scientific enthusiasts alike. From comics to literary texts, the craving for a good nerdy hoedown can be cured at your local bookstore. A great example would be Isaac Asimov (left), one of the gods of scientific fiction. Asimov wrote abundantly on the humanistic perspective of scientific discovery. Throughout his books, he demonstrated how the impact of scientific discoveries on humankind is far greater than the actual discoveries themselves. Our mental models of reality are plastic, and like the staircases in Hogwarts, they change without our permission. Similarly, the renowned physicist Carl Sagan's (right) unique appreciation for the cosmos has inspired many generations to fight the unknown. Upon reading Sagan, it becomes clear that he remained faithful to the search for truth all his life. As Sagan put it, "In order to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe."

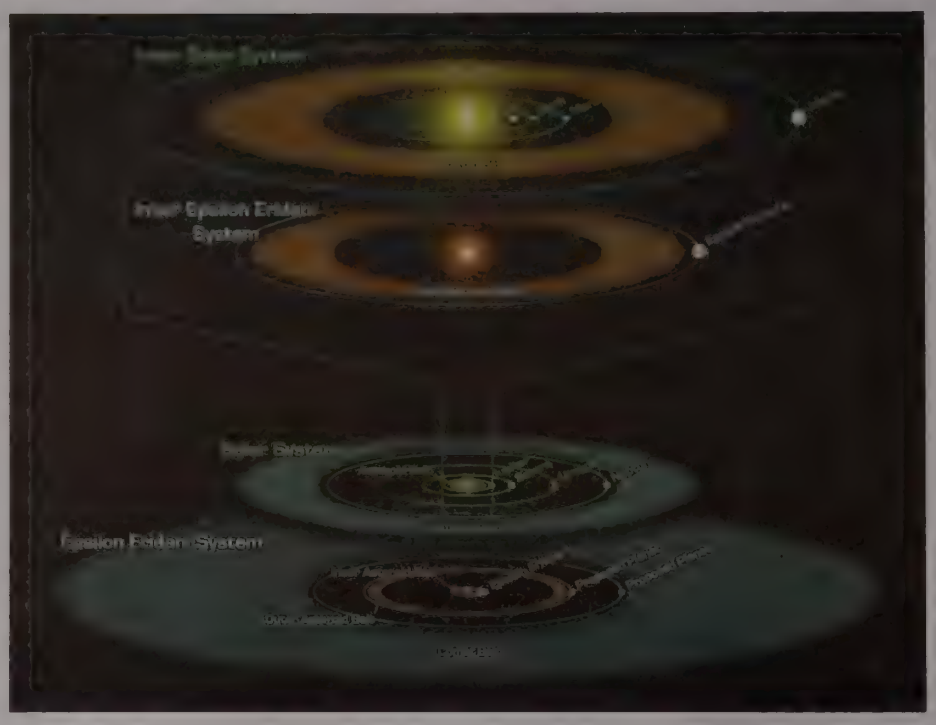




WONDERLAND in space

Entering the Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



Upon reaching the outskirts of our solar system, we begin exploring a large disk-shaped region, a reservoir of dormant comets called the Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt. Commonly referred to as the Kuiper Belt, the region extending past Neptune's orbital range is similar in appearance to an asteroid belt, but it is composed of icy masses rather than rock and metal objects. The objects comprising the Kuiper Belt are aptly called Kuiper Belt Objects, or KBOs, and are similar in composition to comets. They are often composed of ammonia, frozen water, and various hydrocarbons such as methane.

The belt is located 4.5 to 7.4 billion kilometers from the sun, and was first discovered in 1992 by David Jewitt and Jane Luu. Despite its recent discovery, the belt's existence was predicted by both Kenneth Edgeworth and Gerard P Kuiper in 1943 and 1951 respectively. Both astronomers predicted that at the outskirts of the solar system, the space beyond Neptune could hold a reservoir of innumerable small icy bodies or potential comets.

The large amounts of dust, icy masses, and dwarf planets surrounding our solar system have led astronomers to presume that the Kuiper Belt and its distant yet akin neighbour, the Oort cloud, are the last remnants of the nebula from which our solar system emerged. It is believed that the size of the Kuiper Belt has decreased over time, having to withstand both the sun's solar wind, and Neptune's gravitational effect — whose interaction can cause KBOs to change their orbital trajectory and travel across the solar system as comets.

Among the objects believed to have originated from Kuiper's Belt are Neptune's satellite Triton, along with Pluto and its moon Charon. The belt is also home to the newest planetary addition to our solar system, Eris, which was discovered in 2005 using the Samuel Oschin telescope at the Palomar Observatory. Eris is 97 times as far from the sun as Earth, and is an ordinary member of the belt. Although astronomers are unsure of how much light Eris reflects away from the sun, Eris' brightness had led them to suspect that it is at least as big as Pluto, if not larger.

While the Kuiper Belt possesses many mysteries yet to be discovered, its most mysterious aspects are the characteristics of its KBOs. Surprisingly, since their first observation in 2001, eight of the 500 KBOs detected have had orbiting satellites. In many of these cases, the Hubble Space Telescope has indicated that the KBO satellites are almost as large as the objects they orbit. This development violates the standard model for large satellite formation, in which collision between two objects must occur in order to form a satellite system. Since great magnitude collisions required for large satellite formation are energetically improbable in the Kuiper Belt, the only possibility for the standard model to hold is for the KBOs and their satellites to be more reflective than previously analyzed. In such a situation, the objects would be smaller and would require less energetic collisions to create a satellite system.

Due to its recent discovery and great distance from the sun, the Kuiper Belt has yet to be thoroughly analyzed. NASA's latest mission New Horizons, launched in January 2006, hopes to provide the first detailed study of both Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, as it leaves the solar system. After having passed by Jupiter in February 2007, and having reached the halfway point to Pluto in February 2010, New Horizons is expected to reach Pluto by July 2015, and explore the Kuiper Belt from 2018 to 2022.

Whereas the New Horizons mission has at least five years until its interaction with Pluto, next week we will embark on a space probe, which has long completed its mission, and continues to make interstellar discoveries. Until then, your wonderland space ventures await.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Evidence for Big Bang Theory found in meteorites

The Big Bang Theory hypothesizes that the solar system was born thanks to the death of a core collapse star, resulting in a supernova. The recent discovery of aluminum and iron isotopes in various meteorites — the forms of which are absent on Earth — has provided researchers with the evidence to substantiate the Big Bang Theory.

The discrepancy in the presence of particular isotopes on Earth suggests that although the individual grains of matter were evenly spread by the initial supernova, they were subsequently sorted by size, thus becoming disproportionately distributed throughout the solar system. By examining meteorite sample grains less than 100 nanometers in diameter, the researchers were able to identify chemical variations from one meteorite grain to the next. Since some of these chemicals are only present in specific types of supernovae, the initial Big Bang Theory has been re-examined to specify that at least one star explosion must have contributed to the matter within our solar system. — ***ALEXANDRA I. EREMIA***
Source: University of Chicago

Epigenetics may determine ants' position in caste system

Social insects like bees or ants have long been studied for the remarkable division of labor they utilize while performing basic tasks. In Harpegnathos saltator ants, sterile workers do the food shopping and heavy lifting, while the queen spends her days laying eggs and being fed royal jelly — ultimately living 10 - 500 times longer than the workers.

Workers and queens are genetically identical, so how do such different behavioural and life history features arise from the same DNA sequence? Recent work published in Science by Roberto Bonasio and colleagues has started providing answers. The authors measured gene expression in workers and gamergates, workers destined to be the next queen, and found that gamergates have higher expression of several genes that may regulate life span.

Although the researchers do not know the underlying cause of the increased expression, they speculate that epigenetics — the chemical modifications of DNA that alter the accessibility of genes for expression, thus switching genes on or off — may be responsible. — ***HEATHER MAUGHAN***
Source: Discover

Pro-smoking clips not yet restricted on YouTube

Public health researchers George Thomson and Nick Wilson of the University of Otago have claimed that Internet laws banning tobacco advertising are not being actively implemented for videos on YouTube. Thomson and Wilson found a plethora of pro-tobacco videos posted by YouTube users, and call this "indirect marketing activity by tobacco companies."

Their methodology includes recording the frequency of public viewings of tobacco ads, and whether or not smoking is portrayed as positive. They found that Marlboro videos were the most popular, and that approximately three quarters of the content from all the clips included a pro-tobacco message.

Representatives from tobacco companies have explained that they do not believe this advertising should be allowed on the Internet. They even stated that they do not promote or advertise on the Internet. However, this research suggests that tobacco companies indirectly support these clips by simply allowing them to stay online. Thomson and Wilson suggest that governments should extend and enforce advertising restrictions upon Internet sites. — ***CRISTINA OLTEANU***
Source: New Scientist

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with Mary Scourboutakos

Carmine!



ALEXANDRE DURET-LUTZ

You've probably never heard of carmine dye, because it doesn't appear on food product ingredient lists. Nevertheless, it can be found throughout the food system. Carmine dye is a bright red pigment derived from carminic acid, which is produced from insects such as the cochineal. These tiny bugs are found on cacti in Central and South America, and have been used for dye since the 15th century. Today, carmine can be found in yogurt, juice, ice cream, and candy — as well as in cosmetics such as eye shadow and lipstick.

The use of carmine is controversial because of its implications for individuals who practice vegetarian, vegan, halal, or kosher diets. You've probably never realized that Smarties (which contain carmine) do not abide by these dietary rules.

Carmine has increased in popularity in recent years because of the food industry's movement away from the use of artificial colour. Up until the 1970s, Red Dye No. 2 was the most commonly used red dye in food and various other products, including children's medicine. That was until 1976, when it was banned as a result of its carcinogenic properties.

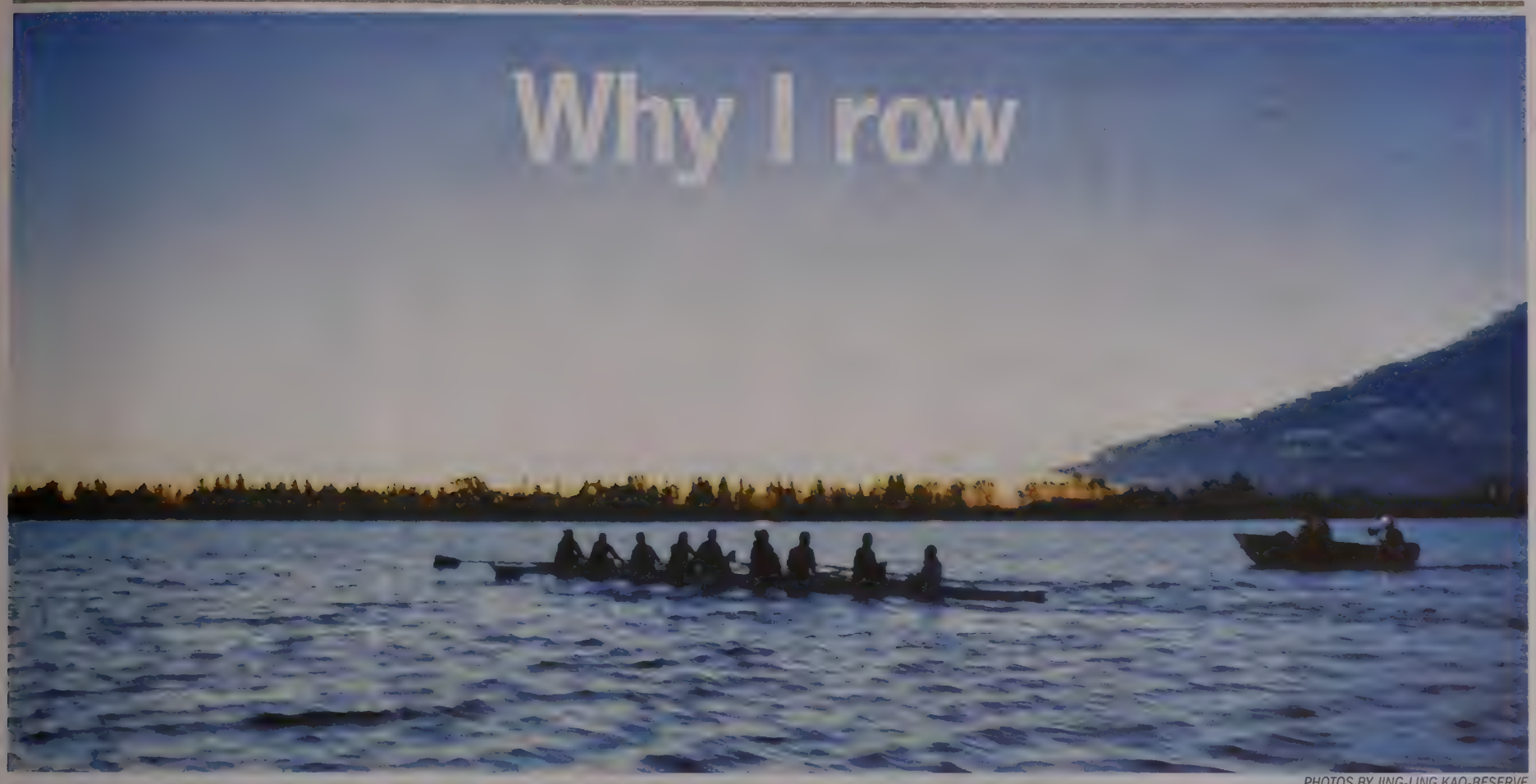
This sparked a fear of anything red, which caused M&Ms to remove their red candies, even though they weren't made with this ingredient. The infamous Smarties slogan "When you eat your Smarties, do you eat the red ones last?" was used from the 1970s until the mid 1990s. It was supposedly proposed by a Smarties factory worker whose daughter used to eat her Smarties in this order. However, the coincidental timing of this slogan suggests otherwise.

Today, Red Dye No. 40, the successor of Red Dye No. 2, is found in everything from canned fruit to hot dogs, and of course, maraschino cherries. Although it is considered safe, studies continue to show its potential as a carcinogen, as well as its strong association with hyperactivity in children.

As a result of the controversy surrounding Red Dye No. 40, as of March 2009, products like Smarties are made entirely with "natural colours," which, as you now know, includes insects. You might have also noticed that blue Smarties were missing for a year: this was because the manufacturer needed more time to source a suitable natural blue dye. Blue Smarties have been reintroduced as of June 2010.

Thus, in the quest to produce healthier food products, the use of insects might seem unusual. Nevertheless, consuming insects is surely superior to consuming the dangerous synthetic chemicals that lurk in our food system.

Why I row



PHOTOS BY JING-LING KAO-BESERVE

CARO KRONLACHNER *explains just what it is that possesses her to get out of bed at 5 a.m.*

While 5 a.m. is not a time when most people are making choices, for me this early hour has become make-or-break. Instead of rolling over and hitting the snooze button on my alarm clock, I stare at the flashing neon lights and decide it's time to get up — I am a rower.

I don't know how much you know about rowing, but I'm going to assume that although you are a student at the University of Toronto, it's not going to be a whole lot. Maybe you stopped with sports after high school, or maybe they just weren't your thing to begin with.

Either way, you're in the majority, and until I joined rowing so was I.

When I first joined our team, it was nothing more than a small rag-tag bunch who'd meet up at 5:30 a.m. down by Cherry Beach. Although we've progressed since then, our equipment is still old, our boat houses are still rusty, and our lake is still beautiful.

We row from the shelter of the Leslie Street Spit. Our course runs out past Centre Island or around into Toronto's Inner Harbor.

At morning training, it's usually the dawn that seems to find us. We're too intent on beating our teammates to notice something as commonplace as the sunrise, even if it turns the skyline into an urban picture postcard.

Rowing is tough. It involves long hours, hard workouts, and an endless quest for perfection. There's a thin layer of carbon fiber between you and the lake, and you're essentially stranded in a floating shell with your crew. Blisters are the norm, and it's always cold and wet, if not just plain miserable.

But the desire to succeed is what drives us to chase down our friends, break ourselves, and sit steaming in t-shirts on the lake come the end of October.

U of T is a big school and it's easy to get lost. But down at the club, or on the rowing machines over the winter, you get to know your teammates, and you realize that you share a common goal that you strive towards together —that makes all the difference in the world.

Then there are my teammates who've also looked groggily at their alarm and decided to get out of bed, the people who will go to the gym with me throughout the winter, the people who I party with, and the people who I go to breakfast with. My teammates are my best friends — the people that I really know and trust.

As a rower, you are the one who decides to commit, but it's for the people who you go though the hell of morning training with, the people with whom you fight though the pain of working out and racing with.

These are the people who you end up calling to help you move your stuff at the last minute, road trip with, or who look after you when you've been kicked out of the Brunny for vomiting on the bar.

Rowing isn't just about winning, it's about being part of a team. It's about working together for our school, for our crew, and for ourselves. It's about never being satisfied and never settling.

"As a rower, you are the one who decides to commit, but it's for the people who you go though the hell of morning training with, the people with whom you fight though the pain of working out and racing with."



A good sport

Pat Burns is not dead



Former Leafs boss Pat Burns, who was incorrectly reported dead on Friday Sept. 17.

A cautionary tale of social media gone bad

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

There's no disputing that new media like Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube play an important role in keeping us informed. There is, in fact, reason to believe that these social networking sites are superior to the traditional media in at least one crucial way: timeliness.

In the spring of 2007, many Virginia Tech students learned, via desperate posts on Facebook, that a gunman was taking their friends' and classmates' lives.

There is, however, a problem with these new ways of communicating. A lot of people — quite understandably — take news on their Facebook and Twitter feeds with the same authority as an article on the *Toronto Star*'s website. Posts on new media websites are not held to — nor are they expected to conform to — the rigid journalistic standards of traditional media.

All of these issues were underscored in thick boldface at the end last week when word that Pat Burns died began circulating. Burns, who is 58, has been battling an incurable form of lung cancer since 2009.

On Friday morning when I woke up and checked Facebook on my Blackberry, like I normally do, a friend-associate of mine had "RIP Pat Burns" in his status on my newsfeed. I immediately thought, "Well darn, that's too bad." The person who wrote that was actually a far more active social media-user than most and has broken various pieces of information (like concert presale passwords and lineup changes) with impressive accuracy.

Turns out, though, that Pat Burns was still alive. My friend was not the source of the rumour, but rather one of thousands of people who picked up on it and spread it. Apparently the Leafs Senior Advisor, Cliff Fletcher, told Toronto media reporters he had just learned of his good friend Burns had died, and having no reason to doubt Fletcher, they shared the news. Most notably, the *Toronto Star*'s Damien Cox tweeted it.

It's tough to imagine how Fletcher could have been erroneously informed that Burns was dead — but seemingly he was, and apologized for it.

So let's draw some lessons from this incident, while Pat Burns is still alive to enjoy them.

Fact-filter what you read on Facebook and Twitter. If it's someone tweeting about a traffic jam that they're stuck in, it's a safe bet that you shouldn't take the street they're on. But if the issue is more substantive — say, someone's death, a gunman on campus, a major political scandal — please, please, *please* seek outside corroboration before assuming for yourself that the story is true.

If you can't find immediate corroboration but must share anyway, add a caveat: "According to so-and-so [insert rumour here]." This way, no one can point to you as the source of an erroneous report, and you won't be on the hook if the rumour is untrue.

Let's see if we can keep Pat Burns alive for just a little longer.

Write for Sports!
Contact: recruitment@thevarsity.ca

Ready, aim...FIRED?

TFC's Director of Soccer and Head Coach both let go

Grace Im
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The Toronto Football Club played its first home game at BMO field since the sudden removal of both the Director of Soccer, Mo Johnston, and the Head Coach, Preki Radosavljevic, and sputtered its way to a 3–2 loss against the San José Earthquake on Saturday.

Johnson and Preki were fired on Sept. 14 following an embarassing 1–0 home loss against DC United three days earlier.

In the DC game, fans turned on their beloved Reds. They booed the players and chanted "We're not going to take it." Season-ticket holders were shaking their heads in disgust as they filed quietly out of the stadium.

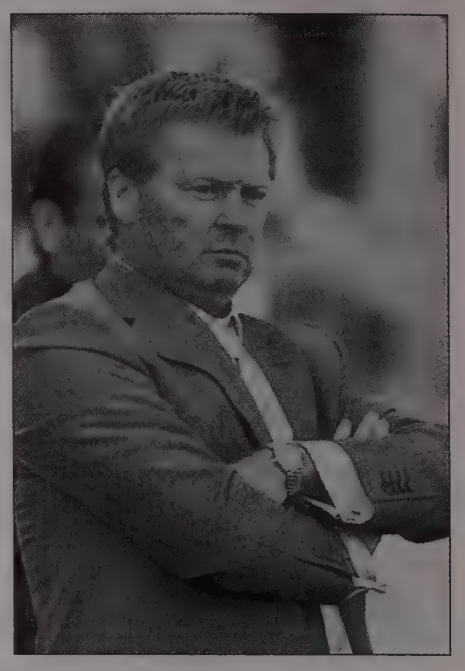
"It was humiliating and embarrassing," said Tesla, a TFC fan who had witnessed the game. "DC United is the worst team in [Major League Soccer]. And if TFC was hungry enough for the playoffs they could have beaten them."

The firings mark the end of a tumultuous four-year reign in Toronto for Johnston. Though he has guided the team since its inaugural year, the patience of fans has since run thin. Many have called this move one that was overdue by a season at least.

Given the fact that the TFC has failed to reach the playoffs in its three years of existence, and likely won't again this year, it is easy to see why this frustration has been building to a point of anger.

As for Preki, he was not an easy coach to play for. About halfway through his first season of coaching for the TFC, it appeared that his hardnosed coaching style strained relations with the team.

With the double firing, however, it seems as if the TFC might have found a second wind. In their first official game following the changes in head office and on the bench, the TFC won a rare road game against Houston on a last-minute free kick goal by captain Dwayne De Rosario and put the Reds up 2-1.


Mo Johnston, who was fired from his post as TFC's Director of Soccer on Sept. 14.

The TFC also drew a tie when it played a Confederation of North, Central American, and Caribbean Association of Football — or CONCACAF — game against the top-ranked Cruz Azul in Mexico.

Despite the fact that the TFC played strong while away, it came up short at its first home game.

Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment have recently revealed that they are raising season ticket prices for TFC games, in spite of their history and record so far.

The TFC will be back on home turf at BMO field this Tuesday Sept. 28 against Real Salt Lake in a CONCACAF game.

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Are the Raptors ready?

It was a big summer for Toronto's NBA team and, to the untrained eye, it looks as if they might stink for years

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Power forward Chris Bosh will be starting off the 2010–2011 season for the Miami Heat, and Raptor's General Manager Bryan Colangelo, who was basically hired to find players that would fit around Bosh as the cornerstone, is left with no foundation to build on — only pieces.

Simmering on the Raptors' backburner simultaneously with the Bosh situation is the debacle with Hedo Turkoglu and José Calderón, as well whether or not Andrea Bargnani will ever play like a number one pick should.

It may seem crazy, but the Raptors might not be as bad as everyone says they will — in the long run anyway.

Bosh leaving could actually be the best thing that's ever happened for Colangelo. To look at it from another perspective, the veteran GM finally gets to build a team from the ground up without inheriting any pieces from the tenures of predecessors. It's safe to say that this Raptors team has Colangelo's fingerprints all over it.

With Bosh gone, the first thing on the agenda for Colangelo was to take care of the Turkoglu debacle. It was always a bit of a conundrum as to how Turkoglu, a ball-dominating forward, could coexist with Calderón, a ball-dominating point guard. Both players need to control the rock, and are essentially invisible on the court without the ball.

Colangelo's initial solution to the problem was to get rid of both of them, and it almost worked. While Turkoglu was sent to the Phoenix Suns for Leandro Barbosa and Dwayne Jones, Calderón and Reggie Evans were dealt to the Charlotte Bobcats for Tyson Chandler and Boris Diaw, until Bobcats owner Michael Jordan nixed the deal.

While Raptors fans cried bloody murder, however, Jordan's cowardly move may have proven to be a blessing in disguise for the Raptors.

It's no secret that when Jarrett Jack assumed the point guard role for the Raptors, Turkoglu began playing better. But Jack failed to establish the same cohesion with the second unit as Calderón did, and this season Amir Johnson, DeMar DeRozan, and Sonny Weems will most likely be opening-day starters. These players are the future of the team, and if Calderón gets them playing at their maximum potential, it's clear that keeping Calderón was wise.

While there are those in the pro-Jack camp who argue that Calderón's defense is a huge liability — so much so that he shouldn't start — others say that his offensive output outweighs his disadvantage on defense.

Prior to the 2008–2009 season, no one really cared about Calderón's defensive issues because he had guys like Morris Peterson and Anthony Parker guarding the perimeter, and Bosh, Bargnani, and Jorge Garbajosa to protect the paint. Calderón's defense was exposed when over the past few seasons Jason Kapono and Marco Belinelli were expected to help whenever he was beat by his man.

But the real problem for the Raptors' defense is going to be the interior. While Bargnani is solid when it comes to one-on-one, his help is severely lacking.

The Raptors do have an advantage that not too many other teams do though — and that's depth. Their second unit will be one of the better ones in the league this season, and if Toronto has anywhere near a .500 season, it will be because of their bench.

Although the high-flying starting unit had tons of energy, it's nothing compared to the adrenaline rush that is the Raptors bench. Jack and Evans will provide tenacious defense, while Barbosa and Linas Kleiza will handle the scoring. Rookie Ed Davis can only benefit from playing with veterans who are both defensive and offensive catalysts, never mind the fact that he has Jay Triano as his coach.

Yes, Triano has some difficulty grasping the idea of how to run a proper rotation, putting playmakers Jack, Calderón, and Turkoglu on the floor without enough play-finishers in crunch time. But the numbers don't lie.

Ever since Triano joined the coaching staff, every player on the team who played significant minutes saw increases in their production. Bosh and Bargnani's points, rebounds, and blocks steadily improved season after season.

There is no arguing that Triano's greatest coaching skill is player development and anyone who has played under him will agree. Johnson, DeRozan, Weems, and Davis can profit from having him as a mentor. Mike Krzyzewski named him assistant coach to U.S.A. Basketball precisely for his abilities in player growth and maturity as well as his knack for Xs and Os.

At the end of the season, though, what it all comes down to is wins and losses, and the Raptors are still one franchise player away from being a playoff contender.

Toronto's home team isn't going to have the greatest of seasons, but at least there's going to be a chance to watch their ability to rebound.



The Raptors, who will be going into training camp (top), are dealing with restructuring after retaining José Calderón (bottom left) and trading Hedo Turkoglu (bottom right).



From left to right: Nick Nikon, Simon Nassar, Kim Wong, Andrew Gillis, and Ariel Garneau are working to bring powderpuff football to U of T. *PATRICK YAN*

Ariel Garneau
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A group of sports-savvy students at the University of Toronto are putting together a powderpuff football team.

The powderpuff initiative, once it's fully up and running, will provide U of T students with a competitive female flag football team to compete in Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

Powderpuff football — or flag football — has been an intramural sport for several years here at U of T, and draws on a large cast of colleges and faculties for its players. Despite the strong intramural league, the university has never had an official team to send to tournaments.

To break into Ontario University Athletics, a group of dedicated Varsity Blues football and rugby players are putting together a powderpuff football team to participate in a three-day tournament hosted by Laurier this February. They will be drawing on the incredibly talented and motivated pool of intramural players as well as tapping into the frosh population.

The university has a proud heritage of supporting athletics at all levels, and Patrick Yan, Commissioner and CEO of the powderpuff team, has complete faith in the project as it goes forward because of the "persistent and hardworking executive council, and the interest shown by current female students at U of T."

Powderpuff football — and yes, it is actually named after the cosmetic applicator — got its start in the 1970s at a Connecticut high school. The athletic director at the time wanted to integrate more girls into sports.

And contrary to popular belief, powderpuff football is a great way to break stereotypes, "especially if we play hard, train hard, and play to win," said Kimberly Wong, Communications Director and Universtiy of St. Michael's College intramural flag football player. "It's also a great way to stay active and meet different people who attend the same school."

If you'd like to play this year, contact patrick.yan@utoronto.ca.

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CLASSES:

UTMIX Salsa Dance Class for Beginners
The U of T Association of Mixed Entertainment and Socialization is offering salsa dances classes on Mondays. You will learn the basics of salsa, and by the end of the classes will not only learn how to dance, but will also have a chance to perform as a part of a dance crew.

- *Mondays starting September 27th until November 29th at 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*
- *International Student Centre, Room 102 (33 St. George Street)*
- *$5 to drop in, $35 per term*

CLUB EVENTS:

Centre for Women and Trans People Volunteer Orientation Meeting
Looking for a fun & friendly place to volunteer? Sign up this month to join this queer-positive, trans-inclusive feminist space! Go to the orientation meeting to find out more. The Centre for Women and Trans People advocates on issues of racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, classism, ableism, and ageism.

- *September 28th at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People, Room 100 (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free!*

Refugee Camp in the Heart of Campus
Hosted by friends of Medecins sans Frontieres (U of T Chapter), a mock refugee camp will be created on Hart House Circle to raise awareness of the lives of 42 million refugees/ internally displaced persons uprooted by war and conflict around the world. An overnight campout will follow.

- *October 1st, all day*
- *Hart House Circle*
- *Free!*

Concerts:

Matt Newton at Hart House
Ottawa-raised and Toronto-based pianist Matt Newton comes to Hart House for this season's first evening in a series of free concerts. The band performs a wide spectrum of music. As well as some favourite jazz standards, they will be playing original music from Newton's recent and critically acclaimed CD "Push."

- *October 1st at 9 p.m.*
- *Hart House Arbour Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

FESTIVALS:

Global Cabaret Festival

The Global Cabaret Festival features Canada's most dynamic and exciting performers for a weekend-long festival bursting with songs, stories and ideas. The Young Centre for the Performing Arts is transformed into four intimate club venues. Soulpepper kicks off the weekend, which will feature such musicians as Sarah Slean and Denzal Sinclaire.

- *Various times starting September 30th*
- *Young Centre for the Performing Arts (55 Mill Street, Building 49)*
- *$20 per concert, check www.globalcabaret.ca for details*

Pillars of Fire
St. Thomas' Anglican Church is participating in Nuit Blanche by presenting Pillars of Fire, features talented visual artists, among them students from the Ontario College of Art and Design, as well as singers, solo instrumentalists and ensembles. See video, installation, performance and interactive artworks.

- *October 2nd at 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.*
- *St. Thomas' Anglican Church (383 Huron Street)*
- *Free!*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

MOVIES:

Essential Cinema Screenings

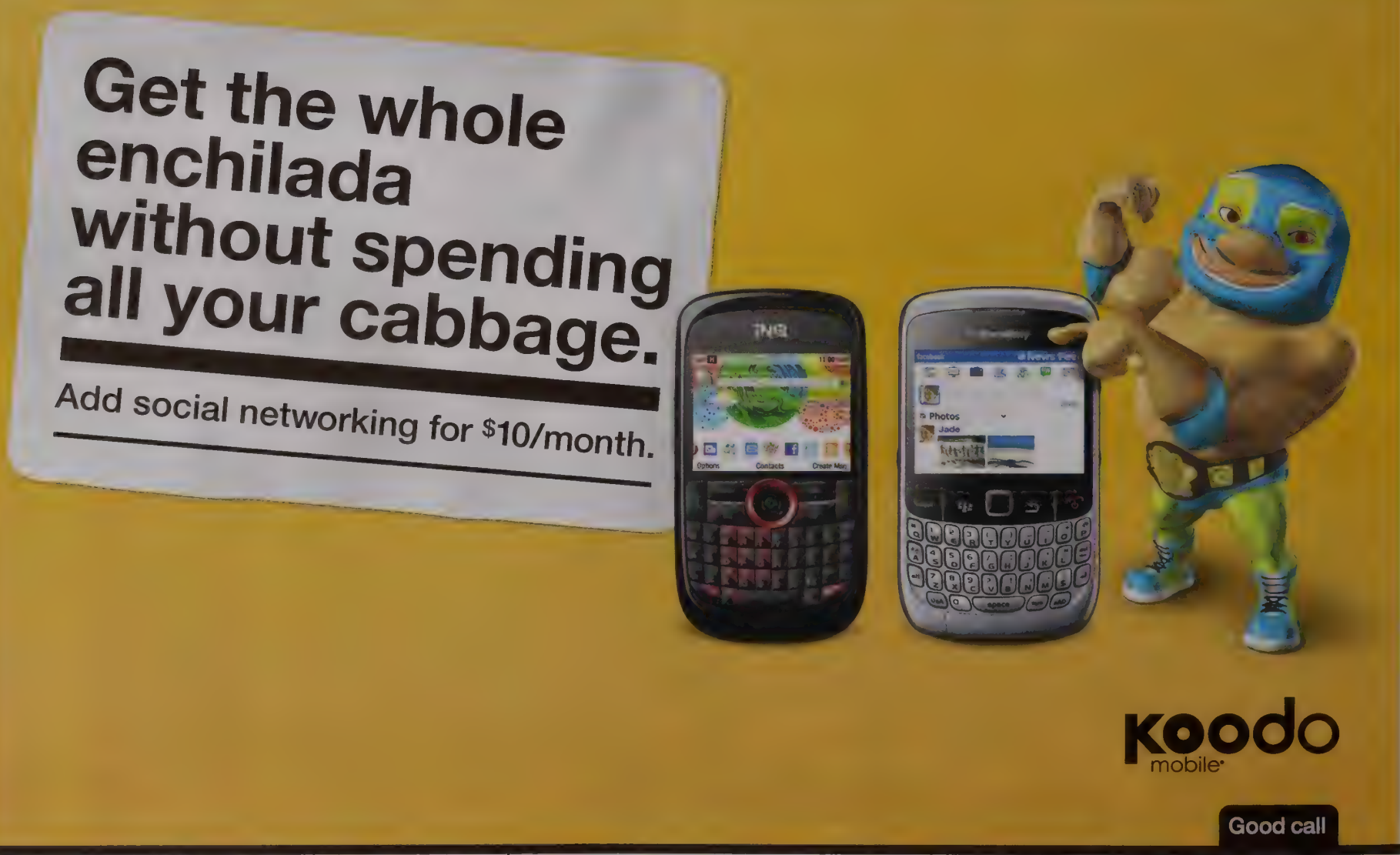
This year, TIFF screens its "Essential 100" list, a collection of classic cinema masterpieces considered required viewing for any film lover. Among those films playing at the TIFF Bell Lightbox this week are "Citizen Kane", "L'Avventura", and "Breathless". Be sure to check them out, and bring your student ID!

- *Various dates and showtimes, check www.tiff.net*
- *TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King Street West)*
- *$9.50 per ticket with student ID*

SHOWS:

[title of show]
[title of show] is a musical comedy based on writing a musical. It follows two writers on a journey to write something for the New York Musical Theatre Festival in a short span of time. The pair long to create something that will make a mark, and enlist a group of friends to help.

- *Various showtimes until October 10th*
- *Toronto Centre for the Arts (5040 Yonge Street)*
- *$25*



Can the NDP go past 43 seats? p8
Comment

The sad truth about smoking p17
Science

U of T's Formula One team takes to the track p23
Sports

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"The Borscht Belt Philip Roth. The child of Chaplin, Groucho, and S.J. Perelman. The neurotic Jewish pseudo-intellectual from Manhattan." – Will Sloan **p11**

Vol. CXXXI
4 October 2010

CAMPUS ARREST

G20-related arrest follows U of T event

Jaroslava Avila arrested en route to Queen's Park subway station

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A University of Toronto political science student was arrested Wednesday evening after an on-campus event hosted organized by Health For All.

Jaroslava Avila, 23, was arrested on three counts of conspiracy to commit an indictable offence. Her lawyer, Davin Charney, said she is accused of being one of the G20 protest organizers and that the Crown is "trying to connect her with people smashing windows" during the June 27 weekend.

"Cutting Deeper: The Age of Austerity and Implications for Health" was hosted in the Fitzgerald Building at 150 College St. The event was advertised on the Community Solidarity Network website.

Avila is described by Community Solidarity Network (formerly Toronto Community Mobilization Network) as a "prominent indigenous rights activists [sic]."

Initial reports stated she was arrested outside Queen's Park subway station, but Charney said the arrest took place outside of the building around 10 p.m. by about 10 plain-clothes police officers.

"From what I understand, they waited for her to leave the event, instead of doing the arrest in a public place," said Charney, adding that Avila's mother was present at the arrest.

Avila appeared in court Thursday morning at the College Park

SEE **'ARREST'** – PG 2



REMI CARREIRO/THE VARSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Issues defined at second town hall

Dean says plan not definite, open to alternatives

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

Grievances continued to be voiced by students and faculty at the second town hall hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Science. The event, held by Dean Meric Gertler, was organized to solicit feedback on the 40-page academic plan published in June.

In similar fashion to the first town hall held on September 23, Gertler opened with a presentation on his 2010-2015 plan before inviting questions and comments from the half-full auditorium at OISE. The queue for questions formed before the event started. Guests discussed the process that led to the plan's creation, the proposed School of Languages and Literatures, and the fate of interdisciplinary and regional studies.

Faculty and students who attended criticized the proposed plan for being launched without properly consulting faculty, staff, and students. Mohammad Tavokoil, faculty member of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, claimed that disrespect for shared governance has eroded faculty confidence of the university.

"[This process] has undermined the authority of the chairs and the program directors, has demoralized the faculty, and has created a great deal of uncertainty amongst our students, staff, librarians, and donors," said Tabokoil.

Gertler responded by saying he viewed the discussions that began in September as "an opportunity to rebuild the kind of community spirit and trust within the faculty, so that people do feel that they are fully engaged in the process of plan-making."

Gertler reaffirmed that initial timelines set forth in the plan would be delayed and that his faculty will give the consultation process "as much time as is needed in order for people to feel that they have had adequate opportunity to express themselves." Gertler invited suggestions for alternatives to make the faculty "avoid having to make the same structural changes" proposed in the plan.

UTSU VP University Affairs Maria Galvez criticized the consultation process. "Asking for, listening to, and then ignoring our concerns is not what I would call consultation," she said, mirroring UTSU President Adam Awad's statement from the previous town hall that the lack of student consultation was insulting.

In response to Galvez, Gertler claimed consultation already took place during this spring's department-

SEE **'TOWN HALL'** – PG 7

U OF T FOOTBALL

Blues trounce Ottawa

First victory over Gee-Gees since 1972

Roberta Bell
SPORTS EDITOR

It would be hard to pinpoint who was caught most off-guard by this one.

See, the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, easily one of the most farcical football teams in the OUA these past few years, sent the media into a frenzy, their coaches into shock, and the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees home in a state of embarrassment Saturday afternoon at Varsity Stadium.

No one expected the Blues, notorious for their appalling league record, to squash the second best team in Canada 40–35 in their second consecutive win of the season.

In fact, when the Gee-Gees came to town last year, they slammed the Blues and went home with a 35–15 win to their name and are 11–0 over

SEE **'BIG WIN'** – PG20



DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
4°C to 11°C	6°C to 13°C	5°C to 17°C	8°C to 16°C	9°C to 18°C

FEATURE

Looking forward, looking back: Science for Peace p15

SCIENCE

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'ARREST' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

courthouse. Charney said she will appear in court tomorrow and that her proceedings are under a publication ban. He claimed Avila has no criminal record.

Jessica Denyer, a member of Community Solidarity Network, described the arrest as a part of "continuing harassment" by the police against community organizers.

"I think people should continue to be outraged at the way police are handling the G20," said Charney, who alleged that police continue to arrest protestors and organizers to justify their handling of the summit.

Last Friday, community organizer Alex Hundert was arrested for allegedly breaching bail conditions after participating in a panel on the G20 at Ryerson University.

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CAMPUS CLUBS

Mock refugee camp raises awareness on campus

Club aims to raise awareness of 42 million refugees around the world

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

Displaced peoples found their home at Hart House Circle on Friday. Medecins sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders U of T set up a mock refugee camp to raise awareness about the living conditions of the 42 million refugees and internally displaces persons around the world.

"We're trying to inspire students to get involved and take on bigger issues," said Jennifer Siu, executive director of Friends of MSF U of T. "A lot of people get consumed in their own world. It's a way to learn...it gives you a better perspective."

The setup included a registration tent, nutrition tent, latrine, water purification system, medical tent, and a two-by-six foot model tent.

The medical tent detailed the main diseases found in the camps, with volunteers demonstrating intubation on a dummy, as well as how to suture. The nutrition tent focused on malnourishment. Volunteers contrasted what a Canadian could eat in a day with the small packages of "plumpy" nuts, oral rehydration salts, and therapeutic milk that refugees would have access to. The nuts, which taste like thick peanut butter, were available to sample.

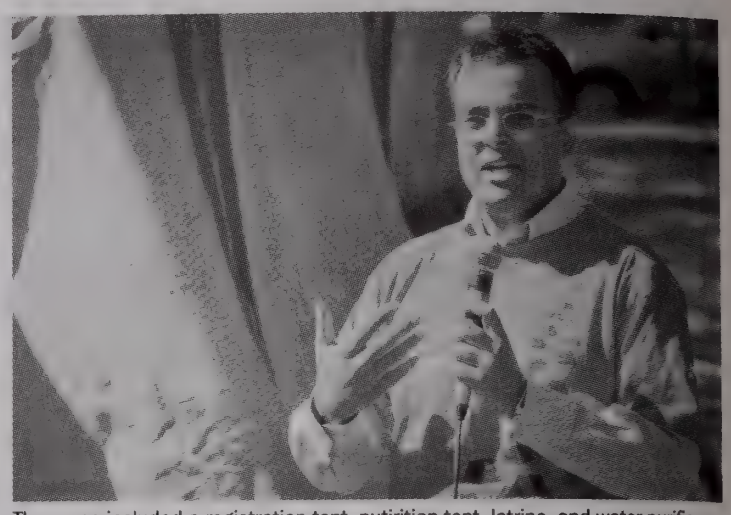
The water-purification system involved water moving through coal to be filtered and cleaned as much as possible.

MSF is a humanitarian aid NGO that was set up in 1971. It provides healthcare and medical training to countries affected by natural disasters, wars, or endemic diseases. They focus on areas with little or no medical infrastructure.

Nancy Graham, one of the speakers at the event, returned recently from working in Internally Displaced Persons camps in the north of Sri Lanka. She described a regular day in a camp. People will usually line up to use the latrine in the morning. Girls and young women will go out to fetch water, and young girls will line up with their ration cards to get food for their families.

"When people live in refugee camps [for long durations] you start seeing the incredible resilience of people to adapt to their circumstances," Graham said. She referenced the development of petty trade, dance, art, and small kitchen gardens.

Saerom Youn, Friends of MSF U of T's communications director, says she thinks people can sometimes be "stuck in their own clam." She got involved with the club after watching James Orbinski's *Triage*. "His rage for the indifference the Western countries showed touched me...I felt ashamed."



The camp included a registration tent, nutirition tent, latrine, and water purification tent. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Raghu Venugopal, a Toronto-based emergency physician, has worked in the field in Burundi, Tanzania, the Balkans, and the West Bank. Although MSF is a neutral organization, he says there are situations where he places himself as a doctor first, and is not afraid to question the set rules. "The social movement is about resistance... resisting the fact that people live in indignity and suffering."

Safa Shahkhalili, a second year Anthropology student, says she is appreciative of events slike this because they help to inform people who cannot go out into the field.

The event ended with an overnight camp-out, visited by Leo Johnson. Johnson, currently in his fourth year at McMaster, was a refugee who fled Liberia during the civil war. The camp-out included films, discussions and activities to learn more about the lives of displaced people. Each member was encouraged to raise $25 through a pledge form. The goal was $3000.

WORK PLACEMENTS

Record checks delay student placements

Paramedical students may be forced to hold off fieldwork as the RCMP lags procedure

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY STAFF

UTSC paramedical students in the joint program with Centennial College are at risk of delaying their field placements as regulatory changes in criminal record checks create setbacks.

Students are required to complete placements in areas including paramedicine, social work, and nursing. Working in these areas requires vulnerable sector verification to confirm that individuals are free of crimes such as sexual assault.

"Personally, I am at risk of losing or at least significantly delaying my field placement. I have yet to receive my record check back despite the Toronto Police Service stating I would have my form by last week," said Justin Pears, a paramedicine student waiting for his clearance forms to arrive.

Pears said he applied for his record check at the beginning of July after calling [Toronto Police Service] to ask how long it would take to obtain the document. "The individual I spoke with told me it would be four to six weeks."

Students were asked to have their records before September 9 but dated after August 1. This requirement, according to Pears, made things tricky. "Many of the students in my program are in the same boat and without the form, we can't do any field work. This makes obtaining our hours required to complete the program far more difficult and strenuous."

Previously, third-party agencies were permitted to do vulnerable sector checks; but following regulation change in March to make the procedure more rigorous, processing submissions has been restricted to the RCMP. Authorities were concerned that the old system created a loophole for pardoned sex offenders to get clear checks under a new name.

According to the RCMP's website, vulnerable sector checks could take up to 120 days to obtain. Before processing submissions, criminal files must be updated, the nature of any outstanding changes probed, and accordance with the Criminal Records Act ensured.

Further delay occurs if an individual has the same gender and date of birth as an existing pardoned sex offender.

"Students are getting caught in between different organizations with their own issues with clearance checks," said Walter Tavares, the paramedicine program supervisor at Centennial.

"The problem for paramedicine students at the moment is that there is a disconnect (intentional or not) between the service provider, Ministry of Education, and the placement agencies who are governed by the Ministry of Health."

Students were notified about the delay in the new system and were advised to apply in July. But some students applied even earlier. "I haven't really been affected by this change because I sent my police record check mid-June and got it back in eight weeks," said another paramedicine student Sev Nampi.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at St. George campus has also experienced some delays. Although students who applied in July probably have their results by now, dean of field education Eileen McKee said those who don't yet have their records are meanwhile assigned practicums that don't require vulnerable sector checks.

Students from outside of Toronto were not affected by the new regulation.

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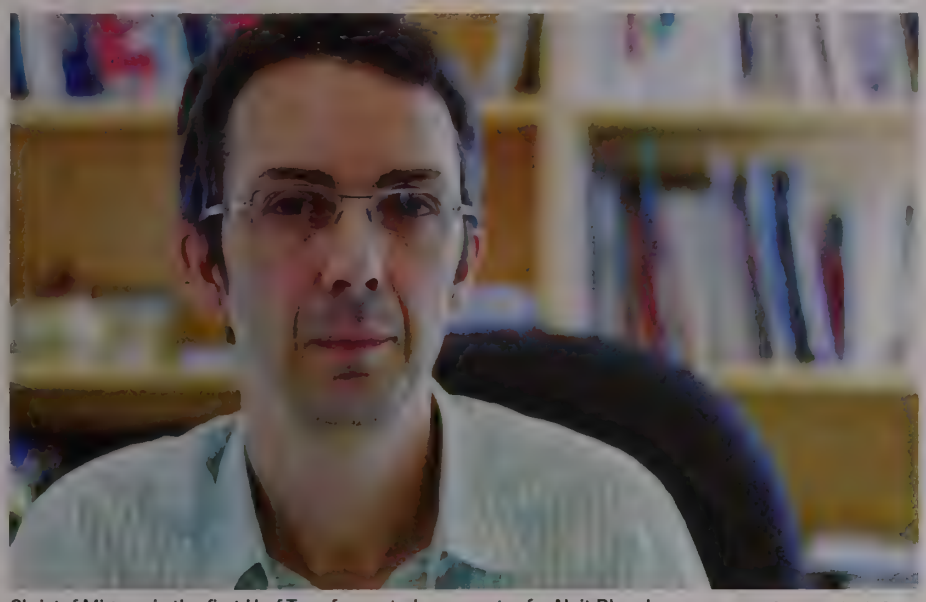
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NUIT BLANCHE

UTM prof curates Nuit Blanche

Exhibit evaluates whether all-night art event is worth the while

Amanda-Marie Quintino
VARSITY STAFF



Christof Migone is the first U of T professor to be a curator for Nuit Blanche. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

It takes a certain kind of man to pull an all-nighter that involves scurrying across Toronto's downtown core for 12 hours, tweaking and critiquing art. And Christof Migone, soft-spoken but intense, is certainly the man to do it. He did do it, in fact, on Saturday night.

Migone, curator of the University of Toronto Mississauga's Blackwood Gallery, is one of four curators selected to oversee this year's Nuit Blanche, a free contemporary art exhibit in Toronto. Taking a quick break from teaching and attending rehearsals last week, Migone spoke to The Varsity about his exhibit, *Should I Stay or Should I Go*.

"It can be taken many ways, but the initial inspiration was very much Nuit Blanche-specific," said Migone, a lecturer in UTM's Department of Visual Studies. "When you're at Nuit Blanche, you're in the midst of throngs of people. Do you decide to stay or do you go? Do you line up? How long do you line up? But obviously you can extend that to musings about your career, your degree if you're studying, your relationship. At any level, at any moment in time, as soon as you're conscious and you're an entity unto yourself, you're always deciding whether you should stay or you should go."

Between big crowds, long line-ups, lots of walking, scheduled performances, chilly winds, and all the pondering, the question to stay or go is a natural part of the Nuit Blanche experience. There has been some criticism in past years about the event being too crowded, too long, too big, and Migone decided to tap into those feelings and express them through his exhibit, making a negative into a positive.

Should I Stay or Should I Go took place in the Financial District (along Yonge St. from Queen to Front Sts.), starting at sunset on October 2 and ending at sunrise the next day. It explored "concepts of movement, gridlock, and mobility; responding to daily urban life and to Nuit Blanche as a mass event," Migone explained on the Scotiabank Nuit Blanche Toronto website. The exhibit consisted of 10 contemporary art projects commissioned by Migone.

The exhibit's highlights included an installation at Commerce Court by French artist Davide Balula involving a choreographed clock with 60 performance artists representing each second; *Wait Until You See This*, an installation where people lined up to see what was behind a curtain to discover it was just an alley; and *The Task*, which required Toronto photographer Chris Shepherd to repeatedly stack and unstack 15 tonnes of concrete blocks.

Migone, who claims he tends to gravitate towards a mix of different art forms, has curated a variety of events over the past decade including stuttermouthface (2002), Disquiet (2005), START (2007), and STOP (2008). His installations have been exhibited at the Banff Centre, Rotterdam Film Festival, Gallery 101, Art Lab, eyelevel gallery, Forest City Gallery, Studio 5 Beekman, Mercer Union, and CCS Bard. He credits his past curating experience and current work at the Blackwood Gallery for his preparedness throughout Nuit Blanche.

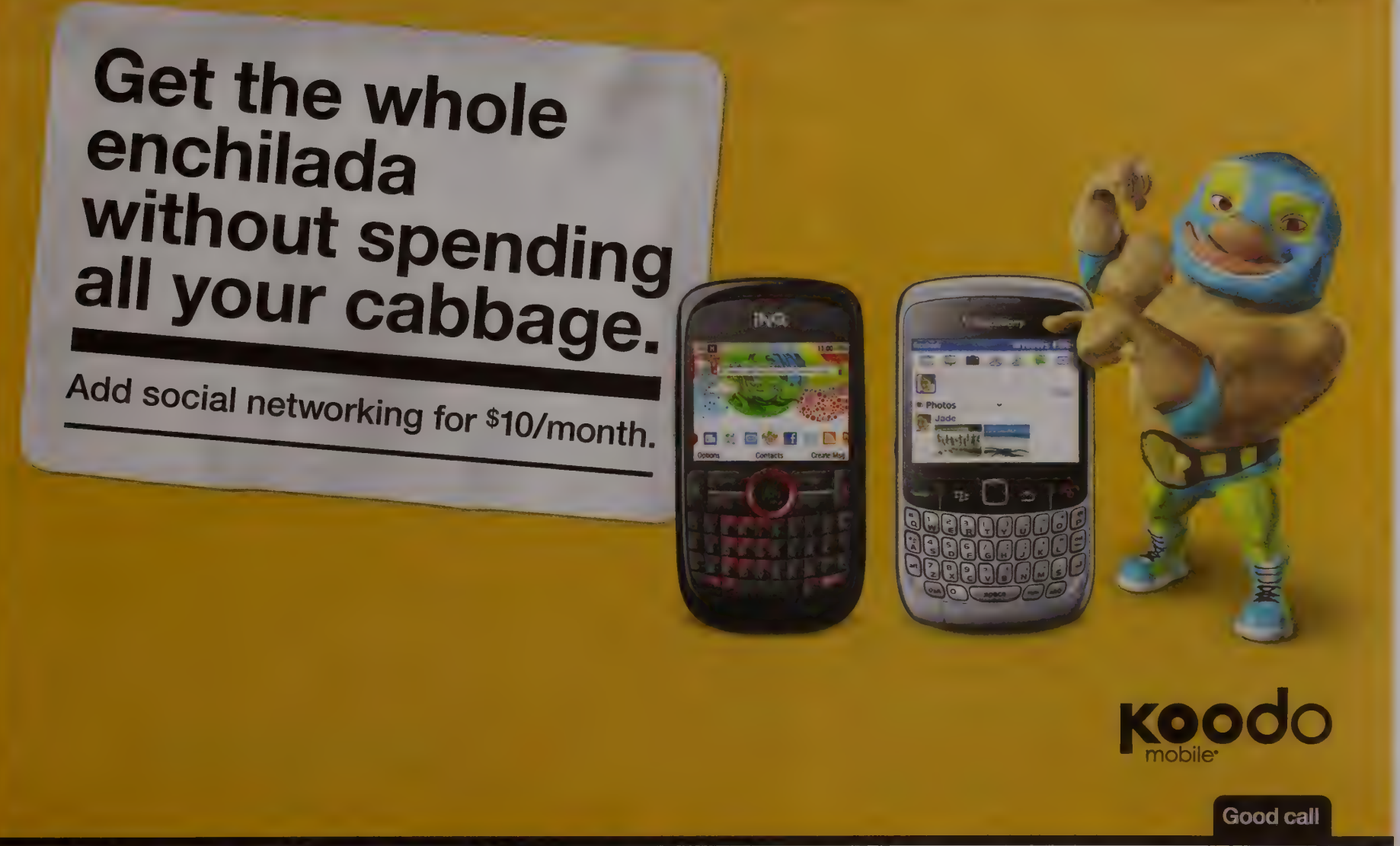
"The Blackwood Gallery is a much smaller team and I have to be involved in a lot more aspects of what it takes to put out an exhibition," he explained, peering through his silver-rimmed glasses. "So not only do I curate, but I figure out the financing and the technical stuff sometimes. But in this case, I could just really concentrate on curating and didn't really have to deal with stuff like where the objector was going to come from and how much it would cost. Also, the city has a great team and this is the fifth year so they know what they're up against."

In his role as director and curator, Migone manages the gallery's staff, balances the books, and works to ensure the gallery's mandate to offer a contemporary art presence at UTM is fulfilled.

Recognizing Migone's multidisciplinary talents, the City of Toronto invited him to submit a proposal for Nuit Blanche 2010, which was quickly accepted.

"I'm the first curator from the University of Toronto to do Nuit Blanche," Migone mentioned modestly. "It is a very strange event because you're planning for over a year, you only get to set up the night before in most places since most of them are in the business district and you can't really do it Monday to Friday 9 to 5, and you only have 12 hours to make it happen. There's not really any room for mistakes. If a projector fails, you have to have a backup so it

SEE **'MIGONE'** – PG 7



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Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

ACADEMIC ENDOWMENTS

New book criticizes U of T fundraising

Authors cite university as example of corporate influence

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



Neil Brooks and Linda McQuaig answer questions at a Q&A session at Ryerson last Tuesday. DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/THE VARSITY

In 2007, a group of U of T professors wanted to name the health studies program after Tommy Douglas, commonly referred to as the father of Canada's public health care program. Administration told them to raise $2 million.

The Trouble with Billionaires is a 250-page book published last month and written by *Toronto Star* columnist Linda McQuaig and Osgoode Hall tax law professor Neil Brooks.

Their main idea: creative tax restructuring can replace a culture of gluttony. McQuaig and Brooks argue that public funding has eroded in the past three decades, leading to a profit-driven society where some are massively rich while others have no power.

Seven pages of the book focus on U of T, which were summarized in an abridged excerpt in the Star and discussed in a Wall Street Journal blog. Using U of T as an example, the two argue that universities and other public institutions, under-funded by governments, are forced to seek private sector funding, resulting in influence and praise for the rich.

The co-authors cite an increasing number of buildings being named after donors as opposed to intellectuals. Their prime example involves the new Munk School of Global Affairs.

Earlier this year, businessman Peter Munk, the founder of mining company Barrick Gold, announced a $35 million donation enabling U of T to open the school. But his donation will only be $19 million or less after tax deductions, allowing for a school to be named after him despite only funding less than a third of its $66 million cost.

In multiple interviews, U of T administrators have stressed that academic freedom will not be compromised by such donations. But the co-authors insist future donors will be discouraged if research unfavourable to contributors is pursued.

McQuaig spoke with The Varsity about her concerns, claiming she saw a copy of the agreement between Munk and U of T after the book was sent to print.

"[It] indicated pretty clearly that Munk will, if he wants to, have some influence over the [School of Global Affairs]," alleged McQuaig. "In the agreement, it shows that the director has to report to the Munk ward every year, and kind of account for what's going on.

"A very significant [quantity] of the money that Munk is giving is going to be given down the road; U of T doesn't get it all right away. So that gives Munk a great deal of potential leeway because he has the right to withhold that payment if the school doesn't meet his standards."

David Palmer, VP advancement, the office that manages donations, wrote a rebuttal to the book's excerpt in the Star, criticizing its "utter disregard for the fact that philanthropy has been a cornerstone of public institutions" while ignoring the "lives and opportunities [being] transformed as a result of the selfless generosity of others.

"Every donor agreement includes this clause in its preamble: 'Whereas the parties affirm their mutual commitment to the University's Statement of Institutional Purpose, which includes a commitment to foster an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish, with vigilant protection for the rights of freedom of speech, academic freedom and freedom of research.'"

Last Tuesday, McQuaig and Brooks presented their arguments and responded to questions at an event held at Ryerson University.

"I did suggest the event to U of T as well, but they did not express interest," said Barbara Bower, the book's publicist. "Perhaps it was a clash of ideologies."

The university's spokesperson declined to respond to Bower's comment.

Biology professor Paul Hamel is quoted in the book as one of the organizers of the 2007 Tommy Douglas renaming campaign. The group was told they need $2 million in pledged donations in order for a renaming to be approved. Hamel lamented that U of T used to name its buildings after prominent intellectuals, "but now universities know that they have to reserve those places in order to help the funding."

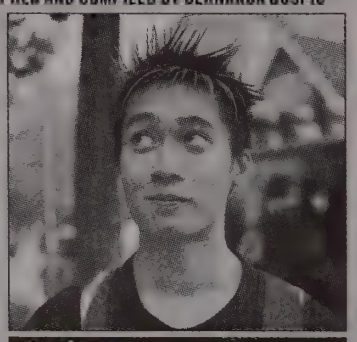
Hamel said his department wanted to name itself after Douglas to convey its social justice focus. He said donors with altruistic intentions should mimic Hal Jackman, a former U of T chancellor and continuous donor who has never had a building or program named after him.

Hamel admitted that universities are not receiving enough government funding. "I don't agree with their approach, but I understand it," he said.

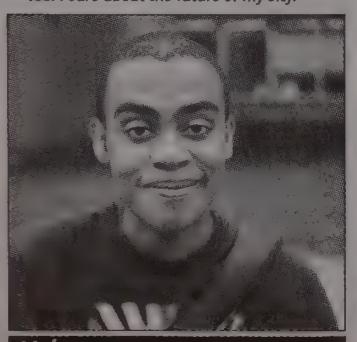
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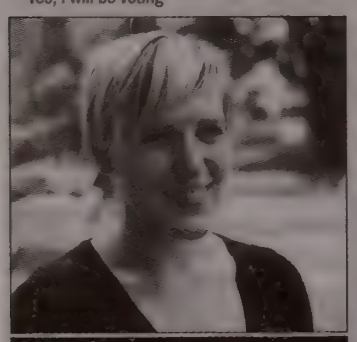
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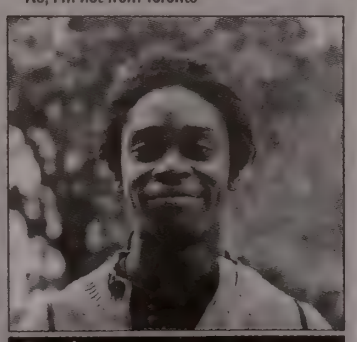

Barbara
1st Year Life Sciences,
"No. I'm not old enough."


Andrew
2nd Year Biology,
"Yes. I care about the future of my city."


Rayyan
2nd Year Human Biology,
"Yes, I will be voting"


Kyle
2nd Year Pharmacology,
"No, I'm not from Toronto"


Ronnie
2nd Year English,
"No. I haven't registered"


Dovi
4th Year French,
"Yes."

INTERNET BLACKOUT

Campus web access goes down

Kent Kuran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday between 3:42 p.m. and 8:37 p.m., the University of Toronto had no campus Internet access no email access off-campus. U of T Internet is provided by Cogent Communications.

"Cogent lost connectivity to one of the core routers in Toronto," said Janine Alexander, Director of Network Operations Center. "This in turn isolated our Toronto customers located behind the core router."

Alexander said that after many attempts to fix the problem, "it was decided to take the router down, remove several interface cards, and restore service one card at a time. One of the cards proved problematic and was replaced. This method was ultimately successful and stabilized the router."

Campus Internet and webmail users experienced intermittent or nonexistent access during the outage.

"This outage serves to underscore the university's reliance on Information Technology. Recognizing this fact, funding has recently been approved for a second, redundant gateway connection to the Internet, through an alternate ISP," said Patrick Hopewell, Director of Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions.

"Funding has also been approved for a number of other core network and wireless infrastructure capacity and reliability enhancements on all three campuses. This will greatly reduce the likelihood of future Internet connectivity outages once the redundant connection is in place."

FIRE RELIEF

U of T helps with Wellesley fire

Exam centre used to shelter displaced residents

Samya Kullab
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

U of T hosted tenants after a six-alarm fire at 200 Wellesley St. rendered 1,200 Toronto residents temporarily homeless on September 24.

U of T's exam centre at 255 McCaul St. was used to shelter some residents, as well as the Wellesley Community Centre, St. Michael's Hospital, and a Toronto Community Housing seniors building on Christie St.

The decision to lend the exam centre to the victims of the Wellesley fire incident came from Paul Young, Vice President of Research, who was the on-call executive at the time the fire broke out.

"U of T has a plan for eventualities like this," said Young, referring to the Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management Plan released in May 2009.

According to the plan, the role of on-call executive requires a senior representative of the university to be available at all times in the event that an emergency situation arises. The position rotates between university executives on a weekly basis. If the incident is non-life threatening and does not require the attention of the campus police, the on-call executive often handles it.

The Wellesley fire proved to be such an incident for Young; he was contacted by Toronto Community Housing for help.

"We didn't take very long to respond as the people involved were the most vulnerable," he said. "It was our civic duty and the decision was easily made. We were delighted we could help."

Students who had exams scheduled at 255 McCaul on Saturday, Sept. 25 were relocated to the Sanford Fleming Building.

"I went down there on Saturday morning and met with several people. The Red Cross and Social Services were there and had the beds set up. The children were sleeping and the parents were awake. Donuts and coffee were in supply," he said. "There was some rearranging of things because of the exam scheduled there, but the students were great and agreed to move."

The 100 or so residents were moved from the exam centre on Wednesday to alternative locations.

Firefighters have described the incident as one the worst apartment fires they have seen. Fourteen people were hospitalized including three children after the fire broke out at 5:00 p.m.

The apartment building, which consists of 711 living units is located in the centre of St. James Town, Canada's most densely populated community.

According to a Toronto Star report, the fire is believed to have started in unit 2424, belonging to tenant Stephen Vassilev.

Vassilev, who said his apartment was full of law books and legal papers pertaining to a dispute over 18 townhouses he once owned in Elliot Lake, suggested the fire was a result of arson.

As of Friday, Oct. 1, tenants were allowed back to their homes in groups. The first groups comprised of 200 tenants. It is expected that the second group scheduled will include 140 tenants.

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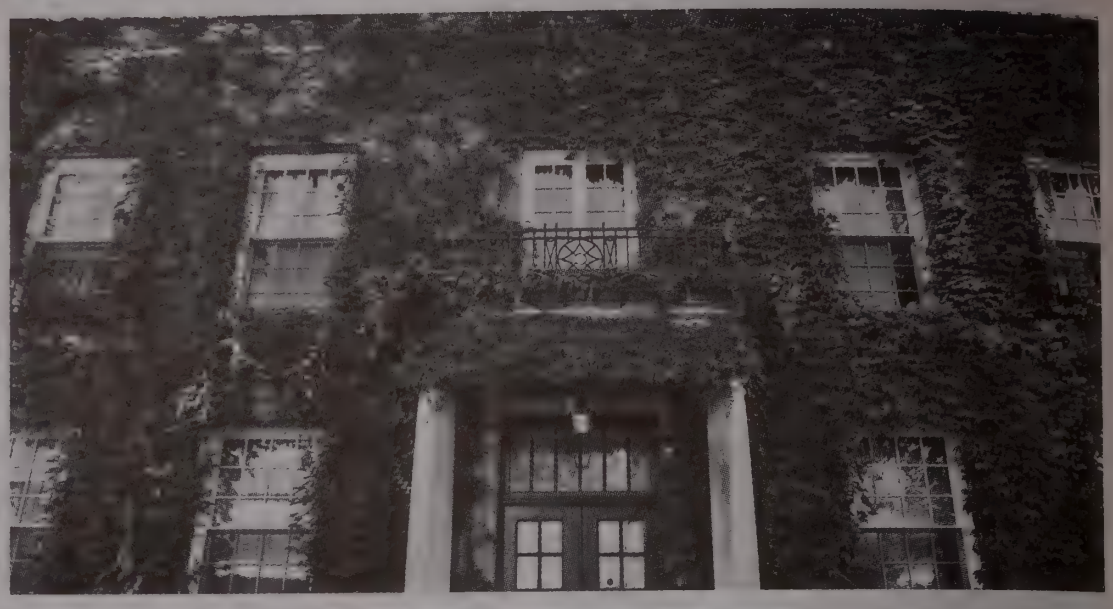
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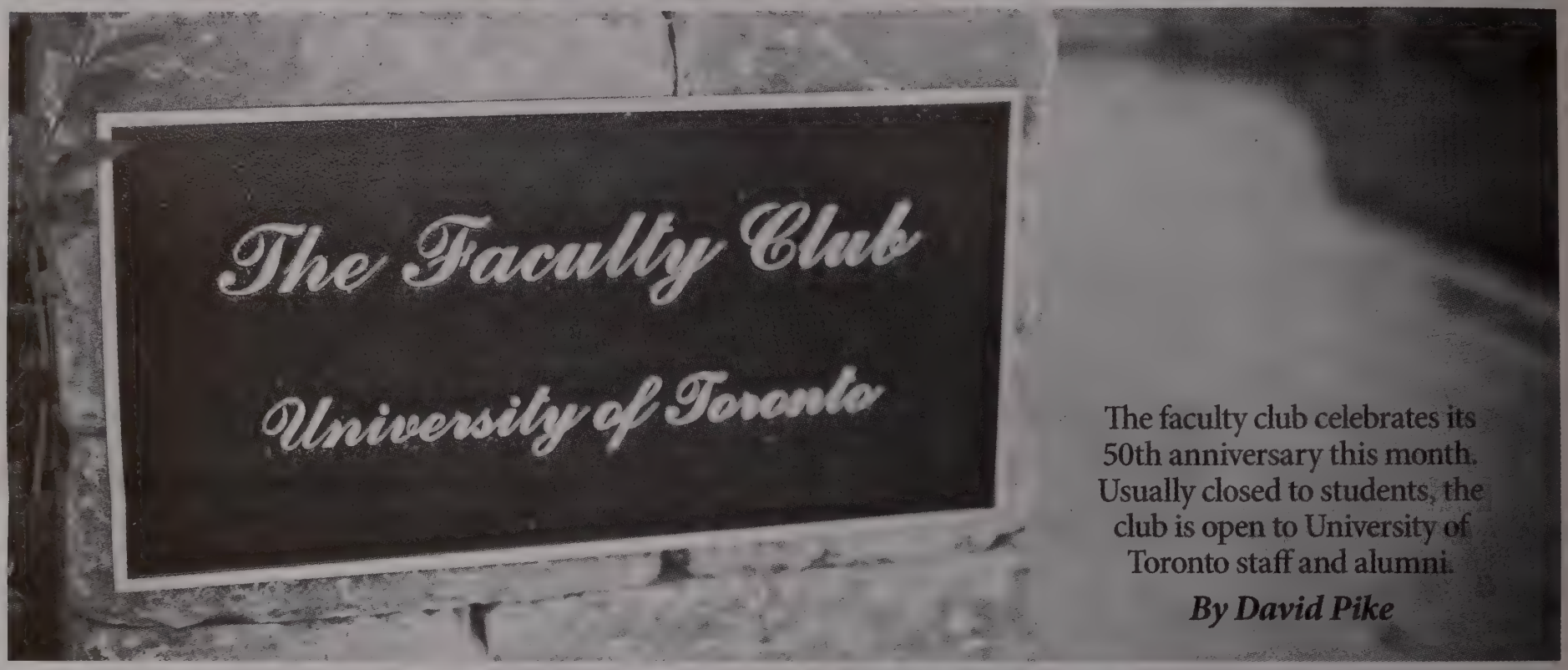




THE IVORY TOWER: U OF T'S SECRET SPACES







The faculty club celebrates its 50th anniversary this month. Usually closed to students, the club is open to University of Toronto staff and alumni.

By David Pike





U OF T RANKINGS

Rotman top business school in Canada

Dean aims to continue to improve global reputation

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY STAFF

"We are one of the most innovative business schools on the planet and recognized as such," said Roger Martin, Dean of the Rotman School of Management. Martin's comments come after the Financial Times ranked the school 45th among the top MBA programs in the world, placing it above all the others in Canada.

Martin attributes part of this success to staying ahead of the curve. "At a time when business is changing and the need for innovation in the business sector is high, most business schools are sticking to traditional content and pedagogy," said Martin. "Instead, we are innovating in both areas.

"We are teaching Integrative Thinking and Business Design so that our students learn a genuinely new and better way of thinking. We are producing creative problem framers and solvers, not simply analysts. It is a very exciting time for business education and we are happy to be a part of inventing the future of the MBA."

Martin claims that the recession in the U.S. has helped Rotman to attract top talent from American schools. "The U.S. recession has caused a number of American business schools to impose faculty hiring freezes. This has created a more favourable opportunity for hiring young scholars from US PhD programs than might normally be the case."

"I like that [Rotman] is growing rapidly because such growth creates space for creativity and innovation in how we teach," said associate professor of strategy Sarah Kaplan. Kaplan joined Rotman from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, one of the top business academies in the world. "I joined the Rotman School because I was attracted to the focus in integrative thinking and the school's desire to innovate in the MBA curriculum."

Kaplan adds that the Canadian economy might also attract more competitive students. "The strength of the Canadian economy relative to other economies may be a reason more students from around the world might be interested in coming to Canada and therefore to Rotman."

Martin is quick to emphasize that being the top business school in Canada is just the beginning for Rotman. "First, I don't care how we rate in Canada. Our goal is, and the goal of great Canadian organizations should be, to be globally competitive. So our focus is global. Second, the rankings are useful in some senses and not in other ways.

"Every student or faculty member or recruiting corporation faces a different context and has different interests. Having a news organization add up a number of factors and come up with a singular ranking isn't the most useful thing for such a varied user base."

Martin goes on to praise the FT rankings, which he claims is "highly transparent" and publishes 20 categories for 100 schools, creating a total of 2000 data points.

Yet Kaplan claimed that the program's direction is not affected by metrics. "So, while the school pays attention to rankings, it isn't governed by them. We are always trying to do better, but doing better means executing on our strategy to lead in innovating in the MBA curriculum. There are lots of ways to game the metrics. We don't do that, and we don't let our strategy get dragged around by rankings."

Kaplan notes that rankings of this kind are always problematic. "Rotman is a top Canadian business school but it is important to remember that the market for MBA's is global not national. Rotman [not only] competes with schools in the U.S. but also with [University of] London Business School in the UK, INSEAD in France, IESE in Spain and Bocconi in Italy, for example."

Kaplan added that the FT rankings may penalize Rotman because they take into account the salaries of students as they leave the program. "Because many students stay in Canada, and because Canadian salaries tend to be lower than in places like London, Paris or in the U.S., Rotman falls lower than it should in the rankings."

One of Rotman's challenges continues to be educating potential students and employers about the MBA program. "Schools have to work extra-hard to help students get jobs outside their home markets. We have focused very intensively over the past five years on raising the profile of the Rotman School and making contact with recruiters in markets that are important to the students — particularly New York, San Francisco, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai," said Martin.

"We are pleased with the progress. One measure of our growing international profile is that [the] Rotman School is mentioned in the international press an average of twice every day, up from about one a month a decade ago."

Rotman plans to expand the program by 50 per cent when its current expansion project is completed.

'TOWN HALL' - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

planning process. "When departments were being asked to formulate their own plans, there was a very important bottom-up consultation process that each unit engaged in and we made it very clear...that it was incumbent on them to consult widely."

Most of the opposition voiced surrounded the proposed amalgamation of area studies departments.

"Not a single one of the departments...recommended for disillusion had suggested in its [department planning] that a School of Languages and Literatures was a good idea," responded German department chair John Zilcosky. Chairs of each department slated for the school (Comparative Literature, German, East Asian, Spanish and Portuguese, and Slavic studies) sent an open letter to the faculty after learning about the proposal.

Zilcosky further criticized the faculty for only informing departments of the proposed plan in June. "The chairs, and in fact the entire departments, only heard about this proposed school for the very first time in late June, when we chairs were called to the dean's office and informed that we would be part of a working group to recommend how to implement the structure of this school."

"So far, there has been no demonstration that the so-called School of Languages and Literatures is intellectually and academically compelling. Moreover, there has been no demonstration that the new school is viable economically or budgetarily [sic]," said Ken Kawashima, undergraduate co-ordinator for East Asian Studies.

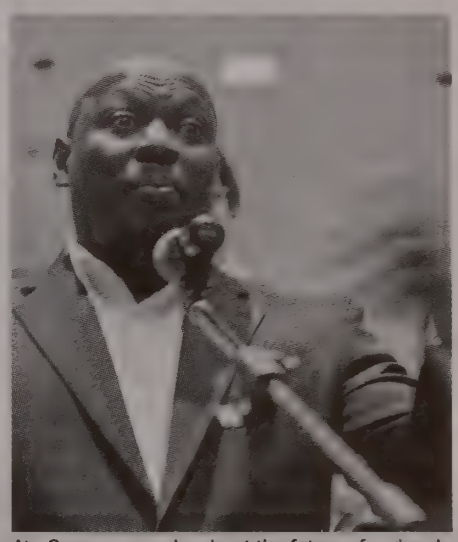
"I don't think that the consensus is clear that the notion of such schools is by definition intellectually bankrupt," said Gertler amid heckles from the crowd. Gertler was noncommittal as to whether the proposed school would ever be implemented. "There is...every possibility we will never have a School of Languages and Literatures if we can find other ways for the faculty to meet these particular needs and goals."

"You may be surprised, Dean Gertler, to note how many students in this university — and how many of your colleagues — are sincerely of the opinion that if there is a budgetary crisis here, then the best way to address [this is by looking at] what many people [see as] an overly top-heavy administration," said John Noyes, faculty member of the German department. Noyes was amongst a group of faculty who defended autonomous interdisciplinary programs while taking aim at the size of the U of T's largest faculty.

Kawashami took a more radical view, accusing the plan of attempting to marginalize students. "We can only conclude that the real intent of the plan is to create new administrative structures that will justify the already excessive number of administrative staff in the dean's office, promote directors, diminish the authority of departmental chairs, sideline and marginalize faculty staff, librarians, and students, and ultimately accelerate a monopolization of administrative authority based on vertical power structures."

Gertler was quick to defend the size of his faculty. "If you look at the numbers and make comparisons to other public sector agencies and the private sector, you'll find that this institution is incredibly thin and incredibly lean.

"We'd like to have a leaner operation, not one that has more layers...the whole rationale was trying to find ways to minimize the amount we spend on administration and maximize the amount that goes into the classroom."



Ato Quayson speaks about the future of regional studies at U of T. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

'MIGONE' - CONTINUED FROM PG 3

requires provisions for worst-case scenarios."

Although he attended rehearsals throughout the week leading up to the exhibit, Migone was aware of the possibility for things to not go smoothly.

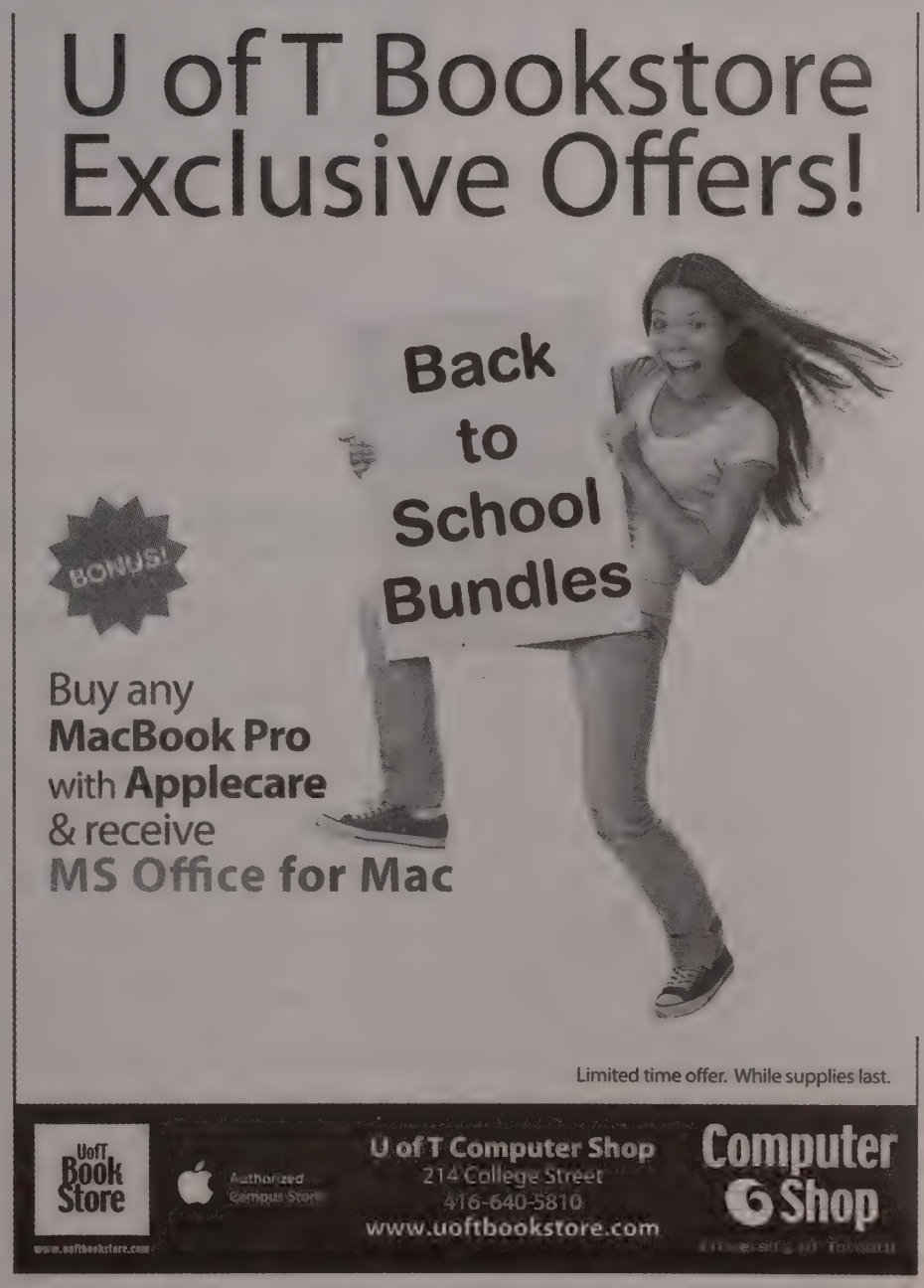
"A worst case scenario would be torrential rain, of course," he laughed, optimistically adding that provisions were taken in preparation for any and all possible interruptions. There were some chilly winds but all installations were able to operate as planned.

In order to perform his job as curator at the event, Migone needed to stay alert overnight. While sitting in his office with a tea kettle steaming in the corner, he told The Varsity he planned to stay up all night by "trying to get a couple of naps in here and there" and consuming plenty of caffeine.

His all-nighter not only helped to ensure the installations were carried out as envisioned, it inspired an assignment for students in his Introduction to Curatorial Practice course, requiring them to do a critical portrait of Nuit Blanche by recording their observations of the exhibit.

Not only an artist, professor, and curator, Migone is an academic writer who has extensively researched language, voice, bodies, performance, intimacy, complicity, and endurance. He is the co-editor of CD *Writing Aloud: The Sonics of Language* and has been published in several journals including *Aural Cultures*, *S:ON*, *Experimental Sound & Radio*, *Musicworks*, *Radio Rethink*, *Semiotext(e)*, *Angelaki*, *Esse*, and *Inter*. He graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1996 and earned a PhD from the Department of Performance Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2007.

Nuit Blanche, aptly meaning "sleepless night" in French, was first held in 2002 in Paris. The exhibit's mandate, no matter what city it is held in, is to make contemporary art accessible to large audiences, encouraging dialogue, engagement, and celebration within the community. Toronto was the first North American city to replicate the exhibit five years ago, and now Nuit Blanche is hosted in many cities across the globe including Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Halifax, Madrid, Montreal, New York City, and Tokyo.





This Moment In History

America The Great

An overview of the United States of America's dominance of the global economy after WWII

Nicholas Erwin-Longstaff
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

We live in a world that was created by the Second World War. The modern state system and the global economy are, even 60 years later, largely reflections of how power and wealth came to be distributed at the end of that conflict. This status quo has been threatened many times, but it has survived these challenges largely intact. Now, however, change has become inevitable. The scales of power are shifting. To understand the new world into which we are plunging, however, it is crucial to understand how the present global order came into being following World War II.

Central to this story is the role of the United States of America. It was American money that rebuilt the shattered post-war European economies following the war and it was American propaganda and military strength that confronted the spread of communism and socialism around the globe and promoted capitalism as the alternative. It has been American policy makers that took the most active steps to discourage third world countries from using trade barriers and regulations to develop or industrialize their domestic economies. Where necessary the United States has overthrown governments and invaded countries to maintain a basic status quo: raw resources and eventually unskilled manufactures flow from the poor countries to the wealthy ones, but almost always at prices set by the first world.

Of course there have always been challenges to the status quo. In the early postwar period the greatest challenge was posed by the Soviet Union. The awful human rights violations and mass murders of Lenin, Stalin, and the Communist Party were never a serious concern to American and European politicians. In private conversation President Harry Truman even praised Stalin as an honest man and both he and Winston Churchill agreed that Stalin was someone they could work with. Nor did the Soviet Union pose a real threat of world domination: the Soviet economy and military were utterly devastated following World War II. The Soviets sent money to friendly regimes and viciously crushed internal dissent, for instance Czechoslovakia in 1968. However, with the sole exception of Afghanistan in 1979, the Soviet Union never invaded a country that they did not already control. Thuggish and petty though the Soviet leadership were, they were never the apocalyptic threat as they were portrayed as Americans.



The modern state system and global economy are largely the result of how power and wealth were distributed after World War II.
CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/ THE VARSITY

Instead, the quest to secure natural resources and a good climate for investment has been the guiding aim. Despite all of this, however, the American empire has always been unique. Though it is the most powerful country in modern history, much of its influence has always been informal. America has shown little taste for outright colonization; its leaders much prefer to simply give local elites money and then let them worry about governing. Because of this, American power has always rested on the strength and dynamism of the American economy and American culture. Should these sources of "soft power" decline, the American world order would be threatened with disintegration.

If the American economy ceases to be the largest and most dynamic in the world then how long can American power be sustained? In next week's column we will examine the global implications of a declining American economy and the rapid rise of the East Asian economies.

The new New Democrats?

What the NDP should do to go above 43 seats in the next federal election

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

Without a doubt this has been a tough year for the federal New Democrats. Public frustration with the prorogation of Parliament was short-lived, as were the New Democrats' efforts to limit the prime minister's power to recommend that the Governor General prorogue Parliament. Their uncompromising position on how the government should disclose details of the transfer of detainees to Afghan authorities by the Canadian Forces, though principled, got them left out of the agreement eventually reached between the Conservatives, the Bloc, and the Liberals. Likewise, their outrage about the government's abolition of the mandatory long-form census was necessary, but hardly distinguished them from the Liberals.

However, there have also been signs of change for the New Democrats in the past year. Alongside the Bloc, they negotiated an agreement with the Conservatives to address the backlog of refugee claims. Jason Kenney, minister of citizenship and immigration, introduced a bill based on this agreement shortly before parliament rose in the spring. Recently, New Democratic leader Jack Layton showed that he was not only capable of negotiating compromise with other parties, but also within his own. Facing a caucus divided by a private member's bill supported by the government which would have abolished the long-gun registry, Layton worked hard to persuade a few of his rural MPs to switch their votes, which saved the registry. The prime minister has promised that he intends to attempt a repeal of the registry, which will once again call upon Layton's skills as a coalition-builder, both within his party and outside of it.

The New Democrats now face what will undoubtedly be another tough year. They will be continually confronted with the difficult choice of whether to cooperate with the government or whether to protest its decisions on principle. Both entail tremendous risks, but inaction is impossible. The year could be made much harder if there is an election. New Democrats are eager to see the party break the 43 seat threshold set under Ed Broadbent in the 1988 election. Not only would this prove that the party has moved decidedly out of the political wilderness of the 1990s, but it would lay the groundwork for the party's more long-term goal of replacing a much weakened Liberal party as the official opposition. The challenge is that gaining those seats is going to require the New Democrats to stretch beyond their political heartland: a mix of traditionally working-class urban ridings and resource-centric rural ridings.

They will not be able to do so by sticking to their traditional strategy. Instead, they should seek inspiration in provincial New Democratic governments in Manitoba and Nova Scotia, whose leaders attempt to strike a careful balance between fiscal responsibility and social programs. Doing so is easier said than done, but if the federal New Democrats could draw on the experience of provincial New Democratic parties, they might be able to craft a new kind of political position, one characterized by fiscal responsibility, not for its own sake, but for the sake of protecting the social safety net.

This kind of principled pragmatism has long defined the party, even when its policy documents were dominated more by the language of socialism than of social democracy. Federal New Democrats have long tried to use these kinds of arguments to respond to those who warn that an NDP government would be irresponsible, but they have never adopted it as a platform centre-piece. Every party preaches fiscal responsibility in one form or another, but what could differentiate the New Democrats from other parties is that their objection would be founded on principle rather than political opportunism.

Such a change in the New Democratic approach would hopefully take place as a part of a broader discussion about aspects of its policies which have long kept away voters in the kinds of ridings that New Democrats need to reach and exceed their 43-seat goal. These include the influence of trade unions on leadership selection and policy, and the party's position on Quebec sovereignty and on environmental issues. Only then can it hope to move from a party of protest to a party ready to help govern Canada.

Extending a helping hand

How we treat refugees gauges our respect for humanity and international law



JENNY KIM/THE VARSITY

Simon Capobianco
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

As the boatload of Tamil refugees approached this July, Amnesty International urged Canadians to "honour [our] international human rights obligations." Given that Tamils "suspected, even if wrongly, of being LTTE [Tamil Tigers] supporters have been routinely imprisoned and tortured" by the Sri Lankan Government, Amnesty was concerned "to hear some public comments that seem to follow this lead by labeling Tamil asylum seekers as 'terrorists.'"

The boat landed in British Columbia August 12, whereupon Public Safety Minister Vic Toews voiced his concern about "suspected human smugglers and terrorists" among the refugees, who intended to "abuse" our "very generous...refugee legal system." Likewise, Prime Minister Harper derided the refugees for seeking asylum "not through any normal arrival channel," while simultaneously threatening to "strengthen" laws to keep them out.

Harper is surely aware that the UN refugee convention states explicitly that "contracting states shall not impose penalties [on refugees] on account of their illegal entry" into the state party. He must also be aware that, as one distinguished Canadian refugee specialist points out, "there isn't a legal way [for refugees] to come to Canada."

Nevertheless, these comments affect public opinion — which likely prompted Amnesty's warning. 63 per cent of Canadians believed the Tamil ship "should have been turned back" to float the seas in squalor; 48 per cent would "deport [them] to their country of origin." Illustratively, Harper's misinformed statements about imaginary arrival channels are directly influent; 83 per cent of Canadians think "the migrants are jumping the immigration queue and should apply like any other foreigner" - as all other foreigners, surely, are fleeing the horror of ethnic war.

These are refugees, not migrants. After Colombo defeated the LTTE in 2009, it locked hundreds of thousands of displaced Tamils in overcrowded and unsanitary, detention camps, without basic human rights or basic legal safeguards and, of course, without charges, for an indefinite period of time. The internees faced constant "disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrest, and sexual violence," according to an Amnesty report. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon reported after visiting the camps that, although

SEE **'REFUGEES'** ON NEXT PAGE

Viva la revolución?

Cuba lies at a crossroads, and it should not choose to become a free-market society

Banafsheh Beizaei
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

When I went on a two-week backpacking trip to Cuba this past summer, the friend who accompanied me kept reminding me that this would be one of the last chances to visit the old Cuba. That is, Cuba before an imminent, inevitable, and fundamental shift of control and policies within the government and economy takes place. Cuba is rapidly changing, my friend believes, and had we decided to make our trip the next summer instead of this year, we might have stepped into a country very different from the one that has existed for the past 50 years.

Cuba is at a crossroads. Within the next few months, it will undergo sweeping economic reforms that will undermine all that has defined the Cuban system ever since the Revolution in 1958. A centrally-planned economy with public ownership of the means of production, and highly subsidized (and sometimes free) goods and services available to the entire population, have defined life in the Cuban Republic for the past 50 years. It seems that this economic system may gradually be replaced by a system much more adaptable to capitalism and much more open to the world market and foreign investments.

Less than a month ago, *Granma*, the official newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, published a statement announcing the new measures that will be taken as a means of dealing with the serious economic crisis facing the country. 500,000 public sector workers are going to lose their jobs in the next six months as part of government's plan to cut one million public sector jobs. In a country where the public sector makes up more than 85 per cent of the workforce and the total number of public sector employees adds up to 5 million, this could be devastating.

The 500,000 public workers who are going to be fired by April 2011 are expected to find jobs in the private sector. The private sector in Cuba is presently very small, with only 170,000 self-employed people having licenses for their work. The government, moreover, is planning to reduce social spending and subsidies, relax restrictions on foreign investment, and expand self-employment licenses.

So, is Cuba becoming capitalist? Is this the last we will see of the welfare state system that provided all Cubans with subsidized goods, housing, transportation, health care, and education? If so, what will the results be?

Let us be clear: Cuba is not China. Cuba cannot go the 'China Way.' It does not have the vast resources, the enormous territory, nor the labour pool found in China. Cuba is a small island with a small population and even fewer resources. If Cuba were to abandon the planned economy, allow foreign investment in all sectors, and let the world market penetrate the roots of its economy, it would inevitably suffer neo-colonial domination and consequent humiliation, much like it did prior to the revolution. Massive social injustices would follow, and all that was accomplished through decades of collective struggle and sacrifice on the part of the Cuban people against the brutal embargo of the United States after will simply be destroyed.

But is quite evident that Cuba cannot continue as before either. The corruption and mismanagement existing at all levels of government, which go back to the existence of heavily bureaucratic elements in the party as well as various state positions, are the main factors causing the degradation of the Cuban Revolution. The current system in Cuba, labelled by some (more jokingly than seriously) as 'tropical Stalinism,' lacks a genuine workers democracy and, despite the socialist elements that exist, the most important goal in socialism — workers' control of production — has not been fully realized. This, coupled with a corrupt bureaucracy, diminishing standards of living, and the shrinking purchasing power of wages, undermines the morale of the Cuban people and their faith in their government.

During my two-week trip in Cuba, I met and talked to many Cubans of the younger generation, and I was intrigued to find that most regarded Castro as a genius and were deeply proud of what their small island has been able to achieve despite the demoralizing and crushing effects of the embargo. Though none of the Cuban students I met claimed their system is perfect — they were painfully aware of its shortcomings and were not afraid to talk about them — none wanted to do away with it altogether.

With such conflicting and contradictory elements present in its economic structure, Cuba will sooner or later have to swing one way or the other. The only viable solution that would ensure the Cuban people's social and economic prosperity is a complete break with the corrupt bureaucracy and the implementation of a genuine workers' democracy in which all Cubans can participate in the management of the state and economy, and no one has to sacrifice more than the others. The realization of this will be closely tied to the fate of the rest of the continent. As Cuba itself has shown us, it is impossible to build socialism in one country alone. Only the success of revolutionary movements throughout Latin America, including those in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela (from which Cuba has already drawn great benefit) will be able to guarantee the survival and advancement of the Cuban Revolution.

'REFUGEES' – CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

he had "travelled around the world and visited similar places," the conditions of the camps were "by far the most appalling [he had] ever seen."

The Sri Lankan government has committed virtually all of the crimes for which the Tamil Tigers are rightly considered a terrorist organization, and many they have not. These include: political assassinations, hostage-taking, use of child soldiers, forced disappearances, executing international aid and relief workers, systematic rape, ethnic cleansing, settler colonialism, extermination, and genocide. In 2004, the government blocked tsunami relief aid to the country's Tamil province. In a brazen act this past June, a government minister incited mobs to take UN staff hostage until Ban Ki Moon called off investigation of government war crimes.

Canada's hands are hardly clean of Colombo's crimes. In 2009 Canadian trade with Sri Lanka totaled $456 million, not including $52.37 million in development assistance. Trade continued as the government was bombing trapped civilians and letting them fester in the camps. The fact that massive trade is not done with the LTTE may help explain why Ottawa classifies only one of these groups as a terrorist organization.

Human smuggling is among the uglier aspects of the reality in Sri Lanka, and the Tigers, though fighting for a just cause, are as hideous in their methods as any terrorists. Concerns that transport fees could fund human-smugglers or the LTTE are justified and serious. That said, there is a simple way to prevent millions of dollars from being extorted from desperate refugees in exchange for passage to Canada: provide it for free. After the Vietnam War, Canada absorbed over 56,000 Vietnamese refugees and this had no impact on economic growth. Absorption of Tamil refugees would, furthermore, be supported by sponsorship from the highly-organized Canadian Tamil diaspora of around 200,000 (the Vietnamese diaspora in 1975 was only 1,500). Ottawa's itinerary plan for 2010 plans for 265,000 immigrants, with only 9,000 spots for "Humanitarian and Compassionate/Public Policy" admittance. A significant number of Tamil refugees could be granted asylum simply by balancing this ratio slightly.The Harper government's ideas for cracking down on human smuggling, however, are less than generous. How Canada treats the refugees that arrive on our shores will surely be an indicator of our humanity and respect for international law.

LETTERS

Re: Scrapping the long gun registry, October 4

I completely agree with getting rid of the long-gun registry. However, I must make one correction to this article, which may only be wrong due to another article's inaccuracy.

"A story in the Globe and Mail from 2003 reported one Canadian family was forced to give up their Brown Bess musket, the standard small arm of the British Empire for a century, which dated from the War of 1812."

This cannot be true for a couple reasons: 1. A Brown Bess musket from the War of 1812 would be a flintlock. Regardless of date of manufacture, flintlock rifles are non-firearms under the criminal code. 2. Even if the rifle was updated later on and made into a percussion cap rifle, it's an antique, as it was made before 1898.

Regardless of this mistake, there have been many firearms taken from legal-owning citizens in this country. They continue to be taken away as firearm legality changes based on what the RCMP deems legal. Thus a perfectly legal long-gun one day can become a prohibited weapon the next day. These guns are then taken away, without financial compensation.

Robert

Re: When particles collide, October 4

Regarding the Higgs Boson:
A single speck started the universe and developed into solar systems.
Think of particles from deceased relatives being smashed to study the quantum theory.
Planets, stars, animals and humans all started from the same particle.

Marie Faber

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions submissions are also welcome.



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WOODY

THOUGHTS AND MUSINGS ON A CERTAIN NEW YORK FILM DIRECTOR

Will Sloan
A&E EDITOR

There's an old joke. Um, two elderly women are at a Catskills mountain resort [clears throat] and one of them says, "Boy, the food at this place is really terrible." The other one says, "Yeah, I know. And such small portions." Well, essentially, that's how I feel about life. Full of loneliness and misery and suffering and unhappiness, and it's all over much too quickly. The other important joke for me is one that's, uh, usually attributed to Groucho Marx, but I think it appears originally in Freud's Wit and its Relation to the Unconscious*, and it goes like this, I'm paraphrasing. Um, "I would never want to belong to any club that would have someone like me for a member." That's the key joke of my adult life.*

"When I was looking for some of his quotes that I could share," says the film festival programmer to the Elgin Theatre audience, "I came across this one: 'Eighty per cent of success is showing up.' Then, further down on the page, I saw, 'Seventy per cent of success is showing up.'"

The little man waits in the wing.

"I'm not sure how to account for that ten per cent difference, but I do know that we're one hundred per cent lucky he showed up today to introduce his wonderful new film. Please welcome…Mister Woody Allen."

The little man appears. He walks to the podium in his usual manner, shoulders slumped forward and arms stiff, swinging with just a bit too much exaggeration. There is a standing ovation; he looks up, and gives a timid wave. The applause continues as he takes to the podium, where he nods, gives a tiny smile, and mouths, "Thank you."

The audience finally quiets, and the little man looks down. There is tittering. His eyes widen, and his hands dart up to accentuate his first word. "Genius…" he says, in his New Yawk voice. Laughter fills the hall.

"…is a word that's thrown around a lot in this business, BUT…" — his left hand rises and falls to punctuate each syllable — "…every once a while, the term applies."

There is again much laughter. The little man looks down, and smiles very slightly. He raises both hands in mock alarm. "I'm referring, in this case, to my cast. Not myself…" More laughter. "And I would like to introduce them to you, before you see the film."

"The first person I would like you to meet is a woman that I didn't know before I made the movie, but who turned out to be…" — he raises both hands — "…just a startling, startling…contributor to the movie…"

He raises both hands again. "You'll see what I mean when you see the movie, I don't wanna oversell it. I WOULD like to, but…" his voice trails off and everyone laughs. It's the trademark self-deprecation. He gives the audience a little smile. "So, first I would like you to meet Gemma Jones." His smile is unusually wide as she joins him onstage.

"And also with Gemma is a young woman who I didn't know at all before I made this movie. She had to…" — his hands rise, and move in circles with the rhythm of his sentence — "…audition, and beat out many, many formidable actresses for this role." He raises his left hand and looks straight at the audience. "And again, as you'll see when you see the movie, is quite an astonishing discovery…Lucy Punch."

"The third female that's here this evening, uh…you probably know from *Slumdog Millionaire*, uh…" Scattered cheers from the audience.

"This was an easy decision. We needed someone…as you'll see when you see the film, who had an…exotic, and…beautiful quality. And the first time her name came up, it was a done deal as far as I was concerned. Freida Pinto." The Bombay actress takes the stage.

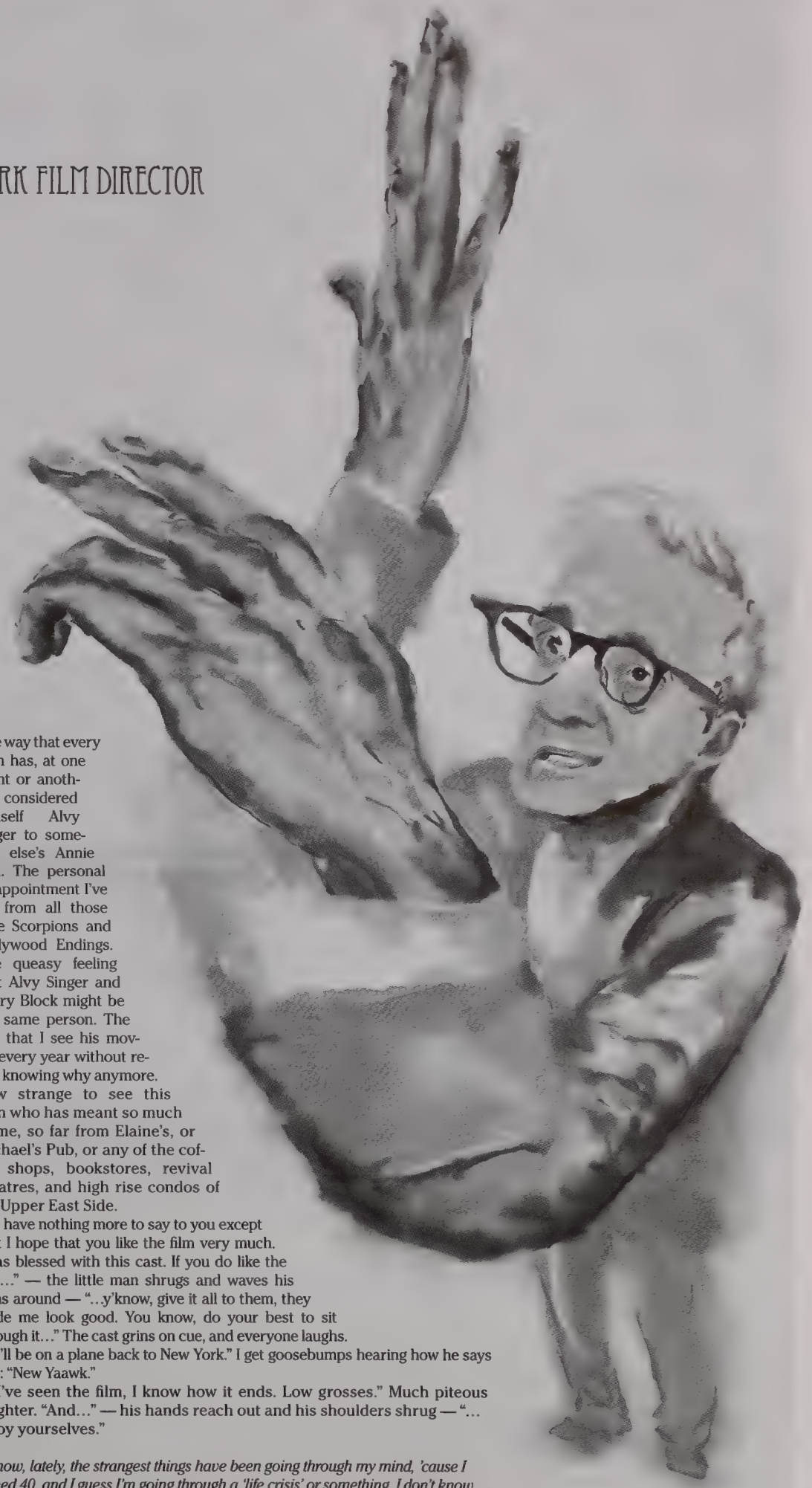
"When I was writing the film, I had no idea who would be in it." His left hand now waves more or less continually. "But as I was halfway through, it occurred to me that the guy I was writing about could not be played by anybody else but Josh Brolin. And I called, and it turned out he was available and interested, so I consider myself very blessed…" — both hands rise and fall in a circle at this last word — "…that I was able to get him for this movie. And he, you will see, did not disappoint for a second. Josh Brolin."

Brolin walks onstage in a perfectly-fitted suit jacket, top buttons undone, his face styled with a symmetrical Vandyke. He flashes a Movie Star grin and waves. The photographers compete for ideal spots to shoot the little man's latest on-screen surrogate.

***

"Chapter one. He adored New York City. He idolized it all out of proportion." Er, no, make that, "He romanticized it all out of proportion." Better. "To him, no matter what the season was, this was still a town that existed in black and white, and pulsated to the great tunes of George Gershwin." Uh…no, let me start this over. "Chapter one. He was too romantic about Manhattan, as he was about everything else. He thrived on the hustle-bustle of the crowds and the traffic. To him, New York meant beautiful women, and street-smart guys who seemed to know all the angles." Ah, no, corny — too corny for a man of my taste. Let me try and make it more profound…

The Borscht Belt Philip Roth. The child of Chaplin, Groucho, and S.J. Perelman. The neurotic Jewish pseudo-intellectual from Manhattan. "When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action — they rented out my room." Mia Farrow. "The early, funny ones." Soon-Yi Previn. "Bergmanesque." How his movies were so much smarter and more sophisticated than everything else I was seeing at age 13.



DAVID OWEN MORGAN

The way that every man has, at one point or another, considered himself Alvy Singer to someone else's Annie Hall. The personal disappointment I've felt from all those Jade Scorpions and Hollywood Endings. The queasy feeling that Alvy Singer and Harry Block might be the same person. The fact that I see his movies every year without really knowing why anymore. How strange to see this man who has meant so much to me, so far from Elaine's, or Michael's Pub, or any of the coffee shops, bookstores, revival theatres, and high rise condos of his Upper East Side.

"I have nothing more to say to you except that I hope that you like the film very much. I was blessed with this cast. If you do like the film…" — the little man shrugs and waves his arms around — "…y'know, give it all to them, they made me look good. You know, do your best to sit through it…" The cast grins on cue, and everyone laughs.

"I'll be on a plane back to New York." I get goosebumps hearing how he says this: "New Yaawk."

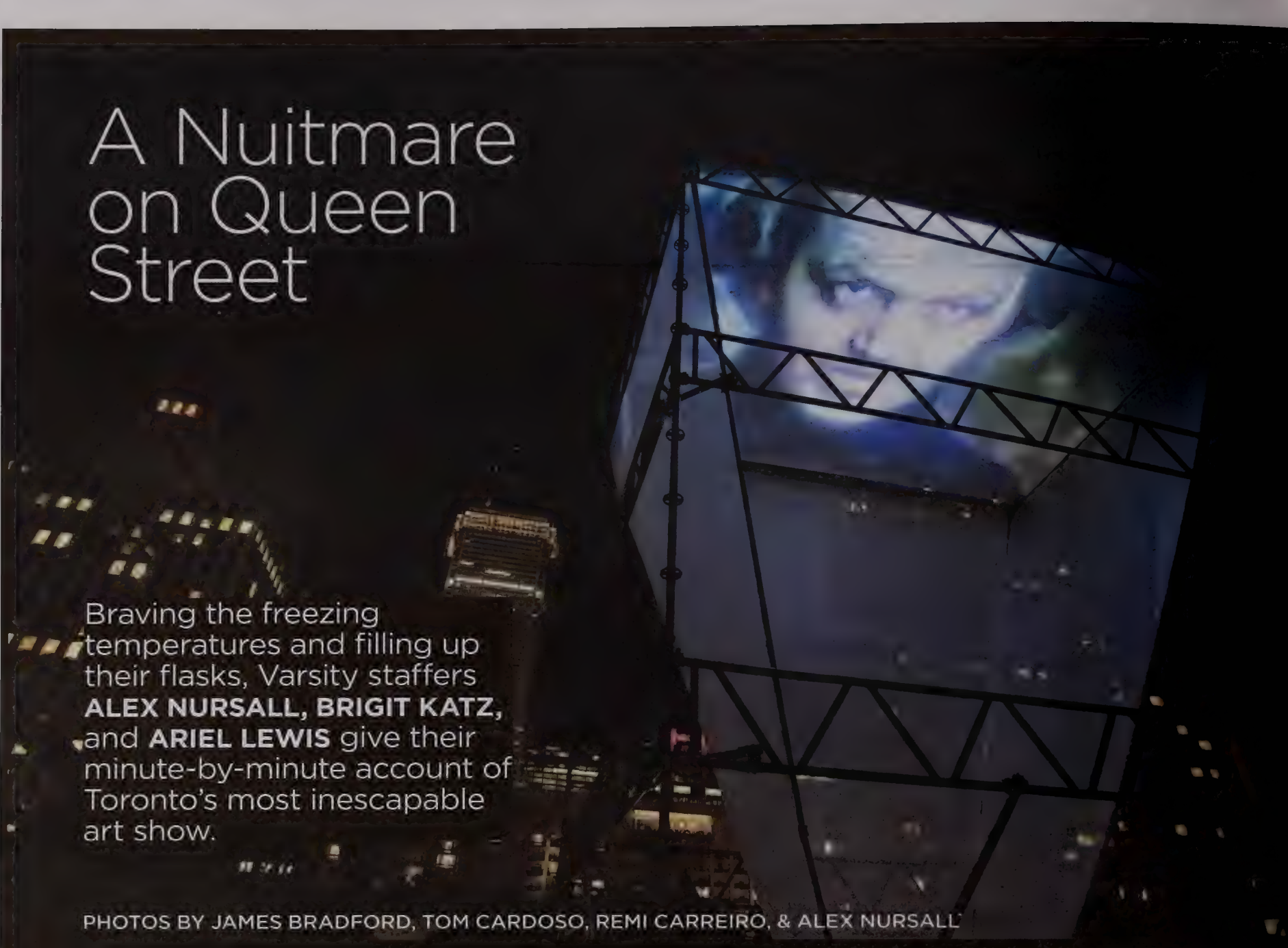
"I've seen the film, I know how it ends. Low grosses." Much piteous laughter. "And…" — his hands reach out and his shoulders shrug — "…enjoy yourselves."

Y'know, lately, the strangest things have been going through my mind, 'cause I turned 40, and I guess I'm going through a 'life crisis' or something, I don't know. And I'm not worried about aging, I'm not one of those characters — although, I'm balding slightly on top, that's about the worst you can say about me. I, uh, think I'm gonna get better as I get older, y'know. I think I'm gonna be the balding, virile type, as opposed to, say, the distinguished grey. Unless I'm neither of those two. Unless I'm one of those guys with saliva dribbling out of his mouth, who wanders into a cafeteria with a shopping bag, screaming about socialism.

The film begins. It's another of his light, slight comedies about the upper-middle-class, where love is lost and gained in a sunny city free of cell phones, computers, the Internet, television, pop music, and other modern irrelevancies. The narrator reminds us of the frightening void that awaits us, and once again we are told that the great self-delusion of spirituality, and the unreliable emotion of love, are all that stand between us and nothingness. "Whatever works," as the little man might say (or was it, "It's just like anything else"? These things blur together sometimes.).

But before that, the little man leaves the podium. Brolin opens his arms, and the little man comes in for a hug. Then the little man hugs Anthony Hopkins, then Pinto, and gives one more timid wave as he exits the stage. White hair aside, he looks nearly identical to his 40-year-old self. The more things change, the more Woody Allen stays the same.

A Nuitmare on Queen Street



Braving the freezing temperatures and filling up their flasks, Varsity staffers **ALEX NURSALL, BRIGIT KATZ,** and **ARIEL LEWIS** give their minute-by-minute account of Toronto's most inescapable art show.

PHOTOS BY JAMES BRADFORD, TOM CARDOSO, REMI CARREIRO, & ALEX NURSALL

8:05 p.m.: I start in Yorkville. Last year, it was full of small, neat exhibits buried within the alleys and stores. But where is the art? All I see are a mass of people crowded around the Cumberland rock, ooohing and ahing over a man hosing down the street. The Nuit Blanche guide makes no mention of this as part of an installation. I'm pretty sure this is literally just a man cleaning the rocks. – Ariel Lewis

8:50 p.m.: As I'm walking down Bloor to meet my companion for the evening (Alex Ross, Varsity Comment Editor extraordinaire), I get distracted by the virtual silhouettes projected onto the ROM's Crystal Facade. There's something mesmerizing about watching the animated figures strolling calmly over the sharp protrusions of the building, and I can't help thinking that the installation temporarily justifies this ridiculous piece of architecture (yes, I'm still bitter about it). – Brigit Katz

9:07 p.m.: We get into a line in front of the Bata Shoe Museum, wanting to see what the Nuit Blanche programme describes as "massive illuminated origami spheres that transform the Bata Shoe Museum into a unique urban garden." The line moves suspiciously quickly, probably because it turns out that the urban garden is pretty sparse and at 5 foot 3, I'm considerably taller than the so-called "massive" spheres. – BK

8:55 p.m.: While Agnes Winter's Monument to Smile is endearing, flashing pictures of smiling people from around the world onto the front of Holt Renfrew while Charlie Chaplin's melodic "Smile" plays in the background ultimately makes the same impact as a Kodak commercial. – AL

9:15 p.m.: I make my way over to University and Bloor only to find that the few installations in this "hot spot" require a good thirty minutes of waiting in line. Time to reroute. – AL

9:25 p.m.: We start walking back up Bloor to see the light installation at the Royal Conservatory of Music. In front of Varsity Stadium, there's a crowd gathering around a Mercedes Benz filled with rubber ducks. We head towards it, thinking that it's some sort of post-modern comment on consumerism, but it's actually just an ad for what promises to be a terrible romantic comedy starring Katherine Heigl. – BK

9:45 p.m.: I'm mentally and physically preparing myself for the night ahead by ingesting a giant meal and a lot of nice beer. Surely, this will help me get into the spirit of Nuit Blanche, or at least keep me mildly satisfied hunger-wise as I get more and more frustrated with everything else. – Alex Nursall

9:50 p.m.: Wait a second, I hate crowds. Shit. – AN

9: 50 p.m.: When we arrive at Hart House, there's a line shuffling slowly into the Reading Room on the main floor. We decide to join, thinking that the exhibit inside is going to be some sort of extension of the gallery of musicians that lines the walls of the hallway. As it turns out, the featured attraction is a homage to the 1977 performance, "Imponderabilia," in which gallery patrons were asked to walk through a narrow doorway flanked by two completely naked people. I'm not particularly thrilled at the prospect of being sandwiched between two naked women, no matter how briefly, but the line is moving irrevocably forward, so I just avert my eyes and try to avoid assaulting them with my purse. It's a large purse though, and I'm not so sure I succeeded. – BK

9:57 p.m.: We wander towards Ice Shack, a small wooden hut built on blocks of ice in Hart House's courtyard and one of my favourite installations of the night. We're invited inside the shack to catch fish from a hole carved into one of the ice blocks (and by "catch" I mean grab a fish from a pile of dead Smelt with our bare hands) and then a guy in a sailor's cap roasts them over a small pan of coals. I thoroughly enjoyed this one because it was in no way trying to make some earth-shatteringly profound statement about the nature of life and art. It just sought to give people a chance to get a little dirty and schmooze around an open fire of fish. What more could a person want? – BK

10:20 p.m.: What's going on here? After walking 8 blocks down Yonge from Charles to College I've seen one exhibit that was a cheap Lady Gaga impersonation and turned out to be an advertising gimmick for a leather fetish store. Where is the art and where are the hotdogs? Art, cheap hotdogs and people that are way too drunk are key elements in a proper Nuit Blanche. Thus far I've found only one of the three. – AL

10:25 p.m.: I'm up at the Jewish Community Centre where the Invention in Three Parts for Toy Piano is playing. The contemporary pianist in me thinks this is kind of cool, but the other large swath of my being has noticed that the Second Cup in the JCC has twice as many people at it than the actual exhibit. The insanely crowded coffee shops will be a running theme for the rest of the night. – AN

10:31 p.m.: There's something going on at the Bata Shoe Museum, but the line-up looks like something out of one of the circles of hell. If I'm going to wait this long for something, I would at least like to have an orgasm by the end of it. I doubt this will deliver. Moving on. . . - AN

10:33 p.m.: There's a soccer scrimmage happening over at Varsity Stadium, and there are people milling around the fence on Bloor St. going, "Is this an exhibit? Is this art?" Not even an hour in and I already want to punch everyone in the face. THIS IS NOT ART, IT IS PEOPLE PLAYING SOCCER, KEEP MOVING DAMMIT. – AN

10:35 p.m.: The Orgasm Energy Chart installation is based on the survey forms that General Ideas sent out in the 70s, asking people to record a month's worth of orgasms on a chart. Instead of displaying the original questionnaire, the artists are having people draw on the forms and hanging them on the walls of a small room in the University of Toronto Arts Collective building. As I'm mulling over what the installation is meant to represent, a bearded guy asks me with a grin, "Wanna draw a picture?" As I'm taking one of the blank survey forms from him, I catch sight of a little girl, sitting at a table in the middle of the room and drawing a pink bunny right under the "Orgasm Energy Chart" heading on her own form. It's definitely time to leave. – BK

10:47 p.m.: There are pictures of random animals flashing across those big orange road signs at the corner of Bloor and University. Frankly, I think this is a much better use of these signs in comparison to what they're normally used for, which is distracting me while I drive when big glowing "DON'T PUT YOUR BA[G] ON THE ROOF" messages flash at my car. You know what? Screw the point[s] messages — let's just have all of them flash sharks or something from now [on] – AN

10:48 p.m.: In stark contrast to all that nudity and orgasm talk, we next m[ove] over to Trinity Chapel, which is hosting an installation called Procedures in a Ti[me] of Plague. It's an enticing premise that severely disappoints by using plastic ha[nds] attached to remote control cars to represent the impossibility of human cont[act] during times of epidemic. – BK

10:57 p.m.: The Monument to Smile up on the Holt Renfrew building i[s] actually kind of interesting, although the song playing along with it draws [the] gernails down the chalkboard of my soul. Every time I think I'm about to g[et] into the experience, the singer would start screaming, "SSSSSSSSSSMMM[I]MMIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIILLLLEEEE" and I'd find myself whipped back to crankiness so fa[st] my teeth hurt. – AN

10:59 p.m.: Someone has just texted that "matthew fox makes baby jes[us] cry" to the Odd Spaces installation on Scotiabank. I hope the people in Kara[oke] appreciate that. – AN

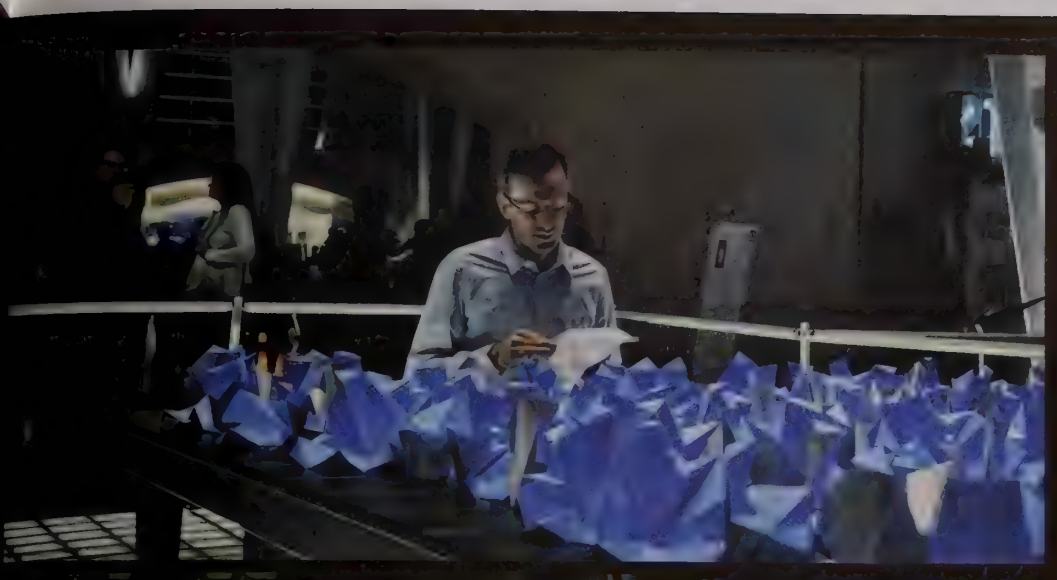
11:00 p.m.: For the most part, the goods for sale in the Nuit Market are t[he] same cheap goods you can find in any dingy basement mall that's fully stocke[d] in knock-off brands and questionable-looking beef patties. However, it's wedg[ed] in a narrow and winding alley, decorated beautifully with a string of green ligh[ts] and well-equipped with vendors who want to haggle. This installation surprisin[gly] pulls off a cool, black market vibe. – AL

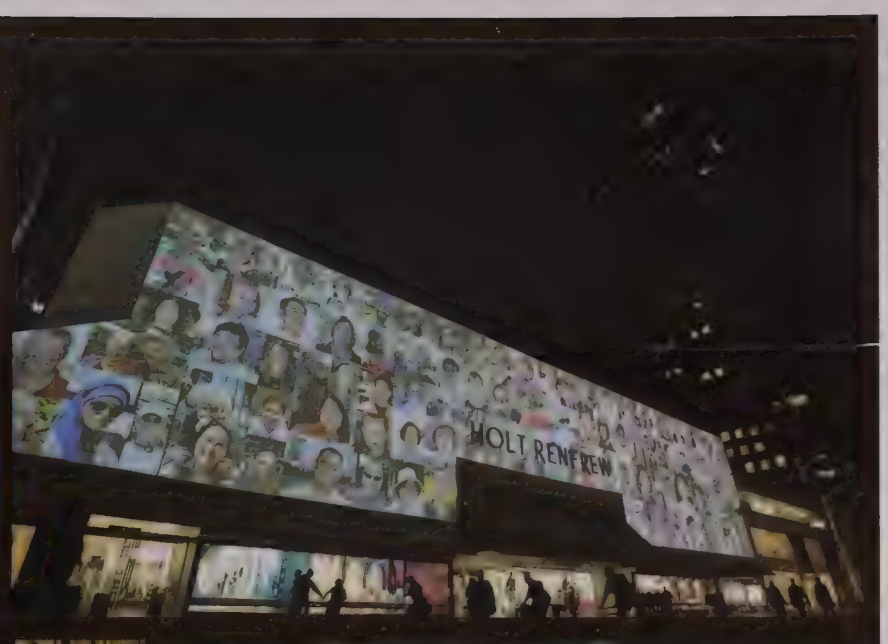
11:15 p.m.: At the Miles Nadal centre, we walk into a dark auditoriu[m] where oversized, technicoloured sheet music hangs from the ceiling. Music be[ing] played by a cellist in a room down the hall echoes eerily in the background, wh[ile] three figures, dressed entirely in black, plonk on the keys of toy pianos. Every fe[w] minutes, they silently get up, switch spots and start playing again. It's bizarre[,] captivating, although I can't shake the feeling that at any moment, one of t[he] musicians is going to turn around and possess my soul. – BK

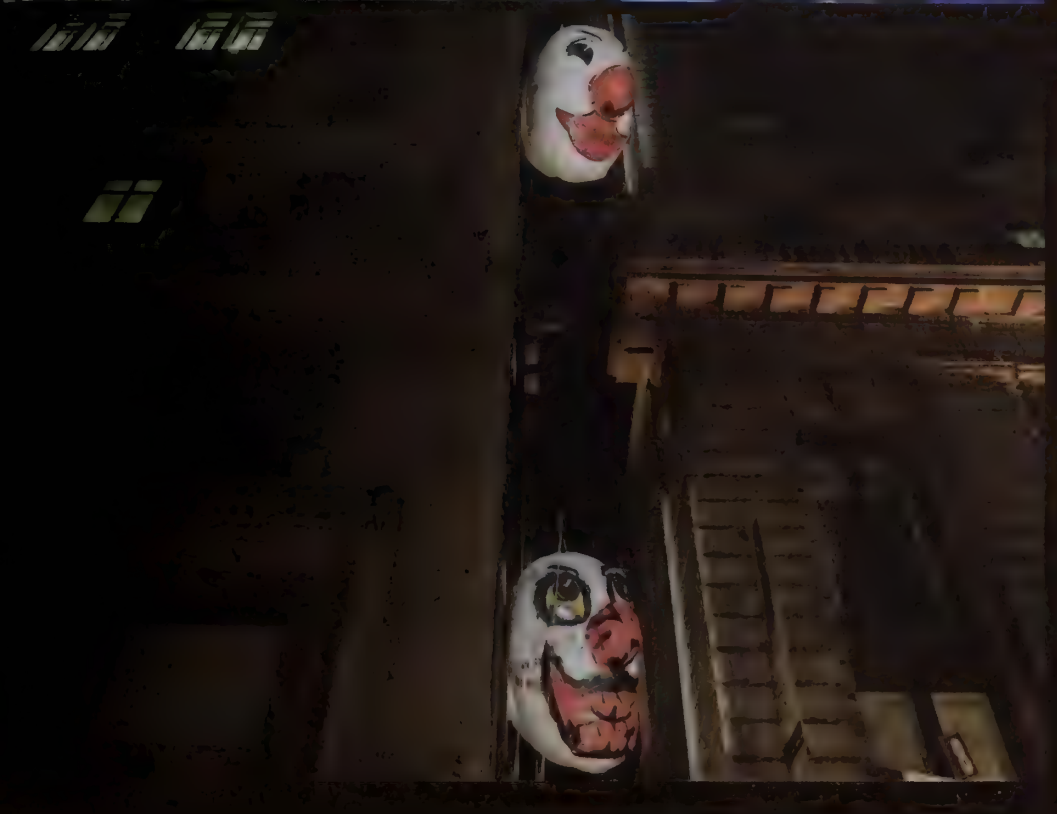
11: 17 p.m.: Ahh, and then there are the exhibits where you nod along a[s] think silently to yourself, "I don't get it. Why is she throwing rocks?" – AL

11:21 p.m.: I get to Cumberland just in time to see the final performance [of] Kent Monkman's Iskootão, which ends up being the highlight of my night. Th[at] makes up for the fact that I missed my chance to see Cher in concert this summ[er]. Also, I want his dress. – AN

11:36 p.m.: At Yonge and Dundas Square a massive bonfire blazes, there's a silent contact dance performance that bystanders are welcome to join, a man walking on stilts, and an atrocious band is playing Weezer's "Say It Ain't So." I fe[el] like this scene sums up the manifesto behind Nuit Blanche: random, unadulterat[ed] acts of art in all shapes and forms- for better or for worse. – AL









11:45 p.m.: We decide to double back and brave the line that leads into the ROM. Just as we get to the front, some guy cuts in front of us, but we decide to let it slide because he's wearing a cap with a glowing, plastic brain attached to it. Don't want to mess with that. – BK

11:45 p.m.: Fuck it, I'm getting a coffee. It's time to brave the packed Starbucks up on Bloor. I'm half tempted to just start dropping elbows so that I can get through the line in less than five hours. – AN

11:52 p.m.: When we finally do get into the ROM, we're treated to XXIX, a video installation that harmonizes footage of 29 singers, singing in 29 different languages. It's fascinating to see how seamlessly the performances fuse together, despite the wide discrepancy in languages. This is the first installation of the night that I genuinely enjoy without any trace of bemusement. – BK

11:59 p.m.: There's a huge line waiting to get into an exhibit by a contemporary African artist. A staff member sees me looking at it perplexedly, and whispers, "Don't bother waiting, it's here until January." On our way out of the museum, we see Brain Guy bypassing the line and sauntering happily towards the entrance to the exhibit. I'm willing to bet that he got right in. – BK

11:08 p.m.: There's a couple of guys on bikes going down Harbord yelling, "Where's the art? Where can we find art?" Someone on the street suggests Hart House and the naked ladies within, and the bikers respond with, "We already saw the naked ladies! Now what we want is more naked ladies!" At least they have a game plan for the night, in comparison to the rest of the aimless crowd that's milling around, texting and complaining about the cold. – AN

11:09 p.m.: There's an ice hut at Hart House. Dammit, now I really want smoked salmon. – AN

11:13 p.m.: I'm inside the room for the One at a Time exhibition at Hart House. The person in front of me in line is probably 10-years-old, and she's jogging over towards the two nude women standing at the door. I'm not entirely sure how to feel right now, partly because of the young kid whom I think just took a nipple to the eye, and partly because the woman working the entrance made me surrender my coffee. I feel kind of uncomfortable as I squeeze between the guards at the door, mostly because I'm trying to avoid whacking one of them in the tits with my camera. – AN

11:42 p.m.: Later That Night at the Drive-In has attracted pretty much every stoned kid on Queen St., and they are all lying on the ground around the screens listening to the trippy guitar music. Is this what the 60's were like? I'd ponder that further, but moments after arriving someone bikes directly into me. Holy fuck, my knees hurt. Stupid goddamn cyclists biking in the dark. – AN

11:54 p.m.: After hobbling away from City Hall, I come across what can only be described as a Game Boy rave. Drunk teens spin around to the bleepy-bloopy music, while one obnoxious guy yells, "PLAY DUBSTEP!" over and over as though repetition will cause the music to magically change. – AN

12:07 a.m.: Kim Adams' Auto Lamp, a Dodge Ram with light shining through an intricate design of holes in the van, is placed in the middle of the road just off the Young and Queen intersection, shining like a disco ball onto the buildings and streets. Fantastic. – AL

12:13 a.m.: Erik Satie's Vexations is definitely the highlight of my night. Two pianists play Vexations and when they finish with their sheet music it is carried over to two origami folders sitting at a long table, who fold the blue coloured papers into flowers. This happens 840 times, or at least until the sun rises. The imagery of the folded paper flowers is gorgeous alone, but set within the architecture of the grand, arcing Brookfield Place, this installation was visually stunning. – AL

12:14 a.m.: Kim Adam's Auto Lamp is actually pretty cool. I have nothing else to say about this piece, aside from the fact that I don't think I'd ever let her near my car. – AN

12:20 a.m.: A collage of smiling portraits is being projected onto the facade of the Holt Renfrew Centre to the tune of the musical theme "Smile". As Alex Ross puts it, it's so saccharine it could give a person diabetes. Also, installation's attempt to invoke a broader sense of humanity is somewhat offset by the $2,000 pea coat being showcased in the store's window display. – BK

12:44 am: Seriously, is this the best the Ontario College of ART and DESIGN could come up with? The space outside the college that was always a host for loud, interactive art projects is now (deservedly) dead, while three creepy dancing bobble head caricatures that look like they came from a text 1-800 commercial are projected onto the side of the building. Underwhelming doesn't begin to describe this installation, this is the least effective use of space I've seen yet. – AL

12:50 a.m.: We follow a line into the Church of the Redeemer at Avenue Road and Bloor, where there's a display of paintings by an artist named Samuel Crowther. The pieces have an exotic appeal to them and stunningly detailed with intricate patterns. It's nice to finally see some art that's pleasing in a purely aesthetic sense. – BK

12:54 a.m.: For the third time tonight a massive crowd gathers to play drums and dance in the middle of the street, this time outside the AGO; these impromptu parties are what keep this all night affair lively and in good spirits (the alcohol may help as well). – AL

1:11 a.m.: While I am not entirely whelmed by the film installation in the back east wing room in Hart House, which consists of a man stating facts and following them up with "true, false," it is always nice to bask in the warmth of the Hart House fireplaces the few times a year they're lit. – AL

1:19 a.m.: Uh… so it appears that Olivia Boudreau's Box is just some videos playing in a minivan. You know what? I feel like I should've just kept drinking before I left. Maybe if I was hammered, I would find this interesting. – AN

1:25 a.m.: I guess I'm getting too old for this all night scavenger hunt. I'm done. – AL

1:29 a.m.: Continuing on the trend of contemporary piano, Erik Satie's Vexations has both an incomprehensible score and origami. This is awesome! By "awesome," I mean "I've been drinking sherry out of a flask for the past 20 minutes." – AN

1:34 a.m.: There's a big twisty sound sculpture on Bay Street, that has about 15 tipsy hipsters yelling into it. I wander over to a tube and make a sound like a wookie into it. Some guy in an expensive baseball cap goes leaping back from the sound. My work here is done. – AN

1:52 a.m.: Can I just note that Yonge Street is DISGUSTING? There is garbage everywhere. I hate people. – AN

2:20 a.m.: Alright, one last thing. There is a birthday party happening up on Yonge, and I decide to join in as there is cake involved, and I am hungry, tired, and so done with this night. For our "party," we are celebrating Tamara and Cathy's birthdays. We sing them "Happy Birthday" once, which is immediately followed by some guy in the crowd asking us to sing it again. "Happy birthday to yooooooou," he croons. "Happy birthday to SING YOU MOTHERFUCKERS." I enjoy a slice of cold grocery store cake. I'm fucking freezing. – AN

2:30 a.m.: After wandering amidst increasingly rowdy crowds of people for what seems like ages, we finally reach Nathan Phillips Square, where Daniel Lanois is giving a multi-media performance. There's not really much to say about the show, except that it features Daniel Lanois. Sure, he's a great musician, but for a show that promises a "multi-channel, multi-screen media experience," the visual component is pretty lack lustre and doesn't do anything to augment Lanois' performance. Truthfully, I would be happy to catch a glimpse of the artist himself, but all I can see is the top of his head reflected in a giant mirror set over the stage. – BK

3:00 a.m.: You know what? Nuts to this. Sorry Nuit Blanche, but I'm tired, cold, and unimpressed. I don't even think it'll be worth it to try again next year. Every year, I keep on letting you back in - even when you hurt me – and every year you sleep with my sister. So you know what? I'm moving on to bigger, better things. Next year, I'm going to have a beer, get to bed at a reasonable hour, and forget about all this petty bullshit. But thanks for the cake, though. At least you tried. – AN

3:20 a.m.: A small, but excited crowd is gathered at the corner of Yonge and Dundas. Apparently, someone has lifted up a sewer grate and now people are leaning over the sewer and taking pictures. – BK

3:39 a.m.: We try to take a bus into the Distillery District, but realize they aren't running anymore. We're both too tired to walk, so we decide to head back home. It was a fun night, although when I get into a cab, the driver asks me if I've been eating fish. – BK

FOR THE EXTENDED NUIT BLANCHE COVERAGE VISIT THEVARSITY.CA

Ignore This Poem
Nick McKinlay

Ignore this poem,
and the ones that follow
afterwards and
be
forward.
It's just f[r]iction, and
They serve no purpose than to keep the others
warm.

(It's getting awfully cold outside y'know...)

The Brain Room
Michael Labate

In the brain room earthworm wires web;
stale skin-coated, lodged in cracks that smile
the eyed wood planks, sharing space
in electrical rafters with strips of steel yellow
number tape. A ring of cigarettes smoked
under rings of cigarette smoke, toxic bottles
choked in labels on labelled shelves
stop the room from swapping real for thought.
Only diseased flies dusting halogen lights
hear the box of unhooked worms scream,
weaving through a clump of torn ground
where one and one can't become two.
Surrounding statues sit, stand, and chew.

Send your poetry, short fiction, photography, and visual art to arts@thevarsity.ca

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Sundance Cabernet Sauvignon (2007)
$8.95 at the LCBO

Sundance launched this Spring and joined Diamond Estates' line-up that already includes brands such as 20 Bees, Dan Aykroyd, and Birchwood Estate Wines. The wines are made from one hundred per cent Ontario Vine Ripened Grapes and feature tones of blackcurrants and berries.

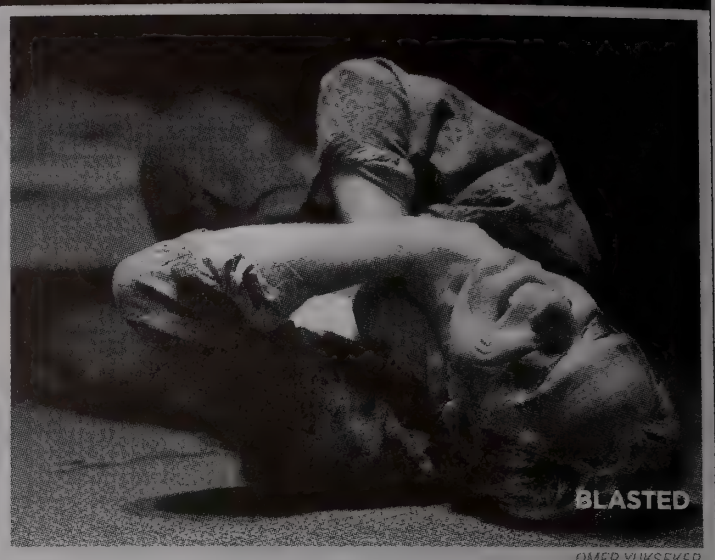
If you are not a big red wine drinker a Cabernet Sauvignon is a good way to start. This is a very drinkable wine that is not offensive to the palate. It has a medium-full body, a hint of oak, and a sweet nose.

This is a very bold wine with a slightly higher 12 per cent alcohol content. It is best paired with hearty meals, including red meat and pasta. This is not a good wine to pair with lighter meals that lack the bold flavours to match the oak influences and higher alcohol content of this wine.

This is a reliable, low-maintenance wine. Best served at room temperature.

VarCity

The Varsity's guide to Toronto's best theatre



OMER YUKSEKER

BLASTED
Sarah Kane's first play *Blasted* centers on a journalist and a young woman who must take refuge from war in a hotel room. Heralded as a modern classic depicting the gruesome realities of war and juxtaposing the passion of a terrifying love affair, the show runs at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre until October 17.
Runs to Oct 17, Tue-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2:30 p.m.. $23-$33.
Buddies in Bad Times.
12 Alexander St.

BILLY TWINKLE, REQUIEM FOR A GOLDEN BOY
Factory Theatre opens its 2010/2011 season with a puppet show. Ronnie Burkett, the writer and performer of the puppet show, considers the life of a cruise ship puppeteer who struggles with a mid-life crisis and tries to fall in love again with the life of a puppeteer.
Runs to Oct 24, Tue-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m. $25-$48.
Factory Theatre.
125 Bathurst St.

HARD TIMES
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens
The Puppetmongers take on a Dickens novel with an interactive piece involving their signature puppet style and live performers. The use of artistically created puppets creates an engaging look at Dicken's fiction and its relevancy today.
Opens Oct 5 and runs to Oct 16, Tue-Sat 7:30 p.m., mat Sat 2 p.m. $30-$35,
Preview $15.
Theatre Passe Muraille,
16 Ryerson Ave.

THE CLOCKMAKER
An eccentric clockmaker who falls in love with a married customer seeks to unravel the mystery of her broken cuckoo clock. In order to win her love, he vows to make her the most amazing clock in the world. Written by celebrated playwrite Stephen Massicotte.
Runs to Oct 24, Tue-Sat 8 p.m., mats Sat-Sun 2:30 pm. $23-$44, Fri & Sun rush $10.
Tarragon Theatre.
30 Bridgman Ave.

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Science for Peace president, Judith Deutsch (left) and treasurer, Chandler Davis (right). *TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY*

Peace of mind through science

Sean MacKay
FEATURES EDITOR

From offices and labs in universities across Canada, Science for Peace hopes to change the world – or at least change the Canadian government's tune on climate change action

In the claustrophobia-inducing basement of University College, an unassuming office smaller than most tutorial rooms houses the headquarters of Science for Peace, one of the most vocal academic organizations in Canada.

Containing only a few chairs, a desk, and several filing cabinets, it's surprising that this is the headquarters for an organization that is a registered NGO at the United Nations and calls hundreds of Canadian academics, from a diverse range of disciplines, its members.

Science for Peace was founded in 1982 by a small group of mathematics and science professors at the University of Toronto with the common aim of researching issues and educating the general public in order to promote peace. The group now has chapters at post-secondary institutions across Canada. It holds conferences, public forums, and publishes research with the aim of affecting change in government policy not only within Canada, but around the world.

The Responsibility of the Scientist

Chandler Davis, professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of Toronto, aptly describes the founding members of Science for Peace who are still living — physics professor (emeritus) Derek Paul, chemistry professor (emeritus) John Valleau, and himself — as the 'nucleus' of the group. However, it was Eric Fawcett, a physics professor and the organization's first president, who Davis considers to be the originator of Science for Peace.

"He was a remarkable man. He has since passed away, but Eric was in it from the beginning and was extremely active for his remaining life," says Davis.

Science for Peace is now governed by an executive composed of six positions — a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and two members-at-large — as well as a board of directors.

When the organization was officially founded in 1982, the ongoing Cold War meant that the threat of nuclear exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union hung ominously over the world.

"We found ourselves in a situation where the danger of nuclear weapons and space-based nuclear weapons was not appreciated by the general public," Davis reminisces.

"We were inspired by the idea of 'the responsibility of the scientist' to educate the public."

Although he laments that the public is still not as concerned about the issue of nuclear weapons as the group would like, he considers it an important topic to accentuate within the public discourse.

"When nations build and store nuclear weapons, it's a drain on society. It increases the hazard of nuclear accidents and increases the danger of accidental war. One of our original leading efforts was to explain the extent and nature of the danger to the public and the government. That was a main motivation for starting Science for Peace and it remains a vital issue to the organization today," says Davis.

Three decades have now passed since the group's founding and although their stance on nuclear weapons has not changed despite the end of the Cold War, the list of issues that Science for Peace addresses has grown exponentially.

"The moral issue of the responsibility of the scientist remains the same, but the specific policy questions and the specific scientific questions have broadened. We don't consider ourselves outside our domain when we take up climate change or oil dependency," says Davis.

They've got issues

Last December, the group drafted a letter urging the Harper government to take immediate action to curb Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. The letter was published on the Science for Peace website and was signed by nearly 600 faculty members from a wide range of disciplines and institutions across Canada.

More recently, Science for Peace organized a climate change talk at the Faculty of Music's MacMillan Theatre. The talk featured the presentation of revered and controversial climate scientist Dr. James Hansen of Columbia University and the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as well as Canadian activist and author Naomi Klein and environmental and aboriginal activist Clayton Thomas Muller.

Science for Peace has also lobbied the Ontario government to act quickly to reduce the province's greenhouse gas emissions.

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"We arranged a meeting with provincial legislators, along with Dr. Hansen, to speak about climate change. Premier McGuinty dropped by. I wouldn't say he necessarily had a great learning experience, but some of the legislators who were there were very much clued in and aware of the issues," says Davis.

Like many other organizations that lobby for political action against climate change, Science for Peace's experience with the government, at both the federal and provincial levels, has frustrated some of its members.

Davis shares a disheartening anecdote about the plight of the climate change scientist attempting to convince the government that something must be done quickly.

"I can't recall if it was Hansen or one of the other emissions control advocates who said he'd been told by a contact within the government that the trouble with trying to influence politicians is when you tell them that there's a serious problem with emissions and something must be done or the change will be irreversible in 50 years, the politician's response is going to be 'Come back in 49 years.'"

We've found out relatively recently that the time scale to do something about climate change is much shorter than we had initially thought, but that's still not enough to impress some politicians," says Davis.

Although the scope of Science for Peace has broadened, with climate change research and advocacy taking up a considerable amount of the group's time and resources, the danger of nuclear weapons is still one of its central issues.

"Last year we organized a conference on nuclear weapons, where we focused on the need for nuclear states and the international community to strengthen the treaties on nuclear disarmament," says Davis.

"The issue remains extremely alive and complex," he adds. "The major nuclear powers have not disavowed the objectives of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which states they must gradually disarm, but at the same time they have not set a timetable for disarmament. It's not as much of an uphill struggle as some of the initiatives we support because we're just asking most governments to do what they've contracted to do."

> "The trouble with trying to influence politicians is when you tell them that there's a serious problem with emissions and something must be done or the change will be irreversible in 50 years, the politician's response is going to be 'Come back in 49 years.'"

While nuclear weapons and climate change are the two principle issues that concern Science for Peace, current president Judith Deutsch asserts that the organization's relatively small size allows members to easily bring issues to the attention of the group that they have researched and believe to be important.

"Our members are concerned about many different issues, so because it's small, it calls for a lot of personal initiative and requires members to keep an open mind towards a lot of issues. It offers a very good avenue for working on a range of hugely critical problems," explains Deutsch.

"I think in many ways this is very advantageous," she adds. "People have a lot of individual responsibility to investigate and research issues. People enter into this organization and sometimes there will be an issue they feel strongly about, that Science for Peace has not worked on before and inevitably, they can find others to collaborate with. It's quite possible, as a group, to develop some kind of position."

Peace and Conflict

The organization has members who are well-known and respected inside the scientific community as well as members who lack formal scientific training, but have been tremendously influential and successful within other disciplines and professions.

Famed Canadian diplomat and former chancellor of the University of Toronto George Ignatieff was president of Science for Peace from 1986 to 1988.

Davis cheerfully recalls Ignatieff's tenure as president as helpful in bringing much needed public attention to the group.

"George was not a scientist, but his sympathy toward the aims of the organization was so clear. His public statements were so useful and we were really delighted to have him as president," he says.

Other past presidents have not been notable Canadian public figures but have nevertheless been extremely influential outside of their disciplines.

Another founding member of Science for Peace, mathematical psychologist, Anatol Rapoport also founded the University of Toronto's prestigious Peace and Conflict Studies program.

"Following his retirement and without a salary, Anatol erected and taught the program in peace studies at University College," explains Davis.

"It's now called the Peace and Conflict Studies program," Davis adds, "and the director Ron Levi has a regular salary, but it was started by Science For Peace and was very successful which is why it has continued to this day."

Gray Matters

"Science for Peace was founded by a group of people in their forties. A lot of the same people are still around and they're not in their forties anymore," Davis jokes.

To ensure that their glory years are not behind them, the Science for Peace executive have been actively recruiting younger faculty members and undergraduate students to combat the noticeable graying of their membership.

"We've added new, younger members to the board and we've had a number of people interested in new activities, including some at the undergraduate level," says Davis.

"We have many students who are active so there may eventually be an undergraduate chapter, but that's a bit premature to announce."

"We've been able to bring in people from many different fields and backgrounds, people from different countries and ethnic groups," adds Deutsch.

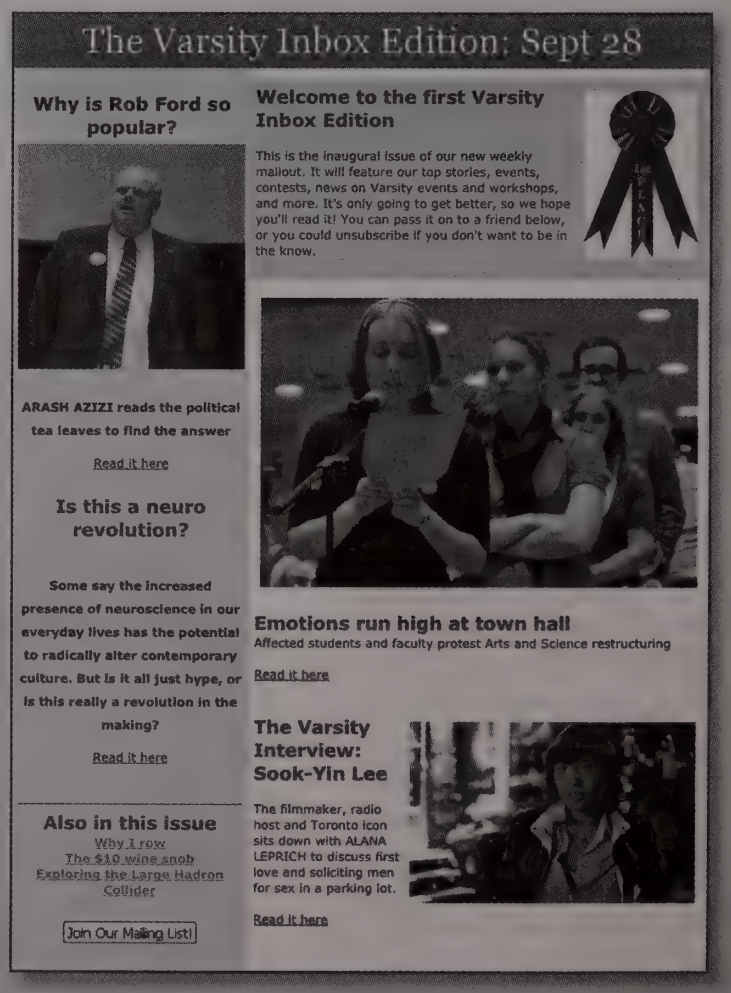
"Over the next little while we're also going to try and involve students a lot more and hopefully have some open meetings that students can attend and learn about the issues that we focus on."

Whether Science for Peace will successfully recruit younger faculty members to carry on their tradition of "the responsibility of the scientist" and continue to grow and remain relevant as a research and education organization has yet to be seen. However, as the climate change debates rage and disputes over nuclear weapons treaties continue to intensify — their message seems as relevant today as it did three decades ago.

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The Varsity Inbox Edition: Sept 28

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ARASH AZIZI reads the political tea leaves to find the answer

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Some say the increased presence of neuroscience in our everyday lives has the potential to radically alter contemporary culture. But is it all just hype, or is this really a revolution in the making?

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The $10 wine snob
Exploring the Large Hadron Collider

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Emotions run high at town hall
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The Varsity Interview: Sook-Yin Lee

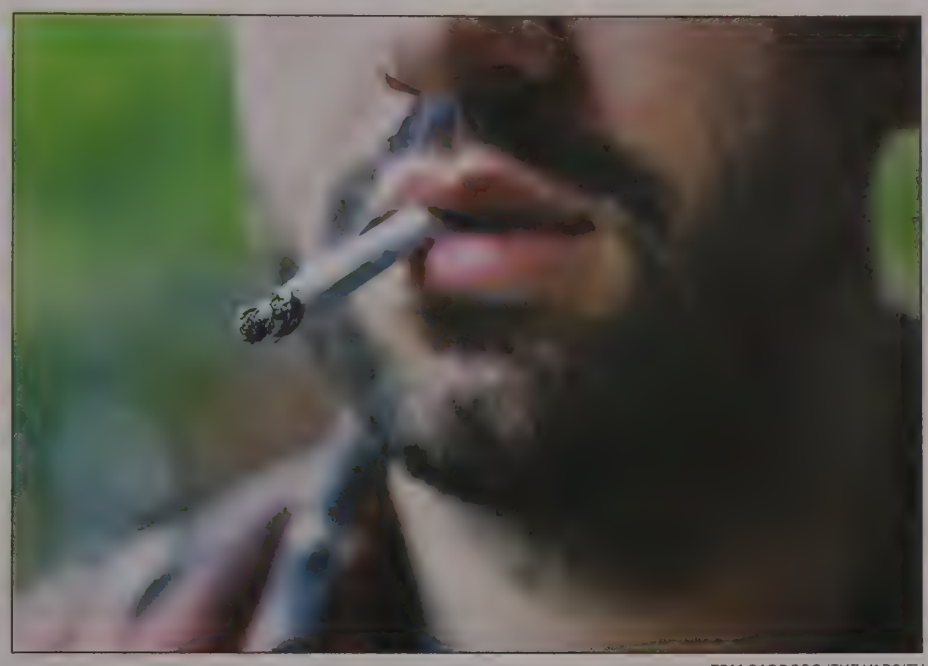
The filmmaker, radio host and Toronto icon sits down with ALANA LEPRICH to discuss first love and soliciting men for sex in a parking lot.

Read it here

Holy smokes

U of T researchers find link between smoking and depressive symptoms in adolescents

Blerta Meraj
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

It's your first month in your first year at university. Away from home in an unfamiliar city, juggling between classes and residence, the library and the pubs, it's not at all what you expected. You miss home, can't connect with fellow students, and are unhappy with more than a few of your classes. So you seek comfort in a faithful friend: cigarettes. Your cigarette consumption has gone through the roof and you do not like it. But, you reason, "smoking makes me feel better."

Smokers often say that one of the benefits of their habit is that it works to counteract negative moods and relieve stress. Among smokers, one of the most common justifications for cigarette use is self-medication. Contrary to this belief, a recently published article in the journal *Addictive Behaviors* showed that smoking actually increases depressive symptoms in teens.

The findings are part of a long-term *Nicotine Dependence in Teens* cohort study based at the University of Montreal Hospital Research Centre. The NDIT study began in 1999 under the direction of Dr. Jennifer O'Loughlin, a professor at the University of Montreal's Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, and scientist at the University of Montreal Hospital Research Centre.

"We were interested in the idea of self-medication as one of the reasons why we think people start and continue to smoke, and why we see a relationship between smoking and depression," says lead author Dr. Michael Chaiton, a professor in Tobacco and Public Health at U of T and a scientist at the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit. "Many people report that smoking has a positive effect on their mood, however our findings suggest that smoking worsens both mood and, perhaps, one's ability to deal with stressful situations."

The study involved about 662 high school students, who were divided into three different groups: never smokers, smokers who did not use cigarettes to self-medicate, improve mood or physical state, and smokers who used cigarettes to self-medicate. The depressive symptoms of each group of participants were measured using the Depressed Mood Inventory, a scale that asked questions such as how often subjects felt unhappy, sad or depressed, or too tired to do things. The participants' reported moods were analyzed before and after smoking. Before beginning to smoke, subjects who used cigarettes to self-medicate and those who did not, reported no differences in depressive symptom scores.

However, as Michael Chaiton explains, "After subjects began smoking, you saw a large difference in the depressive symptoms of teenagers who reported that cigarettes improved their mood, and those who did not use cigarettes to self-medicate. Those adolescents who reported emotional benefits from smoking were more likely to experience more serious depressive symptoms over time."

Although cigarettes might have short-term benefits for smokers, in the long term, they are more likely to cause depressive symptoms. "When people say they feel better after a smoke, it's a real experience," says Chaiton. "Smoking after craving a cigarette relieves your symptoms of withdrawal. However, what often occurs is that during stressful situations, that feeling of relief gets translated into 'smoking is also helping me.' This is the case in the short term. Over the long term, smoking exacerbates negative mood."

In a related study, researchers found that people who quit smoking start to feel better about six weeks after quitting. Their mood improves after the withdrawal period.

Michael Chaiton, along with other researchers of the NDIT study are continuing to measure depressive symptoms in the high school participants who are now in their twenties, and are examining how the effects of smoking on depression change over time. What is certain is that there is a strong relationship between smoking and depression. As Chaiton suggests, "When you are smoking, you have a worse mood than when you are not... One of the best ways to deal with negative moods and stress is to quit smoking."

The secret garden

Engineering students' rooftop Sky Garden project promotes urban sustainability

Kim Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Have you ever walked into a supermarket, and wondered how many fields and plants must go into keeping those grocery stands fully stocked? Imagine how many pounds of green and red peppers it must take to keep those bins full. Now imagine supermarkets all across the country. To feed a city the size of Toronto, 6,000 tonnes of food must be imported every day. In response, U of T students have come up with a more sustainable method — urban agriculture.

Two years ago, U of T's Campus Agriculture Project — a group formed to promote farming as a more efficient and sustainable means of growing food both on campus and in the city — implemented several pilot garden projects across campus. One of these projects was the Sky Garden, created by three civil engineering graduate students, Heather Wray, Kyla Smith, and Sarah Wilson.

Today, with the help of the Live Green Toronto grant, the Sky Garden has tripled in size. Located on top of the Galbraith building, the rows upon rows of unique semi-hydroponic containers, made by Canadian company BioTop, feature a variety of plants. These include tomatoes, cucumber, eggplant, zucchini, jalepeno peppers, basil, parsley, rosemary, lettuce, and even sugarbaby watermelons.

A tour of the garden reveals a space covering an area of only 50 m^2. So far this year, this small corner of rooftop space has yielded 160 kg of fresh organic vegetables, with a projected yield of 200 kg by the end of the growing season.

BioTop has outfitted the garden with its own drip irrigation system, which also distributes fertilizer. This limits the amount of physical labour necessary to maintain the plants, requiring only a few volunteers for harvesting and weeding. Seeds and seedlings are organic and come from local sources.

Harvested vegetables are donated weekly to the U of T Food bank, as well as to the student-run vegan café Hot Yam!, or enjoyed by the Sky Garden volunteers themselves.

"Our goal is to show how rooftop spaces can be used for urban agriculture, and to reconnect people to where their food comes from," said garden co-founder Heather Wray. An additional benefit is that switching to local sources reduces the city's carbon dioxide footprint. Many environmentalists also believe that locally grown food tastes better, reduces environmental strain and creates economic and social benefits for the community.

Recent studies by U of T sociologists have indicated health benefits tied to community gardening efforts. The benefits include improved access to food, resulting in improved nutrition, increased physical activity, an improved relationship and understanding of food and the food system, as well as better mental and social health through increased community cohesion.



AMY JIN/THE VARSITY

Although this is a great solution to our sustainability problems, there are still many issues to be dealt with before urban agriculture can become a viable and widespread solution. One of the biggest problems for urban agriculture is space and financial support. "Most of the hard work was getting access and securing funding," says Wray.

In terms of sustainability, "The garden takes chunks of inanimate concrete and turns it into something that's growing things," says Matt Stata, a supervisor of the project. "It's also an example of what could be done if more of this started showing up around the city, because there's so many unused roof spaces that could be producing food."

It also provides more opportunities for multidisciplinary research in sociology, engineering, and environmental studies. The garden is a resource for researchers studying urban agriculture. Research on the impact of urban pollution on urban agriculture is currently underway.

"Education was always one of the goals we had in mind," says Stata. "We wanted to provide people with more information to help those involved in similar projects, or simply to encourage individuals with their own home gardens."

Whether it's for reasons of sustainability, health promotion, or just for fun, the popularity of urban gardening is on the rise.

"And they're delicious!" chime both Stata and Wray, referring to the vegetables. And they were.

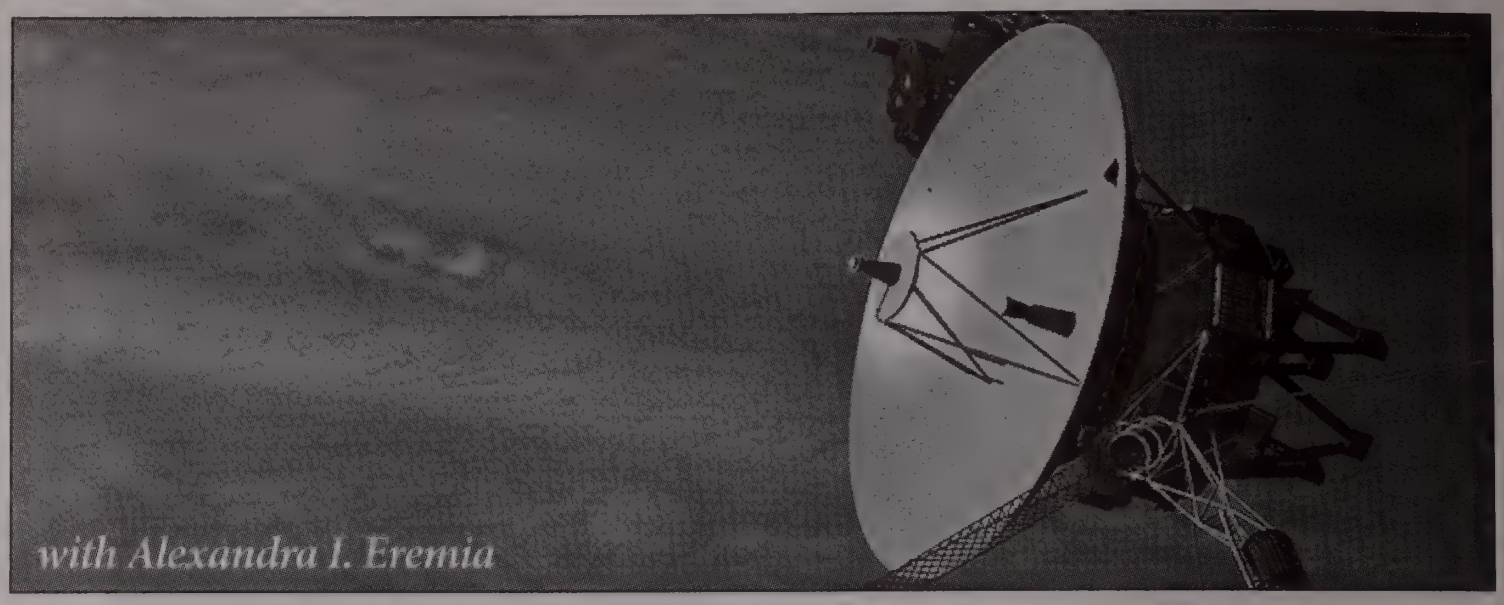
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WONDERLAND in space

Visiting the Voyager space probes



with Alexandra I. Eremia

The 1970s are often remembered for political and economic successes, such as the signing of the SALT treaties, and the end of the Vietnam War. Yet few will recall the peculiar natural phenomenon that sparked the creation of the Voyager 1 and 2 space probes, launched during that same decade.

The 1970s experienced a rare geometric alignment, occurring once every 175 years, in which the four gas giants — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune — were arranged to allow for a four-planet tour using a minimum of time and propellant. The planetary arrangement meant that flying by each planet would alter the craft's flight path and increase its velocity just enough to deliver it to its next destination.

Although a four-planet mission was believed to be possible, it was considered too expensive to construct a space probe that would last 10 years. Consequently, the Voyager space probes were initially designed and funded solely for studying Jupiter, Saturn, their rings, and their larger moons. From the ten thousand trajectories considered, two were chosen — the second reserving the possibility of continuing to Uranus and Neptune.

Voyager 2 was the first of the space probes to be launched, on August 20, 1977, while its counterpart had a faster route with a shorter trajectory, and was launched on September 5, 1977. Voyager 1 reached Jupiter in late March 1979, and provided images showing Jupiter's swirling turbulence within its atmosphere, along with the giant storm about three times the size of the Earth, aptly named the Great Red Spot. Voyager 1 also identified nine volcanoes erupting on Jupiter's moon Io, eight of which were still erupting when Voyager 2 visited 4 months later.

In their encounter with Saturn, the probes provided high-resolution photographs that noted waves and kinks in the planet's rings, most likely caused by the tug from its nearby moons. Voyager 1's Saturn investigation showed that seven per cent of Saturn's upper atmosphere is made of helium, while the remainder is mostly hydrogen. The space probes also identified aurora-like emissions not only at the poles, but also at mid-latitudes. The presence of mid-latitude auroras is puzzling, since on Earth the auroras caused by electron and ion collision mostly occur at high latitudes.

After having analyzed both Saturn and its moons — with particular interest paid to its largest satellite, Titan — Voyager 1 began its trip out of the solar system, still conducting studies of interplanetary space while its twin continued to Uranus and Neptune. Voyager 2's examination of Uranus' five largest moons unveiled intricate geologic variations.

In total, the two space probes were able to explore all the outer gas giants, along with 48 of their moons, their unique ring systems, and their magnetic fields. The space probes are both currently travelling through the heliosheath, where the Sun's magnetic influence ebbs and interstellar forces dominate.

Although the Voyager space probes were launched almost 40 years ago, they continue to transmit information to Earth, which takes 13 hours, travelling at the speed of light to reach us. This time lag creates difficulties within the probe's communication system, as was the case in its May 2010 glitch. Nevertheless, the Voyagers continue to make important space discoveries, including that of the "local fluff" with which we will familiarize ourselves next week. Until then, your fantastic space voyages await.

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SCIENCE in BRIEF

The sound of a painting

Each time you look at a painting, what do you think of? The events that inspired the artist? The imagination and creativity infused into each stroke? Or the infrared spectra emitted by the pigments?

No doubt the latter sounds like a science fiction narrative staged in an art gallery. But it seems science fiction has become fact, since a team of McGill chemists have developed spectroscopy methods to identify such pigments, using the characteristic noises they produce. Photoacoustic infrared spectroscopy, or PAIR, detects these noises after shining light on pigments, ultimately resulting in a database of pigments and their associated noises. PAIR will provide the detailed chemical composition of paintings, thereby facilitating their conservation and restoration. — ***HEATHER MAUGHAN***

Source: McGill University

Oil-cleaning robots help with oil spills

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, MIT's SENSEable City Lab has engineered special oil-cleaning robots called "Seaswarm."

Seaswarm robots resemble conveyor belts attached to an ice cooler and are designed to skim the surface of the ocean, working together in packs. The belt propels the robot forward, and is covered by a fabric made from a special nanomaterial mesh designed to absorb oil, while repelling the water. The robots can then either burn the oil, or save it for later. The ice cooler portion is a heater, which can either burn off the oil, or bag it and leave it to be picked up. This dramatically reduces the time required for collection, eliminating return trips to the shore.

The robots are equipped with two square metres of solar panels for self-propulsion, as well as Wi-Fi and GPS, allowing for an organized clean-up system without continuous human attention. Each robot costs about $20,000. Scientists have estimated that a large fleet of Seaswarm robots could clean a spill like BP's in about two months. — ***KIM TRAN***

Source: Discover

Scientists train mice to sniff out bird flu

Scientists have trained mice to detect bird influenza in duck feces. "We believe dogs, as well as mice, could be trained to identify a variety of diseases and health conditions," said Bruce Kimball, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

Using well-established principles of learning in psychology, Kimball and colleagues trained mice to detect infected samples by rewarding them each time they were correct. After several trials, the mice became experts at identifying diseased duck feces.

According to Kimball, "We envision two broad, real-world applications of our findings. First, we anticipate use of trained disease-detector dogs to screen feces, soil, or other environmental samples to provide us with an early warning about the emergence and spread of flu viruses. Second, we can identify the specific odour molecules that mice are sensing and develop laboratory instruments and in-the-field detectors to detect them."

Kimball suggests that multiple chemicals may be responsible for producing differences in fecal odour between healthy and infected ducks. Subsequent to researching tools used to detect these chemicals, statistical analyses may also be used to determine the pattern of chemicals that indicates infection. — ***MEKHALA GUNARATNE***

Source: Science Daily

Old age not to blame for mild forgetfulness

Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent form of dementia, is known for its role in memory loss in old age. However, most of us believe that mild forms of memory loss are a natural development in the aging brain. A recent study by Robert Wilson of the Rush University Medical Center in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry* argues that forgetfulness is not simply a milestone of old age, but is perhaps an indication of the onset of dementia.

In the study, 350 Catholic nuns, priests, and brothers were evaluated on tests of memory, such as recalling word lists, vocabulary, numbers, and naming tests. They were tested annually for 13 years. Participants' brains were subsequently analyzed post-mortem for lesions. The results showed that in the absence of brain defects, almost no gradual decline in memory was observed.

Wilson explains, "lesions play a role in virtually all late-life memory loss." These findings highlight the significance of administering memory tests on a regular basis, to track premorbid cognitive ability and implement appropriate preventative strategies in aging patients. — ***NANCY KOU***

Source: American Academy of Neurology

What makes you so smart? Why, dopamine polymorphisms, of course!

We all know that some students perform better than others when it comes to academics, but we don't know why. Are these students naturally smarter than others? Or did these students have mothers that were exceptionally nurturing?

In the latest issue of the journal *Intelligence*, Florida State University biosocial criminologist Dr. Kevin Beaver and colleagues showed that certain genetic variants are associated with these academic achievers. Genetic variants that are close to genes involved in dopamine signalling — a process needed for brain functions such as learning and memory — were found to be statistically associated with students who perform well in English, math, history, and science.

Although the study was unable to identify the exact genetic changes underlying differences in academic performance, it suggests our genes may indeed hold the key to our academic achievements. — ***HM***

Source: Florida State University

Got muscle pain? Ginger can't hurt

Dr. Christopher Black and colleagues recently published in *The Journal of Pain* that ginger has anti-inflammatory and hypoanalgesic effects on muscle pain. The study used 72 participants to test the effects of raw ginger and heated ginger on pain alleviation. For 11 consecutive days, participants took two grams of raw or heated ginger supplements, and executed 18 eccentric exercises targeting elbow flexors to induce pain and inflammation.

Pain ratings decreased in the raw and heated ginger groups by 25 and 23 per cent, respectively. Ginger has gingerols, shogaols and zingerone, which are involved with the receptors responsible for pain processing. Although the initial activation of these receptors is painful, large doses or longer-term activation desensitizes it. Hence, ginger might contribute to the overall desensitization of these pain receptors.

Previous studies have also shown that heating ginger increases the amount of shogaols. However, the current study did not detect any enhancements in its pain-relieving effects. So, why not add that spicy tinge to your next meal? — ***NK***

Source: American Pain Society

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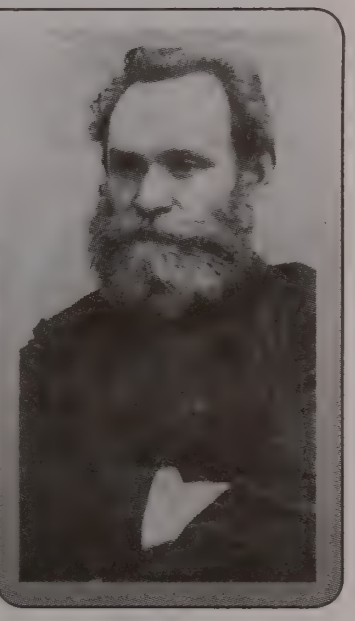
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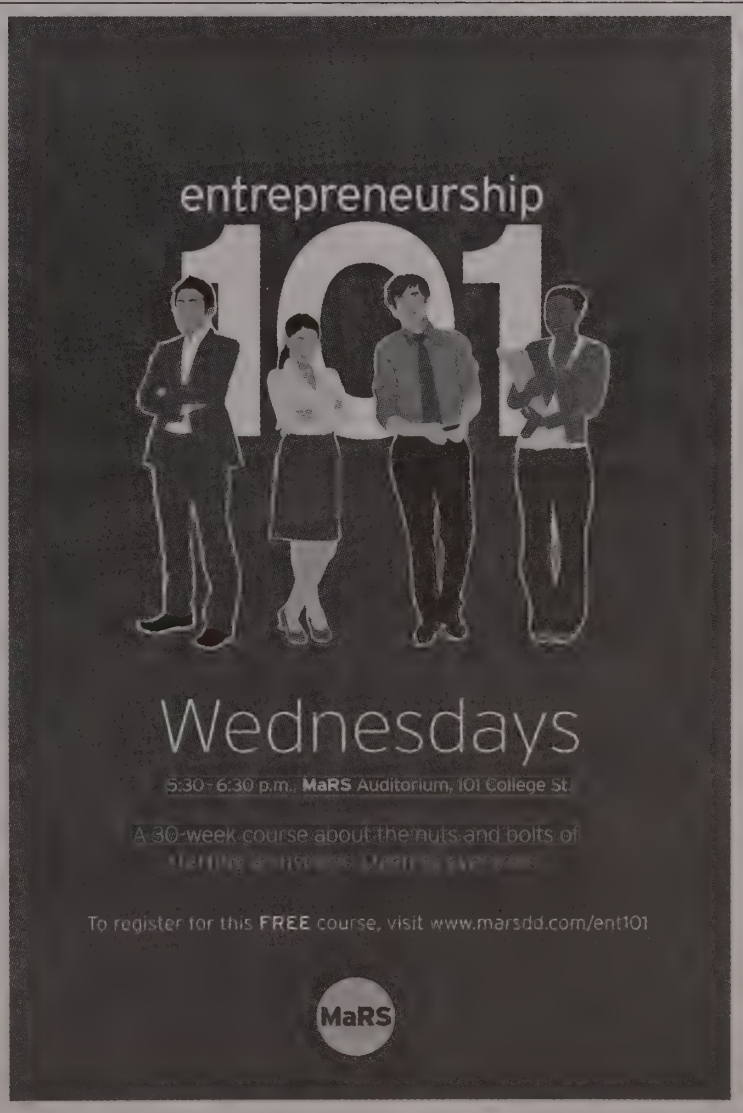
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U of T beats number-two ranked football team in the country



Rookie running back Aaron Milton opened the scoring for the Blues. *DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY*

Blues send the Gee-Gees home with their tails between their legs



DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY

CAREER-HIGH FOR GILLIS

Varsity Blues Quarterback Andrew Gillis threw 28-for-45, recorded a career-high 343 yards and two touchdown passes agaist the Ottawa Gee-Gees at Varsity Stadium on Saturday before being named Player of the Game. In 2009, he dressed and started five games and threw 38-for-90 for 491 yards and one touchdown. The year before, he dressed for five games and started four. During his first season as a Blue, he dressed for all

'BIG WIN' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

the Blues since 1972.

But Toronto was riding the tides of a 24–19 victory that was secured over the York Lions on Sept. 18, and had fresh legs as they were off last week with a bye.

Apparently, the break in their game schedule served the Blues well, and Head Coach Greg DeLaval admitted that it was "the best week of practice in a long time."

Someone should have given Gee-Gee's Head Coach Jean-Philippe Asselin a heads-up.

In a pre-game statement Asselin said, "If Toronto is supposed to be a weaker team, I would like to remind the guys that they have blocked eight or nine punts since the beginning of the year in four games. Also, Guelph beat Queen's easier than we did, and Guelph only beat Toronto by two points; so there is nothing to take for granted."

Good advice, but unfortunately for Ottawa, it was lacking on follow-through. With the win, U of T scored their first victory against a nationally-ranked team since 1997, when they defeated the Waterloo Warriors 21–15.

Although Gee-Gee's receiver Matthew Bolduc opened the scoring with a touchdown just over a minute into the game, it only took Blues rookie running back Aaron Milton five minutes to get the home team on the board. Milton's 105-yard touchdown run ties the U of T record set by Maurice Doyle at McMaster in 1979 and ranks fourth in the CIS for longest rush.

Quarterback Andrew Gills connected with sophomore receiver Paul de Pass on a 24-yard pass for the second Blues touchdown of the game and Toronto wrapped up the first frame in the lead.

Gee-Gees receiver Cyril Adjeitey responded early in the second quarter when he caught a 57-yard pass from quarterback Brad Sinopoli, and kicker Matthew Falvo converted his second extra point of the game.

Eager to hold on to the lead, Blues quarterback Jordan Scheltgen was brought off of the bench to score on one- and two-yard rushing touchdowns respectively. Despite a rouge from the Gee-Gees three minutes later, the Blues were up 27–15 at halftime.

As the Blues gathered out of the public eye to assess their tactics, "Rolli — one of our players — said, 'Coach you don't need to say anything,'" smiled DeLaval, who responded with a simple, "There's nothing to say."

Early in the third quarter, a seven play 73-yard drive and a one-yard run from Franck Ngandui led the Gee-Gees to their third touchdown of the game. The Blues remained one step ahead, however, and Gillis connected with receiver Michael Prempeh on a five-yard pass to put his team up comfortably by 12.

As the Gee-Gees coaching staff paced angrily up and down the sidelines talking furiously into their headsets, the Blues continued their climb up the scoreboard. Third-year kicker Andrew Lomasney scored 13- and 30- yard field goals respectively.

With just a minute left in the game, the Gee-Gees decided to show the home team why they are ranked second highest in the league and made a desperate final attempt to bring home the win.

An eight yard pass from Sinopoli to receiver Bogdan Raic brought the Gee-Gees up by a touchdown. With less than ten seconds to go, Steve Hughes connected on a three-yard reception for another one.

And as the Blues rejoiced emotionally on the sidelines to a final score of 40–35, it was clear that they couldn't have cared less that Ottawa had come within five points of knocking them off their high horses.

"This is a big win for us," said DeLaval. "We had a little bit of luck today.

"They gave us some things we could take advantage of. We made interceptions at critical times."

Although DeLaval admitted that the team wasn't under a lot of pressure going into the game — honestly, no one really expected them to win — Milton, who has quickly become one of the most impressive standout rookies in the league confessed he was a little nervous.

"But I knew what our team could do," said Milton, "Most teams underestimate us.

"The plays we were calling right off the bat were plays we were comfortable with and it just carried over."

But it was Gillis, named Player of the Game, who was the real story at Varsity Stadium. The fourth-year quarterback threw 28-for-45, recorded a career-high 343 yards and two touchdown passes.

"We had a game plan coming in," said Gillis, always quick to credit his teammates. "We knew we were capable of doing something like this."

"Andrew is probably one of the hardest working guys on the team," said DeLaval of his star.

The Blues will be suiting up in Kingston next Saturday to take on the reigning national champions, the Queen's Gaels.

To prepare for what Delaval described as a "tough game," the teamwill be mixing up their practice tactics. The field at Richardson Stadium is actually grass, unlike the artificial turf at Varsity Stadium, so the Blues will be moving their training to the back field of Trinity College in order to further prepare for the game.

For now the home team will be focused on celebrating their victory.

"We were due," said DeLaval.

The Commonwealth Games

How does Canada fit into one of the biggest sporting events in the world?

Nicole Leung
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The Commonwealth Games opened on Sunday in New Delhi, India.

New Delhi's chaotic preparation for the Commonwealth Games has been met with criticism from all over the world and has prompted many to ask what the Commonwealth Games are for.

"The games were a much more political project or idea than the Olympics, in that [they were] designed to strengthen the ties or the cultural and social relations between [participating nations]," said Bruce Kidd, University of Toronto professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Health, who won a gold and a bronze medal as a track athlete at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

But the lack of appeal of the Commonwealth Games may have contributed to the fiasco in India.

As Alexander Chancellor wrote in *The Guardian*, "It is hard to imagine any country, even India, being so lackadaisical in preparing to host the Olympic Games or the World Cup. But the Commonwealth Games don't have their glamour."

The Commonwealth Games are unique in that they were established on the basis of history, instead of geographical location. The Commonwealth nations are supposed to share similar cultural and social traditions because of their past and present exposure to British rule.

But some, including Chancellor, argue that the ties are no longer strong enough, and that the members do not share many of the same cultural attributes and traditions anymore. This is evidenced by the fact that Mozambique, in which Portuguese is the official language, and Rwanda, in which French is more widely spoken than English, are both members.

As a member of Commonwealth Games Canada, the organization coordinating the Canadian team's participation in the games, Kidd believes that they are still relevant.

"I think there was an effort among the leaders of the Commonwealth Sport and there is an effort in world sport to put more of these major games in their benefits in the developing world, in the global South, and this is an example of that," he said.

What do the games mean to the Canadians then?

If not for the crisis in New Delhi, the Commonwealth Games could pass by almost unnoticed in Canada. In 2010, the Canadians enjoyed a gold medal haul at the very successful Vancouver Winter Olympics, and passion for soccer spread across the country thanks to the FIFA World Cup during the summer.

And now, here comes another quadrennial sporting event — the Commonwealth Games.

Hamilton's failed attempt in bidding to host the 2010 Commonwealth Games would probably be the only — if there is one — Canadian link to this year's games an average Canadian could identify with.

Yet Canada has deep roots at the games. Melville Marks (Bobby) Robinson, who was a sports journalist with the Hamilton Spectator at the time, attended the 1928 Olympics as the manager of the track and field team. He created what was then called the British Empire Games to accommodate entities within the British Empire that do not have an Olympics team.

The idea had been around for years, but it was Robinson who put it into practice — 400 athletes from 11 countries attended the 1930 British Empire Games with a competition program made up of six sports. This year, 7000 athletes from 72 countries will be competing in 17 sports.

Canadian athletes have participated — and excelled — at every single Commonwealth Games since. Canada comes third in the overall medal count, after Australia and England.

Canadian swimmer Graham Smith swept six gold medals at the 1978 Games in Edmonton, and Alexandra Orlando repeated the same heroics in rhythmic gymnastics in 2006 in Melbourne.

However, even looking at Canada's glorious record at the games, one might ask if it even matters that much to an average Canadian.

Canada performs well in the medal table, largely because some of the greatest sporting nations on Earth — the United States, Russia, and China for example — are not competing.

Does this mean that the Commonwealth Games only serve as the diving board for the young and upcoming athletes?

"Given the fact that Canada continues to have significant trade and cultural relations with these nations — so many immigrants come from the Commonwealth countries — these games remain important for us," Kidd said.

Kidd claims that, for example, there is strong Canadian presence in India, and the games would only help strengthen it, "Canadians are having increasingly strong ties with India, immigration and trade are big, [and there is] the exchange of technology and the exchange of university students.

"The games are supposed to express and reinforce those ties."

However, the fact that Canada has been a keen supporter of the games, (Canada has hosted the games a record-tying four times), does not help to fuel the popularity of the games.

Kidd feels that the Commonwealth Games are not as popular among Canadians as they used to be but suggests that hosting them again might improve their popularity (Canada last hosted the games in 1994 at Victoria, British Columbia).

"I like this idea [of the Commonwealth Games] a lot," said 22-year-old Lev Daschko, a U of T graduate with a specialist in history. "It's nice to be part of the Commonwealth, and it's a good way to show Canada's place in the world, our ties to Britain, and to the other Commonwealth countries."

The Commonwealth Games rarely receive attention from the public, not only because of the modest amount of funding they receive from the federal government, but also due to minimal media coverage. According to Evan H. Potter at the University of Ottawa, Canada was the only major Commonwealth nation not broadcasting the games in 2006.

Daschko said, "[The Commonwealth Games] don't get that much coverage I find. I would like to have them on [multiple TV channels] like the Olympics.

"I think if they were televised, there would be more of a following.

"For the Commonwealth Games, because they are smaller, it's even more important for Canadians to support [our athletes]. It's even more embarrassing if nobody is watching them, and they place very well there."

In fact, Canada is linked to the Commonwealth Games in multiple ways that are seemingly overlooked by the public.

Commonwealth Games Canada has been active in sport and social development in the developing world. Kidd was the co-founder of the Canadian Sport Development program, now known as the International Development through Sport programme.

The IDS uses sport and physical activity to contribute to some of the basic development goals of the Commonwealth, like basic education, gender equity, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The programme is conducted by a number of Commonwealth countries, including the UK and Australia. Canadian programs are currently focused on the Caribbean and Africa.

"In Canada, [the programme] came out of the change in the world in the early 1990s," said Kidd. "It came in response to an appeal by the sports leaders in Africa, and the newly liberated South Africa from the Apartheid, to help them rebuild the sport in South Africa and the frontline states in Southern Africa. It came

SEE 'COMMONWEALTH' - PG 22

VARSITY BLUES POLE VAULTER JASON WURSTER WILL BE COMPETING IN NEW DELHI



JEFF CATON

Jason Wurster, a sixth year U of T student majoring in Geography with minors in Forestry and History, will be competing for a medal in pole vaulting at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Wurster, a native of Stevensville, Ontario, started pole vaulting in grade 9. He has been training with U of T since 2001 when he was under the auspices of the Junior Development program.

"I wasn't really the guy who'd planned to go to university. U of T has supported me every step of the way and it's been an experience," said Wurster.

Having participated at the World Student Games in 2005, 2007, and 2009, and now in his fifth year of eligibility as a Varsity Blue, Wurster is no stranger to competition.

The U of T pole vaulter finds that competing at the likes of the Commonwealth Games could help him prepare for the Olympics, the Holy Grail for track and field athletes.

"As a track athlete there's certain meets you want to make it to, the Olympics being the biggest event," said Wurster. "Then there are certain events like the Pan-Am Games and the Commonwealth Games that we strive to compete at."

Wurster has been training — a lot of jumping, pole vaulting, long jumping, sprinting, weightlifting and gymnastics — for a month and a half in order to peak on October 11, which is the final for pole vaulting.

Australian Steve Hooker, the current world number one pole vaulter, will be Wurster's main rival. According to Wurster, Hooker has done "some amazing things." Hooker jumped the second highest height ever achieved at 6.06m while Wurster's personal best is 5.5m.

"He's someone I sort of look up to," said Wurster. "Unless he's having a bad day, it'll be difficult to beat him.

"I try not to overanalyze things too much. It's sort of better to forget about a lot of things and go in with a clear head."

Wurster's family, coaches, and U of T are important components in his support system, but it was Canadian Athletes Now, a Toronto-based funding company, that made his dream of becoming an amateur athlete come true.

"I was in my garage working on a bicycle on a Sunday. A girl called me to say I'd got [funding]. I'd sort of forgot about it. I was floored. It overwhelmed me," said Wurster. "It was $6,000 dollars, which is a lot of money for someone who doesn't get paid to [pole valut]."

Wurster's long term goal will be to shine at the London Olympics, which will take place two years from now.

"Definitely my eyes are on making the Olympics in 2012, and being very competitive there and making the final," he said.

A good sport



Toronto Argonauts quarterback, Danny Brannagan, in action.

A Maritime Story

The CFL's visit to Moncton suggests the league could be on the verge of thriving

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Few Canadian institutions have had a rockier past several years than the CFL. A failed franchise in Ottawa, an ownership crisis in Toronto that have led to both the BC Lions and Toronto Argos falling under the same owner, and a municipal election in Hamilton that, pending the outcome, could force the Tiger-Cats to move thanks to stadium woes.

A sun-kissed afternoon in Moncton, New Brunswick this past Sunday offered a strong ray of sunshine though. The Toronto Argonauts and Edmonton Eskimos came to town to play a much-anticipated regular season game — technically an Argo home game promoting the CFL on the east coast.

Though the on-field product was not pretty, it was established well before the opening kick-off that nothing could have dampened the day. Tickets sold out just 36 hours after they went on sale and there was, region-wide hype for the game.

Everything about the event, of course, begged the question of whether or not a permanent CFL franchise could someday find itself in eastern Canada. TSN did a good job of tailoring the question to an affirmative answer, airing features about the local high school football culture — which could be mistaken for the southern United States on any given game night. The mayor of Moncton was interviewed and did nothing to discourage the notion.

Yet the suggestion of a franchise in the east presents a reasonable and fair question. The combined population of the four eastern Atlantic provinces is rather insignificant, compared to many other CFL markets. The business community is not as big as in cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary, so finding the capital to bring in a team could pose a challenge.

Interestingly, CFL case studies suggest that small market teams can actually thrive where local conditions are appropriate.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders attract by far the most passionate following of any team in the league, despite the fact that their city has a population of 180,000 people.

The key has been regionalizing the team's appeal. Fans come from far and wide to support the Roughriders in Regina. Eastern Canada, like Saskatchewan, lacks professional sports teams and there is every indication from the Argos-Eskimos game that the CFL could make a splash.

There is now talk of returning Ottawa to the league in coming years, and adding an eastern team to the mix would give the league ten teams and a truly national, coast-to-coast character.

Recent years have been tough, but better days could well be ahead for the CFL.

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'COMMONWEALTH' – CONTINUED FROM PG 21

about as a result of the young athletes who wanted to give something."

Kidd, who has been involved in the Commonwealth Games for around half a century, thinks that even though they have become increasingly diversified (for example, with more developed support systems for the global South), some elements of the games remain unchanged. "There are continuities," said Kidd, "like this belief in bringing everything together. It is this whole idea of exchange."

Kidd is also currently chair of the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport, an organization that advises the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth governments on sport policy with respect to sport for development and peace.

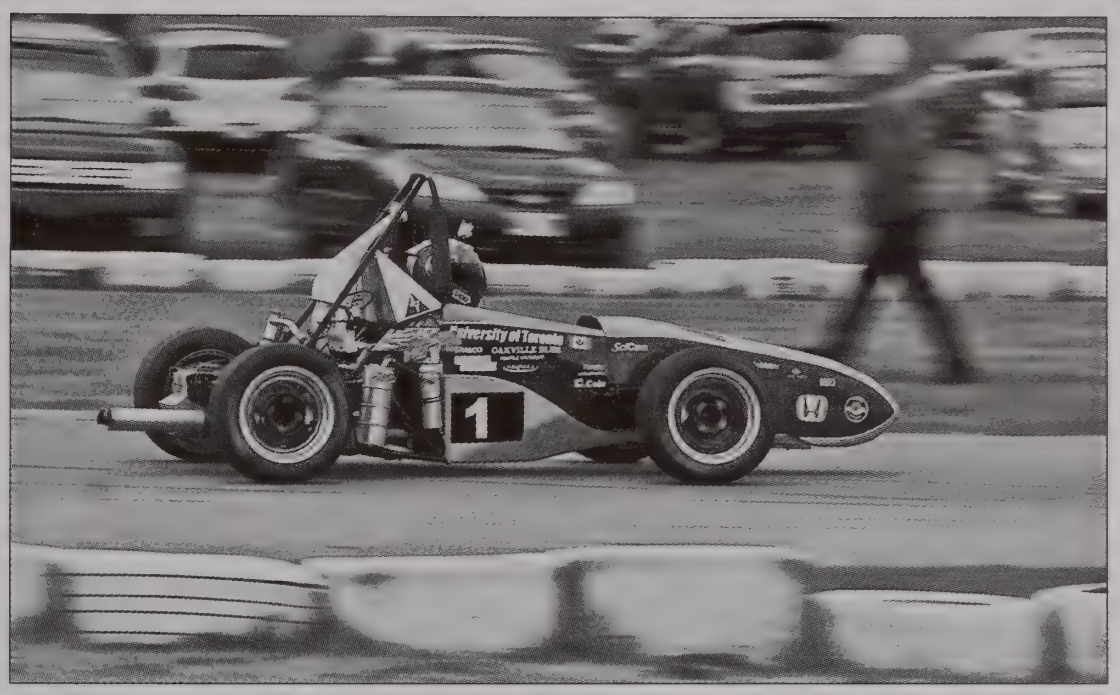
While for many, the Commonwealth Games are the relic of a forgotten legacy, some find that the Commonwealth Games not only give Canadian athletes another place to win medals and to fine tune their skills, but also create national pride.

"I would love another games to be in Canada," said Daschko.

The race to the top

U of T's formula racing team is testing the limits of man and machine

Charlotte Tombs
VARSITY STAFF



Each year U of T's FSAE team builds and races a Formula One car. *ANDREW WONG/FSAE*

In room 102 of the Haultain Building, a group of skilled engineers and avid athletes meet to discuss the matters of one of the University of Toronto's fastest-moving teams.

U of T's Formula One race car team, or FSAE, consists of 25 students who work together to build a new Formula One car each year from scratch. The team invites students from all disciplines to join — both technical and safety skills are taught to newcomers each year and no previous experience is required.

Amanda Santos, a third-year mechanical engineering student and FSAE's Team Manager, acts as a liaison between the team and the outside world. She is the team's main contact person and is in charge of the business side of operations while also helping to build the car.

"I joined last year, at the beginning of my second year at U of T, and have been team manager ever since," said Santos.

A skilled photographer, Santos showed the team pictures she had taken at an event they hosted and she was immediately recruited into her current role.

The members of the FSAE team, Santos included, are completely devoted to the Formula One car.

"When we aren't in class, we're in the shop working on it," said Santos. "When I [first became involved], I attended initial workshops and was completely enthralled with the project that was being described. I knew that this was something I wanted to devote a lot of time to. As team manager, I should be putting in eight hours of work per week, but I end up putting in probably 15."

September marks the beginning of building season for the team, although a mock car is built of wood during the summer months in preparation. Testing season begins in February.

The team is granted permission to use certain testing areas around Toronto. The tests are conducted on weekends and they are called "shakedowns." They check to see whether parts of the car break while it is being driven. During testing season, third and fourth year students get a chance to test drive the car — whoever drives best and is fastest gets the opportunity to drive during competition season.

Come May, the athletes gear up for competition season which runs until August.

"During competition season, a total of ten competitions are held around the world, but we only have the funding required to attend two: FSAE East in Michigan, which includes 120 teams, most [of whom] are from the United States, and Formula Student Germany, which includes two Canadian teams — U of T and ETS [a technology school affiliated with the University of Quebec] — and many European teams," said Santos.

Last year the U of T team couldn't make it to Detroit for the FSAE East competition. It was the first time in 11 years that they hadn't gone.

"Not going to Detroit was devastating. We had a new car made of carbon fibre which operated on a single cylinder engine, but it had not been well-tested. Instead we attended the competition as spectators," said Santos.

According to Santos, however, by the time the competition in Germany rolled around, the team was completely ready.

"The car was well-tested this time — we tested it every day. We were very happy to have finished all events because many teams don't even finish!" she said

An FSAE competition consists of two types of events — static and dynamic. Static events include design presentation, where the car is presented to judges who assess its design; marketing, where each business team must attempt to sell the car to investors; and cost reports, where each team must present a report of all costs associated with the building of the car.

The three dynamic events include an 11km autocross, which is a combination event that includes turns, slopes, and obstacles on the race track; endurance, which is a 22km version of autocross; and acceleration, a race in a straight line.

Although U of T's FSAE team placed 33rd overall at the Formula Student Germany competition, it is not at the level it once was in 2008 when it was ranked fifth in the world.

"After 2008, we switched to a new engine," said Santos. "More marks were going to be attributed to Fuel Economy, so we had to switch from a 3-cylinder to a 1-cylinder engine.

"Also, we tried the carbon fibre car. Carbon fibre is what actual Formula One cars are made of, so we wanted to try it. However, it is a finicky material and we don't have the facilities to build a carbon fibre car at U of T. In the end we realized that it was better to work with steel, which is what we are doing this year. At U of T we have the facilities required to work with steel."

Next year, the team hopes to place between 10th and 15th at the Formula Student Germany competition. They also hope to beat ETS, the only Canadian school that continues to beat them in competition.

"We would love to beat ETS. They are a very skilled team and it would be great to beat them so that we can officially be the best team in Canada," said Santos.

In addition to attending competitions, FSAE hosted their own event on Sept 18.

U of T's "Shoot-Out," as such events are called, lasted from 2 a.m. until 5 p.m. and was attended by 350 people and 22 teams from across North America. Santos organized the entire event, hiring volunteers, acquiring sponsorship, renting buses, inviting teams, and managing the website.

"Four months of planning paid off," she said. "It was a great opportunity for FSAE teams from across North America to meet and discuss Formula One. Overall, it was an amazing event."

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Overheard On Campus

Guy 1: Is it me or does the title "Orphan Run" for a fund raiser sound cruel?
Guy 2: Meh, what are these kids going to do... complain to their parents?
—UTM Students Center

Guy (to girl) : do you like MGMT?
Girl: no, im in life sciences.
—Library

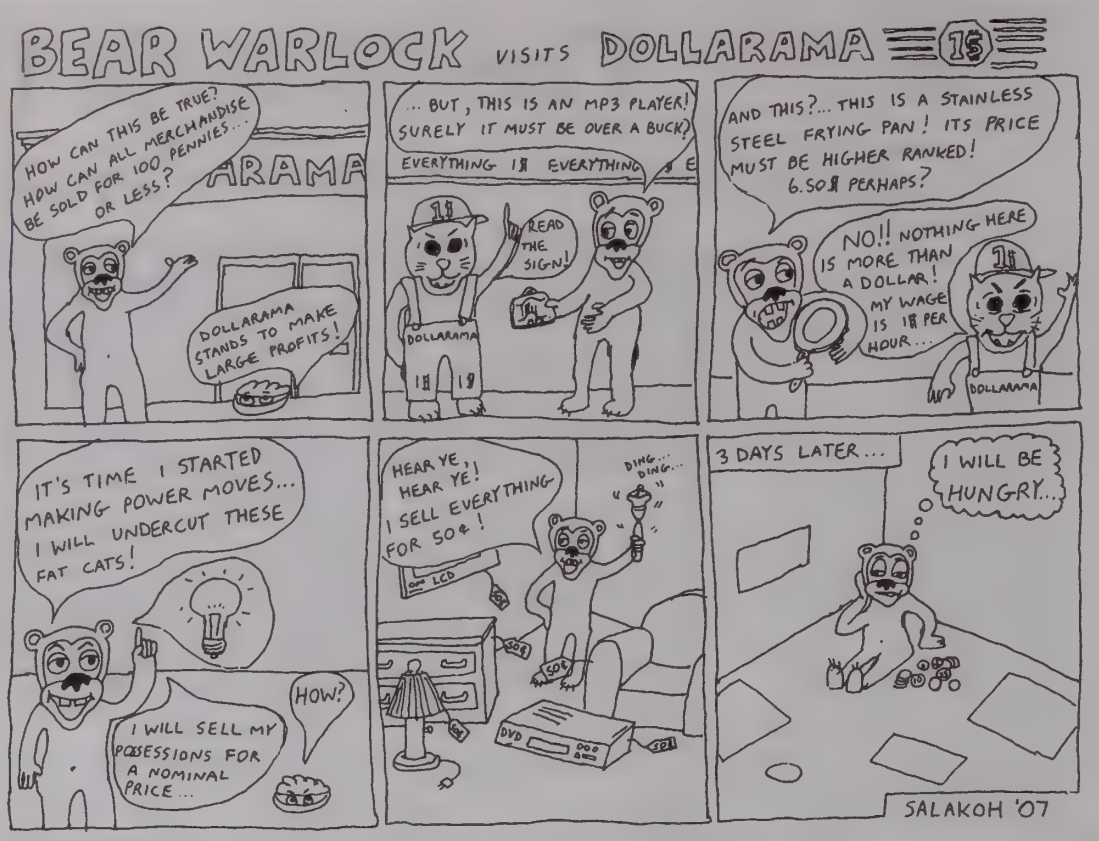
"I can't date a girl with bigger biceps than mine!!!"
—Guy in an apparent panic at robarts

Girl: What's that show that people shove things up their ass and then go to the hospital?
Boy:..... ..... I'm sorry what!?
Girl: You know they put things in their butt 'n get hurt?
Boy: Jackass?
Girl: YAA THATS IT! lmaooooooooooo
—@ St. Mikes

Prof. Scoville: "Could you imagine if classic characters had cellphones? Juliet could text Romeo 'Don't worry poison is fake! ROFL!'"
—ENG237 Science Fiction

Prof: "When you get married, what do you get?"
Student: "Knocked up!"
—In an in-class discussion

Share your own overheards on the "Overheard on Campus" Facebook group!





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ON CAMPUS:

CLUB EVENTS:

Family Night with Marni Jackson
U of T invites you and your family to explore the campus, learn more about the resources offered to students, and laugh a little with bestselling "Home Free: The Myth of the Empty Nest" author Marni Jackson. There will be tours, a resource fair, and light refreshments.
- *October 7th at 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.*
- *Robert Gill Theatre (214 College St.)*
- *Free, but go to www.family.utoronto.ca to register*

DEBATES:

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- *October 6th at 7pm.*
- *Hart House, Debates Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

FILMS:

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- *October 9th at 8 p.m.*
- *Innis Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave.)*
- *$8*

LUNCHEONS:

NSSA Student-Professor Luncheon
The Nutritional Sciences Student Association is hosting a student-professor luncheon where you can meet and chat with department professors about their research areas and potential career opportunities. This is a great way to network and find out about the field of nutrition.
- *October 4th at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.*
- *Fitzgerald Building, Room 423 (150 College St.)*
- *Free!*

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CONCERTS:

Home and Native Sound Series Launch Party
The Toronto Independent Music Awards is launching the Home and Native Sound Series, blending an aspect of competition with the spirit of the annual awards show. The launch party, hosted by local artist Sean Ward, features three 2010 TIMA winners; The Strange, The MacHams, and Cut Throat Kids.
- *October 8th at 8:30 p.m.*
- *The Central (603 Markham St.)*
- *$5 entry (must be 19+)*

EXHIBITS:

Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns, and Mermaids
This is the Ontario Science Centre's newest exhibit, part of their fall/winter lineup. It explores the human connection with folkloric beings through art and objects from around the world. Paintings, masks, sculptures and more are on display, showing how people from different cultures have perceived various mythological creatures.
- *Starts October 9th*
- *Ontario Science Centre (770 Don Mills Rd.)*
- *$13.50 with Student ID*

FILMS:

Essential Cinema Screenings
This year, TIFF screens its "Essential 100" list, a collection of classic cinema masterpieces considered required viewing for any film lover. Among those films playing at the TIFF Bell Lightbox this week is "The Godfather", considered to be one of the greatest movies of all time. Is that an offer you can't refuse or what?
- *Various dates and showtimes starting October 7th, check www.tiff.net*
- *TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King Street West)*
- *$9.50 per ticket with Student ID*

Petropolis: Aerial Perspective on the Alberta Tar Sands
This short, hallucinatory documentary by Greenpeace Canada is a part of Toronto Socialist Action's Rebel Films series. The film takes us on a helicopter flight over the vast area containing the world's second-largest oil reserve that is being despoiled, possibly forever, to separate bitumen from sand.
- *October 8th at 7 p.m.*
- *OISE (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *$4 donation requested*

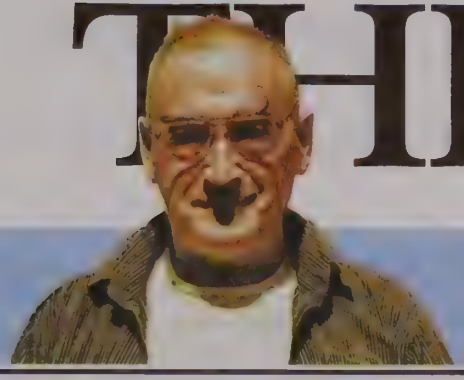
A fair deal for Ontario's sex workers **p9**
Comment

Geology undergrads get geophysical **p13**
Science

Rebuilding Varsity Blues basketball **p16**
Sports

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"People go to see [movies] and they say, "Wow that was terrific." It's like a heroin addict – they just want their next fix immediately after the last one." – Reg Hartt **p11**

11 October 2010

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Candidates duke it out at Hart House

Debate moonlighting as game show featured Ward 20 and Ward 27 candidates



Evelyn Reese points to councillor Adam Vaughan, running for re-election in Ward 20. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Samya Kullab
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"Our children are our future!" yelped Evelyn Reese, middle-aged, pot-bellied, in a tight dress and brandishing a cigarette, "though I don't have any, per se."

Reese was the moderator for Who Wants to be a City Councillor? a debate masquerading as a game show organized by the Hart House Debates Committee.

A total of 10 candidates running for Wards 20 and 27 were present. Ward 27 candidates included Simon Wookey, Chris Tindal, Ben Bergen, Susan Gapka, Ella Rebanks, Joel Dick, and Kristyn Wong-Tam. Ward 20 candidates included Mike Yen, Dean Maher, and incumbent Adam Vaughan.

Vaughan expressed his intention to run for Mayor in 2015 and openly endorsed Kristyn Wong-Tam.

Reese, a Toronto-based comedienne whose real name is Susan Fischer, provided much-needed comic relief for the evening. She works as an administrator in the Alumni Office at U of T and approached the Debates Committee, offering to help.

As the night wore on, candidates battled each other in three game show-themed competitions, aptly named the Price is Right, Family Feud, and Toronto's Got Talent. This format allowed candidates to showcase their know-how and sense of humour to a crowd of mostly U of T students.

Reese relayed game show etiquette to each candidate "Rule 1: do what I say. Rule 2: I'm the boss". With that, the games began.

The most interesting, and by far the most entertaining, point of the debate was the candidate talent show where some opted to take risks. Highlights of some answers included:

"My talent is sustainability. I used one sheet of paper for all my answers," said Mike Yen, adding that he also had a talent for drawing stick men.

"Reaching out and getting things done," said Joel Dick.

Elle Rebanks offered to share a joke her eight-year-old had taught her: "Knock knock/ Who's there?/ The interrupting cow/ The interrupting cow wh-/Moo!"

"I can get more votes than the rest of these people," joked Susan Gapka.

Ben Bergen, after admitting to leaving his dignity at home, crooned out a tune that was much lauded by the audience.

The most lauded however, was Si-

SEE **'ELECTION'** – PG 5

RESTRUCTURING

Dean vows more clarity

Arts & Science council criticizes lack of communication, financial details

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science met last Monday afternoon and discussed faculty dean Meric Gertler's academic plan.

Most seats were filled in the council chamber at Simcoe Hall. Aside from 10 minutes of procedural duties, the two-hour meeting focused on the plan.

Part-time undergraduate representative Andrew Agnew-Iler moved to have the discussion on the plan tabled off the agenda, citing confusion over the plan and wanting to avoid "giving life" to unconfirmed details. The motion was defeated by roughly two-thirds of the votes.

Fellow part-time undergraduate representative and UTSU VP of Campus Life Corey Scott asked if the council's decision on the plan could be tabled, Gertler clarified there would be no vote taken, only a discussion.

Gertler apologized for publishing his planning document in the summer, explaining that forming it took longer than expected. He then showed a briefing slideshow presented at last month's town halls followed by questions from the council.

Gertler said he was open to alternative solutions but reluctant to restart the planning process, which began a year ago.

The bulk of comments and questions surrounded financial disclosure. Many complained about the lack of precise numbers on each department's financial situation and estimates on the restructuring's savings.

Gertler mentioned that his faculty's budget committee will be reconvening in the coming weeks and that he will propose they "update the overall financial analysis of the proposals" with "a more complete analysis of the financial consequences or implications" of the plan.

ASSU president Gavin Nowlan said departments' financial information was given to the Strategic Planning Committee during its faculty review.

"The information's there, the

SEE **'DEAN'** – PG 6

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT

Universities allegedly spent millions lobbying government

U of T not among institutions implicated

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY STAFF

A document obtained by NDP Ontario revealed that nine universities and colleges in Ontario have collectively spent nearly a million dollars to lobby the McGuinty government for more grants.

Obtained through a freedom of information request, the document lists nine Ontario colleges and universities who paid independent lobbying firms to get funding from the government.

York University spent the largest sum of money ($ 491,500) on three different lobbying firms, followed by University of Ontario Institute of Technology ($130,000) and Laurentian University ($102,000).

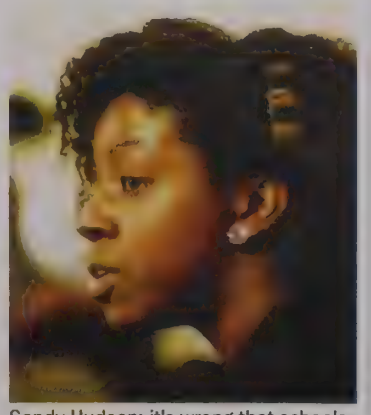
"It is wholly inappropriate that public institutions would use student money to lobby the government," said Joel Duff, the organizer of the Canadian Federation of Students in Ontario.

Duff said universities and colleges, which like to see tuition fees increase, are "using our money against us" by lobbying the government for more funds, which could mean increased tuition fees.

"Our education system is in a sad state. We have the highest tuition in all of Canada yet the worst quality in all of Canada."

Sandy Hudson, the chairperson

SEE **'LOBBY'** – PG 4



Sandy Hudson: it's wrong that schools "need to be begging" for grants.
VARSITY ARCHIVES

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
10°C to 17°C	9°C to 20°C	12°C to 15°C	6°C to 16°C	3°C to 14°C

COMMENT

Interdisciplinary education needed for U of T's future p7

ARTS' ARTS

Original poetry and photography from U of T's finest p10

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U OF T FACULTY

U of T prof receives Trudeau Fellowship

Sujit Choudhry also recently appointed to UN mediation roster



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Aakanksha Tangri
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It has been an impressive year for Sujit Choudhry. A professor in the Faculty of Law, Choudhry has recently received both a Trudeau Foundation Fellowship and an appointment to the United Nations mediation roster, a panel of experts set to be deployed to assist with a ceasefire or peace and constitutional negotiations.

Choudhry said he will use his $225,000 Trudeau Fellowship to transform Canada into an innovative and leading international centre for the study and practice of post-conflict constitution-making. Choudhry's new role at the UN complements his position at U of T where he is a full-time member.

"It's nice to be asked, and it dovetails into a lot of teaching and research I do at U of T so it fits in nicely," said Choudhry while speaking about his appointment to the United Nations. A scholar in comparative constitutional law, Chouldhry has consulted on post-conflict constitutional processes in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

Choudry believes there is a pressing need for Canadian knowledge in peace negotiations. "In many situations, the central issue in peace negotiations is the adoption of a new constitution," says Choudhry. "But while constitutions matter centrally to the peaceful resolution of civil wars, we do not always know whether the pre-existing constitution was itself the cause of the civil war, or merely a consequence of broader forces that led to civil war. Canadian expertise is increasingly in demand to address these issues."

With a B.Sc. in Cell and Molecular Developmental Biology, Choudhry had initial plans of entering medicine. "...I studied biology and I got very interested in bioethics, the ethical issues surrounding biotechnology. I approached Peter Singer, who at that time was the first year professor at medical school. The major medical project I worked with him for was a legal medical project on the new package of legislation adapted in Ontario, governing consent to treatment.

"...I found that legal reasons seemed to be quite imprecise in comparison to what I was used to dealing with in biology. The amount of reading was enormous compared to what I was used to. Although it was analytical, it wasn't as precise as mathematics or science so that was challenging. And of course, getting used to the writing was a real change."

He joined U of T as assistant professor in 1999 but has a long connection with the institution. "I feel like I've spent my whole life more or less along Bloor Street. I went to the University of Toronto Schools and my father was a professor at U of T."

Choudhry holds the Scholl Chair and is associate dean of the first-year program at the Faculty of Law. He is cross-appointed to the Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Governance. He is a senior fellow of Massey College and a member of the University of Toronto Centre for Ethics.

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ADVANCEMENT

BMO donates $2.5m to U of T

Rotman students to get new trading lab

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In the Financial Research and Trading Lab, students get first-hand experience of financial trading through simulated modules.

"Sometime professors simulate a crash," said Kevin Mak, manager of the lab. "The students' faces just go pale. There's a few tears."

The lab, located on the second floor of the Rotman School of Management, is being expanded thanks to a $2.5 million donation from BMO Financial Group announced last month.

About a third of the donation, $750,000, will establish the BMO Financial Group Access to Higher Education Awards. The needs-based program will award scholarships to graduates of academic bridging programs — ones that serve marginalized, disadvantaged people lacking normal university entry requirements — who are accepted into undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

The remaining $1.75 million will be used to renovate the lab which will then be called BMO Financial Group Finance Research and Trading Lab. The lab is a room with 35 double-screen workstations, two real-time stock tickers, televisions, and projection screens. Professors of business and commerce courses create multiple scenarios, allowing students to test their knowledge and skills in a spontaneous environment.

"It's like a flight simulator. If you're a pilot and you come up against a mountain, you don't want [to experience] that in real time, you want to have a kind of strategy to use," said Thomas McCurdy, academic director at the lab.

"They use their theory ... they figure out things that work systematically and we so teach them how to do finance when the future is uncertain," he said.

Mak says roughly 1,500 students use the lab for coursework each year, and that it's popular with students completing research and clubs holding trading competitions: so popular that 35 workstations hasn't been enough. McCurdy said he's anticipating an extra 30 workstations.

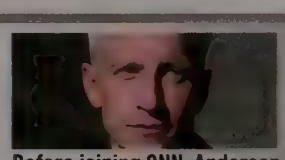
"We get so many schools around the world who want to come, but we're sort of limited," he said. "This will really help."

The lab will be expanded and take over the current Business Information Centre library. A trading pit for open outcry trading — like the squabbling NYSE traders seen barking commands to analysts — is in the plans.

"The University of Toronto is a stellar institution," said Ralph Marranca of Corporate Media Relations at BMO Financial Group. "We have enjoyed a longstanding partnership, working with them to enhance the student experience."

"In everyday simulation, [a student] always wonders how accurate it is," said Mak. "So having a big investment bank sponsor it adds legitimacy and show what trading is really like."

In 1993, the financial group established the BMO National Scholars Program with a $3 million dollar donation that was matched by both the university and the province. The donation is part of Rotman's $200 million fundraising campaign, as well as a wider U of T fundraising campaign in the works.



Before joining CNN, Anderson Cooper wrote for The Varsity.
[ed. note: fact-check]
Write for News!
news@thevarsity.ca.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Connection found between emotion and leadership



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Being in tune with one's emotions may just be the secret to success. A recent study published in Leadership Quarterly by Rotman School of Management professor Stephane Cote has found a connection between leadership and emotional intelligence, which is a person's ability to perceive and understand emotions.

The findings came from two studies of commerce students who were each given an emotional ability test before completing a project in a small group. Upon completion of the project students were asked to identify who they thought had shown the greatest leaders. Those identified by their peers as leaders also scored high on the emotional ability test.

"Traditionally, we've had the assumption that leaders have high IQ, are gregarious individuals, or happen to be dominant personalities," said Cote in a press release. "But this shows it's not just about these traditional factors... it's also about being able to process other people's emotions. Anybody who wants to pursue a position of leadership and power can benefit from these abilities."

The four attributes used to measure a person's emotional intelligence were the ability to perceive, use, understand, and regulate emotions. "The whole idea [of emotional intelligence] is that there are right and wrong answers to emotional problems," explained PhD candidate Jeremy Yip.

The term "emotional intelligence" was popularized in 1996 by Daniel Goleman and his book *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ*.

The connection between emotional intelligence and leadership is a relatively new idea. "Up until Stephane's study, only one or two other studies have focused on perceiving emotions as an attribute for leadership," said Yip.

"Anytime in a management or leadership role, there is a strong emphasis on communication and emotion is a form of communication," said Yip. "A person's emotional intelligence could help a person's leadership strength."

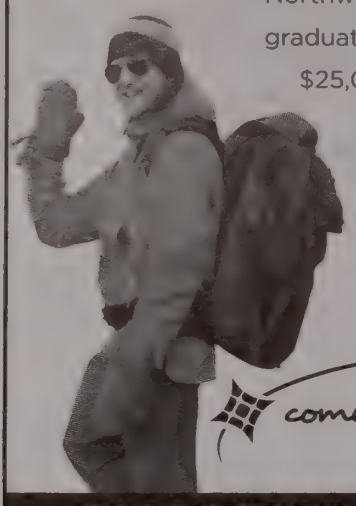
Rotman teaches emotional intelligence in a fourth-year elective course, though serious study is mainly left for MBA programs. "Emotional intelligence [is mostly] taught at the MBA school level of business. Two or three classes are devoted to learning [the concept]."

Yip believes that the importance of emotional intelligence in business is only going to grow. "It has important implications on how we teach our students and train our leaders. What we have found through research is that emotional intelligence is a distinct ability that is separate from academic intelligence as well as a personality trait.

The study was published in June and was co-authored by Paulo N. Lopes of the Catholic University of Portugal, Peter Salovey of Yale University, and Christopher T.H. Miners of Queen's University.





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AWARDS FOR FACULTY

U of T faculty recognized by Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations

Three members of ivory tower receive recognition for teaching excellence

Ryan Tuzyk
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Three U of T faculty members have received recognition from the Ontario Confederation of Faculty Associations for their skills in the classroom.

Professors Susan McCahan of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Shafique Virani of Historical Studies at UTM, and Michael Wiley of anatomy are recipients of the 2010 OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards. Approximately seven awards are given annually to teachers who excel in the classroom.

"Passionate and engaged teachers are the foundation of the high-quality universities so important to Ontario's success," said Professor Mark Langer, president of OCUFA, in a press release. "This year's award winners exemplify the spirit of leadership and innovation that makes for an excellent learning experience at our province's institutions."

SUSAN MCCAHAN

Susan McCahan was a teaching assistant before becoming a professor in 1992, teaching in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department and later focusing on energy systems and rapid-phase change. She currently researches engineering education, trying to determine exactly what makes teaching environments accessible or inaccessible to people of various backgrounds.

"[Learning] empowers people to increase the capacity they have for being successful or reaching the goals they want to reach in their lives," said McCahan. She believes a good teacher should "get all the basics right" and "meet all the expectations set out." She suggested teachers "be really selective of what is covered in lecture."

McCahan also believes that there's an art to teaching. "A well-run class has some of the elements that a piece of really meaningful art has, in that it is transformational on both an emotional and intellectual level."

McCahan has also won an Alan Blizzard Award, a 3M National Teaching Fellowship. He has also been awarded a U of T President's Teaching award and a Medal of Distinction from Engineers Canada.

SHAFIQUE VIRANI

Shafique Virani has taught everywhere from the banks of the Ganges to Abu Dhabi. He began teaching at Harvard in 2001 before continuting at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates in 2004. In 2006, he moved to Toronto to teach Historical and Religious Studies at U of T Mississauga. This year, he became the Chair of Historical Studies.

"I don't even think of it as teaching, I think of it as learning," he said. "People have such fascinating ideas, and if you can draw those ideas out of them, you can learn so much." Indeed, the learning that comes with teaching is Shafique's motivation for pursuing the profession.

"If you enjoy what you're doing, you're gonna put time and effort into it," said Virani. "In today's world... education is really about teaching people how to ask the right questions and how to find answers themselves."

Virani received a Distinction In Teaching Award every year he was at Harvard, as well as receiving a Merit Award at both Harvard and Zayed. He was also a finalist for the Joseph Levinson Memorial Teaching Prize.

MICHAEL WILEY

Michael Wiley has been an anatomy professor at U of T since 1976, teaching subjects such as gross anatomy, neuroanatomy, embryology, and histology.

When teaching he tries to "put [himself] in the students' position and to try to identify when the students aren't getting an understanding of the material that I am trying to teach. I'm not doing my job if you're not getting the point, so I'm going to make whatever adjustments are necessary to teach what I'm trying to teach." He believes it important to "be aware of how well the students are assimilating what you're trying to teach."

He is largely responsible for introducing a virtual microscope program called Mscope to his histology students. He is a supporter of integrating technology into the classroom.

"New technologies offer many opportunities to teach in different ways," he said. "As students become more and more familiar with using technology in their extra-curricular life, I think they become more comfortable with learning using new technology and less comfortable with the old media-textbooks and lectures and so on."

Wiley also received the 2010 President's Teaching award.

'LOBBY' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

of CFS Ontario, said it is wrong that schools "need to be begging" for grants.

"The fact of the matter is institutions are underfunded. The government needs to put post-secondary education at a higher priority," she said.

Hudson added that a lack of resources is resulting in increased classroom sizes and students writing less essay assignments. This information is from a recent survey released by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

Other institutions that pay lobbyists are the Ontario College of Art and Design ($54,000), Wilfrid Laurier University ($69,000), Lakehead University ($33,000), Lambton College ($54,000), Mohawk College ($31,000), and George Brown College, which refused to reveal the amount of money it pays Capitol Hill Group, a lobbying firm.

All universities in Ontario are already a part of the Council of Ontario Universities, which lobbies on their behalf.

University of Toronto media representative Laurie Stephens said U of T does not pay independent lobbyists.

"As a matter of practice the university does not employ lobbyists to advocate or arrange meetings with the provincial government," Stephens wrote in an e-mail message.

"We have good ongoing working relationships with government that are helped by our proximity to Queen's Park and by the fact that a number of our senior administrators know the government structures well, based on working experience in and with the government."

Institutional resources should go into improving education, not paying lobbyists, said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath in a press release.

"When students are struggling with higher tuition fees and higher debts, universities shouldn't be spending scarce resources on lobbyists," said Horwath,

"Something is wrong when money is being diverted away from students into lobbyists' pockets," he added, urging the McGuinty government to ban the use of independent lobbyists by public institutions.

"It's time for the Premier to protect public dollars instead of his friends and advisors by banning lobbyists in the public sector."

The document lists all lobbying firms, save those hired by Laurier and Lambton College, who are currently active.

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'ELECTION' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

mon Wookey's response. "My talent is that I don't drown," after recalling his days as a stuntman for feature films.

Fun and games aside, candidates were well-acquainted with student concerns, isolated transportation, housing costs, and bike lanes as major issues.

There was much variance when candidates were asked what average undergraduate debt is upon graduation. Simon Wookey had the right amount with $37,000.

"Understandably, [councillors] don't control tuition fees," said Semra Eylul Sevi, communications director for Hart House Debates Committee. "Although this was game show, it was kind of sad that most of the candidates didn't know the answer. I guess it kind of shows their character and what they stand for." To prepare the answers to questions posed in Family Feud and the Price is Right, committee members asked 100 students a variety of questions about what students value most at U of T.

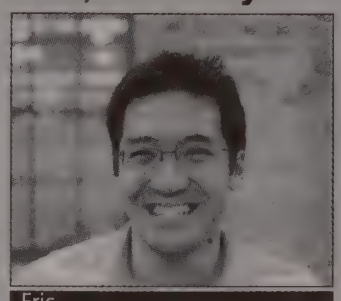
This was the second time council candidates participated in a game-show style debate. The first, held in June and developed by VoteTO, took place at Fly Nightclub.

"Some of the member[s] of [the] committee had attended the VoteTO event and said it was great in terms of informing and also engaging students. So we modelled it off their event and added new games like Family Feud," said Sevi.

Once points from all three games were tallied, Wookey walked out the winner of the evening. The candidates will duke it out for the position of councillor on October 25.

What did you even do for Nuit Blanche? Like, seriously.

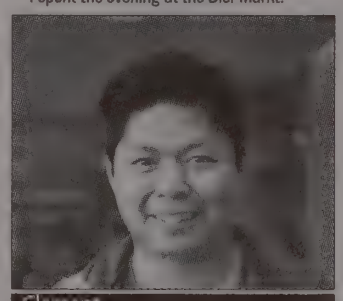
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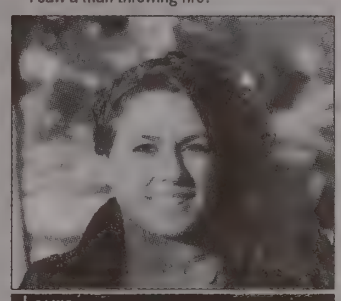
Eric
1st Year, Life Sci,
"I spent the evening at the Bier Markt."



Joel
2nd Year, Mechanical Engineering,
"I saw a man throwing fire!"



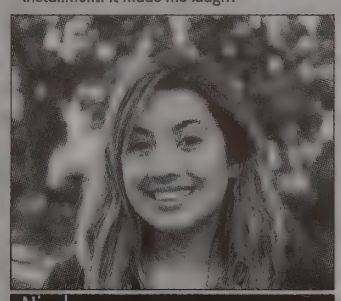
Clement
3rd Year, Political Science,
"I played Pokemon Snap from sunset to sunrise."



Laura
4th Year, Psychology,
"I really enjoyed the Secrets board installment. It made me laugh!"



Stephanie
2nd Year, History and English,
"Don't you mean Nuit Bland?"



Nicole
2nd Year, Italian and French,
"I went to Hamilton and partied at McMaster."

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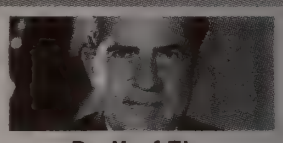
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'DEAN' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

question is why it's not on the governance website," he said. Gertler replied that the reports contain confidential information including salaries.

Although nothing concrete was promised, Gertler said he was committed to being "as open and transparent on the financials as we possibly can."

The second main issue discussed was the lack of communication from the dean's office. Gertler has suggested changes to the plans during the Town Halls, but no memoranda about the plan have since been published. Responding to criticisms, he pledged to issue more communications "to regain people's trust."

During the meeting the chair denied a few non-members' requests to speak.

Sanda Munjic, assistant professor in the Spanish and Portuguese department, voiced her dismay at cuts to smaller programs.

"Some of the best universities in the world are the best because they offer the most exquisite and merited programs, not because they offer the biggest classrooms," said, prompting a large applause from the chamber.

The Varsity live-blogged the event from its Twitter account. Minutes will be available after being approved at the next council meeting, scheduled November 1.

HEARING VOICES

U of T finds benefits to inner voice

Turns out the voices in your head might not be a bad thing

Kent Kuran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

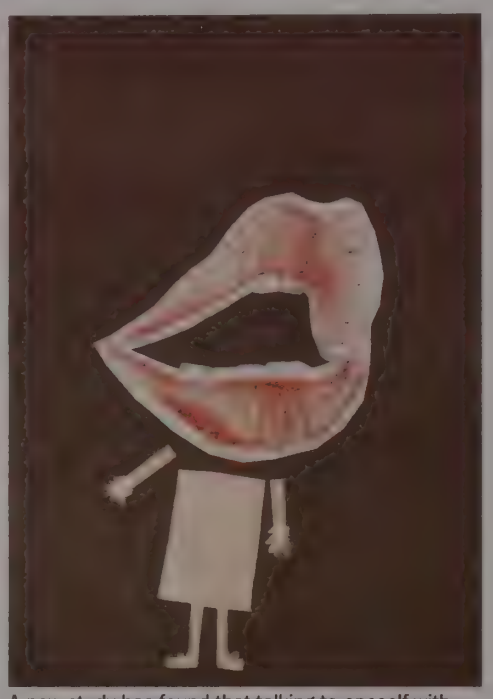
Hearing voices might not be a bad thing. A newly released study in *Acta Psychologica* has found that talking to oneself with an 'inner voice' is a beneficial aid in impulse control.

"We give ourselves messages all the time with the intent of controlling ourselves — whether that's telling ourselves to keep running when we're tired, to stop eating even though we want one more slice of cake, or to refrain from blowing up on someone in an argument," said Alexa Tullett, a researcher at the University of Toronto.

Tullett conducted a series of impulse control tests in a controlled environment using a simple computer application. In the control test, participants were directed to either press or abstain from pressing a button when directed as such. Because there were more incidents where the participants were asked to press the button, participants had to show restraint from continuing the impulsive behavior. In the experimental test, participants were instructed to continually repeat a word in their mind, while performing the computer test.

It was expected that this would block their inner voice and their ability to deter impulses. The research seems to substantiate the hypothesis.

"Our research suggests that people can use their inner voice to curb unwanted impulses, like outbursts of rage," said Tullett.



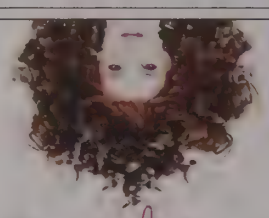
A new study has found that talking to oneself with an inner voice is a beneficial aid in impulse control.
SHANNON GARDEN-SMITH/THE VARSITY

"Through a series of tests, we found that people acted more impulsively when they couldn't use their inner voice or talk themselves through the tasks. Without being able to verbalize messages to themselves, they were not able to exercise the same amount of self control as when they could talk themselves through the process."

Tullet believes there is much more to uncover in this area. "It would be great to extend our research to explore other scenarios that have a greater resemblance to the situations we often face in our day-to-day lives. For instance, it would be fascinating to see whether the inner voice plays a role in people's perseverance when running on a treadmill, or in their ability to resist greasy foods."

Tullet also wishes to explore a behavioural perspective with this research and "explore aggression in the lab, by having people play games where they can punish their opponents with unpleasant bursts of loud noise. Our research suggests that, in all of these scenarios, you might be able to resist these unwanted impulses."

"The logical extension of this research, I think, is to examine what kinds of vocalizations actually help us to control our actions. Currently, we know that blocking the inner voice can impair self-control, but it would also be nice to explore what kinds of self-talk helps people to resist temptation."


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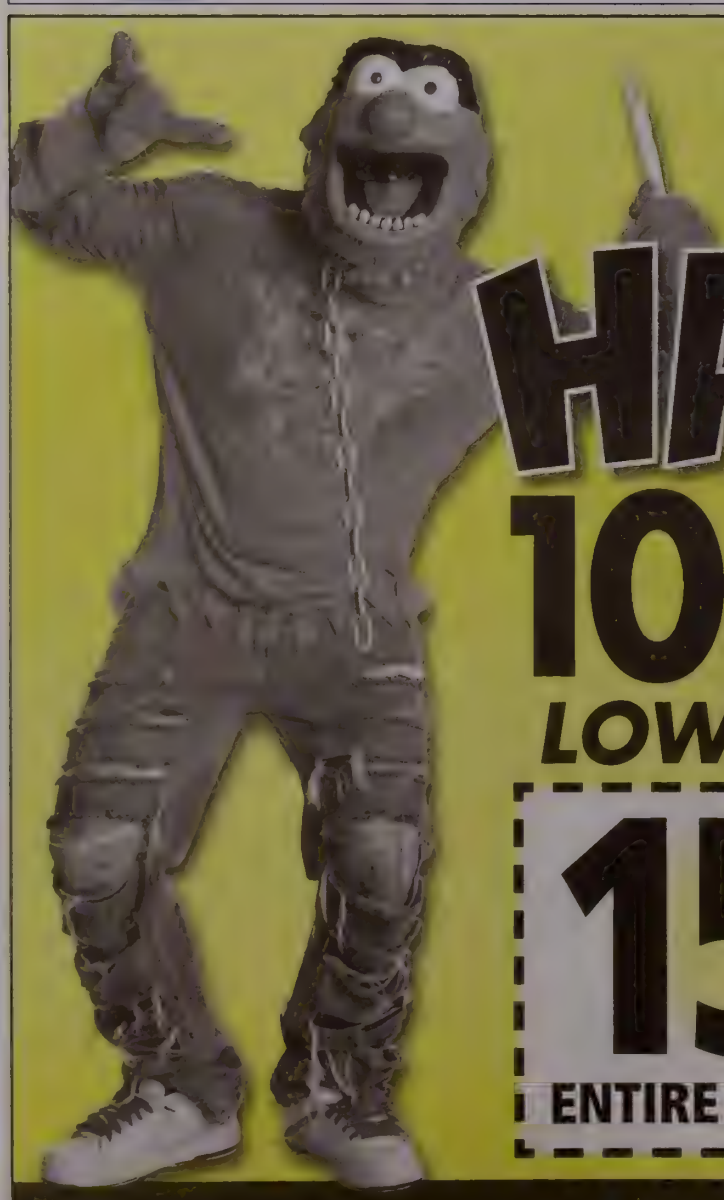
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A necessary piece of the university puzzle

Why interdisciplinary departments are the future of universities

Maria Cichosz
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

When the University of Toronto introduced its "Towards 2030" academic restructuring plan in 2007, it became apparent that a major part of the project involved cutting funding to and reducing the size of small interdisciplinary departments. Indeed, programs such as East Asian Studies were the first to feel the effects of the university's shifting financial priorities when it was proposed, in a restructuring document, that this discipline and a number of others should be amalgamated into one languages super-department. Although small, non-traditional interdisciplinary departments may not appear to be as useful as larger, established disciplines such as English or Biology, their existence is crucial to maintaining the quality of university academic programs.

Many small interdisciplinary programs play a central role in creating and maintaining spaces in which non-dominant approaches to knowledge and learning can exist on university campuses. Departments with a focus on equity-based education, including Equity Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and Sexual Diversity Studies emphasize the importance of identifying power dynamics both within the university and in society in general.

Recognizing the workings of power dynamics, and acknowledging how one's social position shapes one's experience, are essential skills for responsible citizenship and for developing a way of living consciously in a complex and hierarchical society. Despite this, critical-thinking skills and forms of knowledge that make power dynamics explicit are often glossed over in mainstream academic programs.

Smaller interdisciplinary departments also offer students the opportunity to take courses that allow them to examine traditional ideas, such as certain historical narratives, from other non-dominant perspectives. University is about getting a well-rounded education and becoming exposed to a plurality of ideas. Small interdisciplinary departments are among the last repositories of alternative knowledge on campuses, and eliminating or limiting these programs severely compromises the quality and heterogeneity of a university-based education.

Interdisciplinary departments not only provide spaces for alternative learning, but are also crucial to maintaining cultural, social, and political diversity on campus. Sexual Diversity Studies, Aboriginal Studies, and Women and Gender Studies are examples of departments that actively aim to create spaces for non-dominant groups to organize and exist as cohesive entities on campus. Without the existence of such programs, many groups would not have as much visibility on campus, would lack the resources to organize, and would be severely underrepresented in the university community. As universities increasingly strive to welcome diversity among their students while fostering a sense of community, it is important to recognize that imposing financial cuts upon small interdisciplinary departments would compromise not only a university community's diversity, but also the existence of viable political movements on campuses.

Finally, interdisciplinary modes of study are an important part of the future of academics. Many traditional disciplines are incorporating interdisciplinary approaches into their curriculums and recognizing that one perspective or methodological approach is often not sufficient to fully understand a complex topic. Similarly, the Faculty of Arts and Science recently implemented a new breadth requirement for all students entering the faculty after September 2010, in which students must take at least one course from each designated subject area. This requirement emphasizes the importance of a multi-faceted education that incorporates several different approaches and disciplinary perspectives — precisely the type of education that is facilitated and encouraged by interdisciplinary programs, which offer courses from a number of academic disciplines. East Asian Studies student union president Michel Marion stated that "with the new changes, no students will be able to study Asia in-depth." This comment highlights the utility of interdisciplinary approaches by noting that it is not enough to study one aspect of a topic, such as Asian languages, but that other aspects, such as history, culture, politics, religion, literatures, and geography must also be examined. It would be contradictory and counterproductive for the University of Toronto to mandate breadth requirements while eliminating the very programs through which students are most likely to receive the type of multi-faceted, rounded education these requirements seek to implement.

From a long-term perspective, it makes little sense for the University of Toronto to continue imposing cuts on small interdisciplinary departments within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. While such cuts may initially save the university money, they are ultimately indicative of U of T's lack of commitment to the development of new perspectives and academic approaches, to student diversity on campus, and to providing a rounded, multi-faceted, and relevant education to its students.

What's happening to the liberal arts?

How globalization and increased competition have necessitated the restructuring of the liberal arts

Alex Griffith
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

As Europe entered the 15th century and, by small steps, the modern era, something funny happened in education. Alongside rigorous classes in law, medicine, and theology, courses began springing up in Latin, poetry, and history. These liberal arts were first called 'humanae litterae,' which means 'literature with a human focus.' The medieval mindset of scholastic facts opened up to the more uncertain dream of creating civically responsible citizens

Now our universities boast broad programs in science, business, engineering, and yes, the sprawling and often ill-defined realm of the humanities. But after reading Samya Kullab's article "UTSU and OPIRG restructuring debate," [The Varsity, September 20] it occurred to me that we might be near the tail end of the movement those upstart humanists brought to the fore half a millennium ago.

Clear from the debate on the Faculty of Arts and Science's spending cuts was anger that Dean Meric Gertler did not consult the departments before proposing the amalgamation of six departments and axing several programs. Professor Tavakoli-Targhi, chair of the Department of Historical Studies, even compared the university's leadership to the Bush administration.

As lamentable as these proposed cuts are, Tavakoli-Targhi's statement captures the misdirection of anxiety at the 'five year strategic plan,' a title that suggests Soviet policy-making rather than educational reform. We can blame Dean Gertler or David Naylor for the new focus on business, engineering, and applied sciences, and the lack of consultation before streamlining comparative studies. However, it is a mistake to read these decisions as a top-down Bush-Cheney-style move. Faculties need to follow the money, especially when they saddle $22 million in annual deficits. UTSU President Adam Awad was closer to the mark when he observed that hard-to-market departments are perishing.

These departments are not only dying out at the University of Toronto. Institutions across Canada, America, and the UK are slashing grants to humanities departments. Recessions spell doom for public arts initiatives, but there has been a slower shift at play decades before the present one.

After World War II British governments began experiments in opening up higher education, then a playground for the rich. Provincial universities with lower tuition rates made an undergraduate degree more affordable, much to the upturned noses of writer Kingsley Amis and scholars who prophesized the watering down of academia. In Canada and the United States the undergraduate degree was brilliantly marketed to Generation X as a necessary step to adulthood.

It is, however, hard to build a good

SEE 'LIBERAL ARTS' - PG 9



As class sizes increase and department sizes decrease proponents of the liberal arts are asking: what happened?.

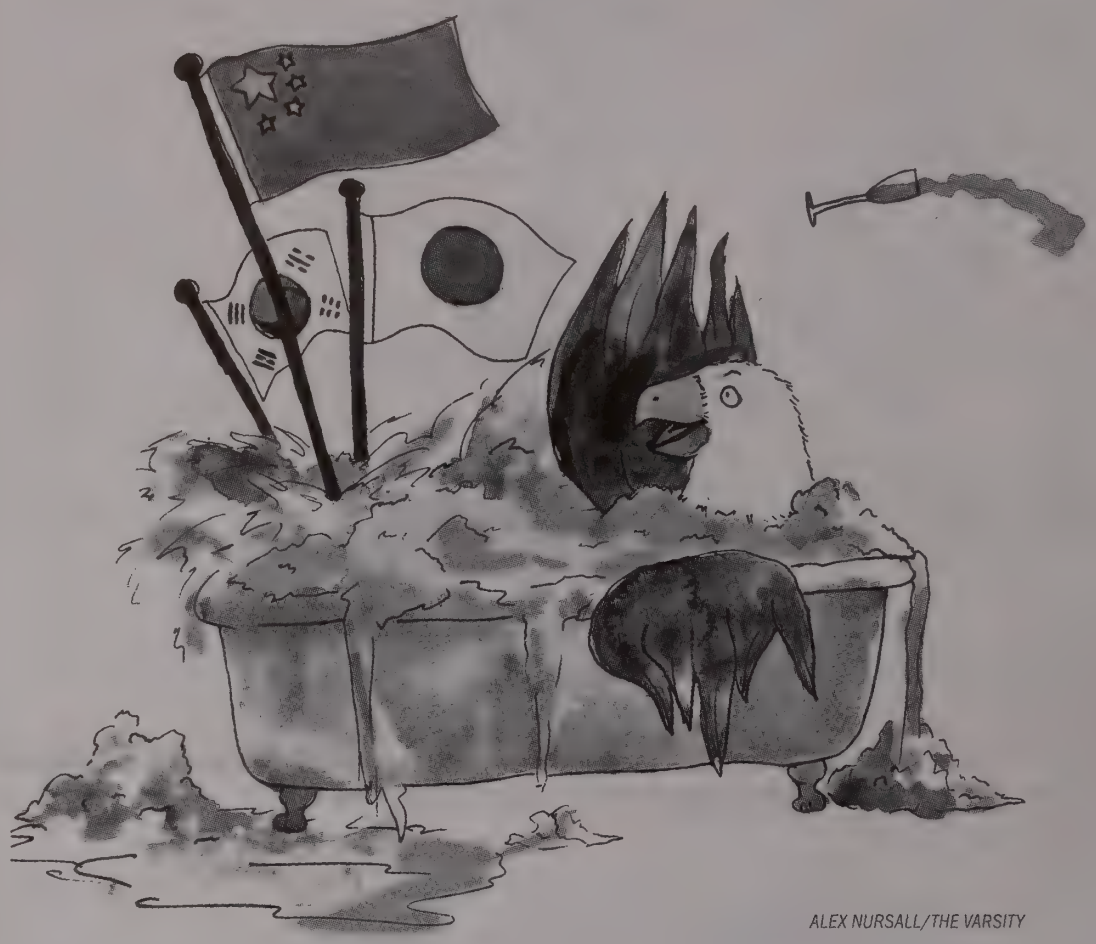


This Moment In History

Rising sun

Asian economies take a bite out of America's economic dominance

Nicholas Erwin-Longstaff
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

At the end of World War II, the United States of America became the gravitational centre of a vast global market. Because it had the largest economy and was the only major belligerent to escape devastation, it was the United States that was able to exert decisive influence in shaping the post-war world. American policymakers took a senior role in creating a set of post-war institutions — the International Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank — that were intended to maintain an international trade regime that would favour American interests.

While the principal aim of the United States in this period was to defeat communism, all too often this involved overthrowing democratically elected governments and supporting vicious dictators. Friendly governments were given money and weapons; in return, they were expected to continue selling the US the cheap commodities that its economy required. Though rarely acknowledged, it is clear that none of us living in North America today would enjoy the standard of living that we do had we been forced to pay Third World countries the actual market value of their natural resources.

This arrangement was remarkably successful for decades. It came under strain in the 1970s, rebounded during the 1990s after the USSR collapsed, and seems poised to once again disintegrate. Today the question is no longer if America's informal but potent system of global empire will come to an end, but when.

The decline of the American economy has deeply rooted causes. Some of them are international. Starting in 1973, for instance, members of the oil producers' cartel OPEC realized that their control over most of the world's oil supply was a potent economic weapon. In reaction to American support for Israel in the Yom Kippur War, they stopped providing the Western world with oil. The price of oil skyrocketed and, because oil was essential to transporting goods through the economy, the rise in oil prices translated into a rise in prices generally. Though the embargo ended in 1974, the days of cheap oil were over, and despite some fluctuation decade-to-decade and year-to-year, the price of oil has been rising ever since. The economy never really recovered and the high growth rates of the 1950s and 1960s never returned. Compared to that era, now remembered as a "golden age" of capitalism, current growth rates appear positively sluggish.

America's transition to a slow-growth economy undermined the premise on which America's post-war prosperity had rested. Without high growth rates corporate profits suffered. In reaction to this, businesses started to cut back workers' wages and wherever possible, relocated overseas. Over a period of decades this process hollowed out much of the American economy. As their purchasing power was diminished Americans turned to credit to sustain their lifestyles. They ran up huge debts and treated the equity in their homes like credit cards. Though the "Great Recession" has many causes: at the centre lies one basic fact, America cannot afford its lifestyle, and rather than adjust it has tried to live on credit.

Meanwhile, China's explosive growth has made it the second-largest economy in the world. With this economic power has come growing influence. In Africa, Latin America, and even in Canada, Chinese state firms are busy securing contracts that guarantee their economy the resources it will need to prosper. Meanwhile, Justin Yifu Lin, the first person in Chinese history to earn a doctorate in economics at the University of Chicago, became the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank.

America is caught in a dilemma. Its domestic economy is declining and its ability to coerce other countries into selling it cheap resources is weakening. On the other hand China's economy is growing rapidly. Chinese growth is problematic for the United States in many ways: first of all because it undermines American free market growth models that the IMF and World Bank have advocated and causes Third World countries to try and emulate the "Beijing Model" of development; Secondly the growth of China increases the global demand for scarce natural resources, most notably oil but also minerals and perhaps, in the near future, fresh water and arable land. If China, the US, and the rest of the world all demand the same dwindling supply of natural resources, then a conflict of one sort or another will be inevitable.

Labour renewed?

It remains to be seen if Ed Miliband has what it takes to restore Labour's moral foundation

Luke Savage
VARSITY STAFF

I was barely eight when Britain elected its first Labour government in 18 years, but with a thoroughly English paternal side, and a mother who managed to pry a university degree from the crumbling edifice of the UK's public education system during the bleak days of the Thatcher era, some memory lingers. Though my thoroughly apolitical eight-year-old self had only the most serene and uncomplicated vision of things, I still recall the vague impression that "something big was afoot." The grownups, of course, had a much more nuanced grasp of the events.

The success of Tony Blair's Labour Party in the 1997 general election was not unusual given the cyclical orbit of most two-party democracies: one governing dynasty replaces another, and after some time in power, is itself supplanted by a new one. Every so often, the mood of voters toward the outgoing party is so especially venomous that the newcomer is ascribed an almost mythic status by the electorate, albeit briefly. And so it was for Blair's neo-socialist project in the twilight years of the twentieth century. As with Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008, there was talk of some "historic realignment," a "new consensus" that would forever change politics in Britain and inevitably spread to other western democracies.

This was New Labour: a grand compromise which rejected the impossible choice between markets and socialism and carved out a new and majestic "radical centre" for global politics. Like President Obama, Blair was welcomed into office like a conquering messiah, winning the largest Labour majority since Clement Atlee's postwar landslide of 1945. Rather like Thatcher herself, the charismatic prime minister had both the bourgeois sensibilities and photogenic nature required to seduce the middle-class. He spoke using all of the old socialist buzzwords ("equality," "fairness," etc.) but garnished them with Thatcherite adornments about "innovation," "competition," and "responsibility." Capitalism itself was going to be radically humanized and markets, rather than being brought under direct control by the state as socialism had always aimed to do, were going to tamed and regulated.

Putting aside his self-appointed role as puppet-master-in-chief for the Bush/Cheney/Rove axis in 2003, Blair's project to reform British capitalism was a spectacular failure. Thirteen years later, Britain, like most countries in the developed world, remains a very unequal society rife with social division. Vast concentrations of wealth have percolated to the highest echelons of the British gentry, with the 1,000 richest people in the country now three times wealthier than they were when New Labour came to power. London has also become the most unequal major city in the developed world. So much for the "radical centre."

Forced out by his own party in 2007 and replaced by the shaky Gordon Brown, Blair remains unapologetic on both counts and will probably never repent for his contemptible embrace of George W. Bush, or his disastrous record on social and economic equality. Last May British voters finally handed New Labour — and the hapless Brown — the defeat it so justly deserved. It remains to be seen if anything survives of the British left, which inspired Canada's CCF and its successor the NDP, and provided a model for progressive movements around the world.

Yet election defeats can provide valuable moments of clarity for political movements, and Labour's campaign for a new leader quickly became a fraternal struggle (quite literally) between the rightward and leftward visions of its future exemplified by David and Ed Miliband. The former quickly received endorsements from the elder doctrinarians of the Blair era, while the latter built his campaign on the party's historic bases of support among the educated middle class, youth, and organized labour. Just over a week ago, after several rounds of balloting, Ed was elected leader over his brother, 50.65 to 49.35 per cent.

Like Tony Blair so many years ago, Ed Miliband becomes Leader of the Opposition in the face of a Tory-led government bent on gutting social programs and allowing the most destructive elements of the market to further erode the apparatus of the state. As did the architect of the elusive "radical centre," Miliband will have a unique opportunity to articulate a different view of the state: one that conceives of the government as a healthy bulwark against the merciless forces of the market, understanding that social and economic inequalities are more than mere irritants to be addressed when finances permit, but collective problems which endanger and threaten an entire society.

The violence must end

Why sex workers in Ontario should continue to fight for their rights and the removal of outdated laws

Arash Azizi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The intersection at Jarvis and Gerrard Sts. is infamous for being a prostitution hot spot in Toronto. KIERAN MEYN/THE VARSITY

It was a moment of elation and celebration. Not only for thousands of Canadian sex workers, but those in the labour movement who, like this author, consider themselves advocates of the battle to end violence against them. I am referring to the decision by Ontario's Superior Court of Justice that ruled the Criminal Code provisions relating to prostitution contribute to the dangers faced by sex-trade workers. Justice Susan Himel said: "These unconstitutional provisions should be of no force and effect, particularly given the seriousness of the charter violations." She was referring to those laws that, in effect, make any exercise in prostitution, which is not in itself an illegal act, a criminal operation. These laws are prohibitions on keeping a common bawdy house, communicating for the purposes of prostitution and living on the avails of the trade.

These 'moral' laws may be justified by some as necessary to protect society from the 'evils' of prostitution. However, rather than decreasing this ancient trade they manage to force vulnerable sex workers from the safety of their homes and workplaces to facing violence on the streets. Sex workers advocacy groups successfully challenged these prohibitions as a violation of charter rights of security of the person and freedom of expression.

"It's like emancipation day for sex-trade workers," said Terri-Jean Bedford, one of those who brought the government to courts over the subject. She then repeated what the judge had said, challenging Prime Minister Stephen Harper's court and his government to "take a stand."

The government decided to take a stand alright. But maybe not in a way that was hoped by the judge and sex worker advocates. The Victorian ladies and gentlemen that fill the majority of Parliament seats and, even more so those who fill the Conservative Cabinet, have struck back to try and negate the decision of the court. They clearly showed pandering to their right-wing base is of more importance to them than the safety and charter rights of sex workers in this country. Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and Rona Ambrose, Minister for the Status of Women immediately said their government is "seriously considering an appeal" and it didn't take long for them to be joined by the Liberal provincial government of Dalton McGuinty. So both powerful governments joined forces to appeal the ruling.

A Toronto Star headline said it all: "Celebration short-lived for Sex Workers."

After succeeding in winning the Ontario courts to their side advocates of a safe, violence-free environment for sex workers have to take on the power of the governments of Ontario and Canada.

This is a challenge, however, that sex workers and those in the labour movement should welcome and tackle head on. Valerie Scott, a renowned labour advocate and sex worker, called the ruling "an amazing victory."

"We don't have to worry about being raped and robbed and murdered," she said. "This decision means that sex workers can now pick up the phone, and call the police and report a bad client. This means that we no longer have to be afraid, that we can work with the appropriate authorities."

She is already dreaming of more. Of sex workers setting up labour unions, health standards, compensation programs, and even pension plans.

These 'dreams' should now be demands that sex workers and the labour movement as a whole should fight for. The experience has shown that sex workers should not just put trust in courts and rulings to do their work for them, but organize and fight, like any other worker, for their rights, and against outdated laws detrimental to their labour. We should expect the New Democratic Party to be on their side in this battle, for the NDP is not only the party of the working class in this country, but also its only voice for progressive values.

New Democrat MPP Peter Kormos welcomed the ruling and said federal Tories should accept it and look foward to a "brand new era."

The experience has shown that sex workers should not just put trust in courts and rulings to do their work for them, but organize and fight, like any other worker, for their rights.

The NDP and the labour movement should mobilize their forces and fight for a nation-wide decriminalization of the sex trade. They should also fight for good jobs and programs that will offer free education and training for those who are ready to leave this precarious trade and start a more mainstream career.

Prostitution is undoubtedly an ugly phenomenon. It is characteristic of a class-based society that forces women to sell their bodies to maintain a living. Those of us who fight for an end to violence against sex workers and their criminalization also dream of a day when nobody would be forced go down this path for survival.

Meanwhile, however, the safety of women and sex workers needs to be firmly established. Their ability to work in a free and fair environment should definitely come before the excessively moralism of the Harper and McGuinty governments.

Arash Azizi is a member of Toronto Young New Democrats and NDP club at the University of Toronto.

'LIBERAL ARTS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 7

liberal arts program from scratch. You can pump money into state of the art facilities for a biochemistry department, and chances are you will have a better department. But if Nipissing copies reading lists from Oxford literature classes it will likely not produce Oxford graduates. It is elitist to suggest it, but perhaps democratizing university spread thin the humanist tradition.

Clear enough is how eliminating research grants dulls the competitive edge an academic field should have. Competition is crucial to producing talent: it takes a thousand mediocre writers snapping at each other's heels to push one or two icons into the spotlight.

That is not to put down the 99.99 per cent of BAs who do not become luminaries. The humanist approach has always been focused on personal development rather than material reward. Once again, this is impossible to define in the same way as going into med school leads to becoming a doctor. Martha Nussbaum of the University of Chicago links the "ethical mode" of education to the health of a self-analyzing democracy in her book Not for Profit.

The societal benefit is incalculable, but money is not. The prestigious fields of engineering and technology get generous federal funding and attract foreign students, who pay much higher fees than domestic students. Quite rightly, the university wants to keep up its international reputation in scientific research, building on past breakthroughs in genetics and cancer. English students might be quietly revolutionizing literary criticism, yet this is not going to make front page news.

For better or worse, the operative question in our inter-connected world is that of use. The playing field has been levelled by globalization. Degrees have narrowed and specialized to keep up with an increasingly specialized workplace. Detractors of the nebulous humanities will call it a useless remnant of pre-modernization.

We will have to get used to the reduced role of liberal arts programs, at least for the time being. Luckily, education tends to swing like a pendulum between trends. If specialization and fact-based learning are perceived to go too far, Keats and Yates will get their own courses back. If Nussbaum's suggestion that the critical voice of democracy will suffer without the humanities, then we may see the field enter into a rebirth — a second renaissance.

Re: America The Great, Oct 4

Dear sirs:

I was reminded that I was back on a university campus when I saw Nicholas Erwin-Longstaff's column, "America the Great", with its Soviet apologism.

Lest it be forgotten, "honest" Joe Stalin promised Churchill and Roosevelt at Yalta that he would hold free and fair elections in Poland and the other liberated countries of Eastern Europe, then promptly reneged on his promises and set to work at subverting the countries of the West. As we now know from Party archives, the Communist Parties of the West were controlled from Moscow, with definite orders and a definite mission.

How were the democracies of the West to react to the fall of Czechoslovakia in 1948 (tears for Honza Masaryk's defenestration?), the fall of China to the Maoists in 1949, and the invasion of the southern half of Korea in the 1950s? Communism was seen as a threat because, well, communism was a threat. If Mr. Erwin-Longstaff cannot see why public opinion took such a turn in the late 1940s, I suggest he read a book or two – starting with John Fleming's "The Anti-Communist Manifestos".

It was not American "propaganda" that turned the public around (though some might call propagandizing against totalitarianism a noble mission) – it was the testimony of former Communists. And it was American might that protected those who managed to escape.

Simply because the Soviet Union did not win the Cold War, it does not follow that it did not try.

BENJAMIN SHARMA

Re: Peace of mind through science, Oct 4

To the Editor:

Your article on Science for Peace October 4, pp. 15-16 is very kind, thank you. Too kind, really.

For example: it is not true that the organization has many undergraduate members; we welcome undergraduate members and are sorry they are not yet as many as we wish!

We must also straighten out the sponsorship of our recent public meeting "Climate Reality" with Dr James Hansen, Naomi Klein, and Clayton Thomas-Muller. This important meeting was put on, not by us alone, but in collaboration with the Centre for Global Change Science, a University of Toronto body directed by Prof. Richard Peltier of Physics; indeed, Prof. Peltier opened the meeting.

While we are at it, may we take exception to your story's characterization of Dr Hansen as "controversial"? It is true he has been the target of attempted censorship by the Bush administration and continued sniping by climate-change deniers. Their attacks do not detract a whit from the solidity of his research.

JUDITH DEUTSCH,
President, Science for Peace
CHANDLER DAVIS,
Treasurer, Science for Peace

LETTERS

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions submissions are also welcome.

Ballad of a Mysterial Man
Patrick Harris

When I was in college, I once had the misfortune of
Being asked to attend a tutorial
On poemetry
And being the wide-eyed,
Naive,
Frequently bemused and occasionally bellicose
Youth I was
I said yes.

Now when Professor Jones came to speak with us
He asked for a volunteer
For to do poemetrics with him.
I put my hand up and he said,
"Peter, come up," and pointed to me.
My name was Rich
But I went anyways
And on his table I laid
My mechanical pencil, my geometry set,
And my abacus.

He produced a copious volume of Eliot from under the desk,
Placing it beside my abacus. Whereupon he
Promptly placed his ruler o'er the waste land,
Declared that we should "Take notice!"
And began to yell at me binary numbers.
The right ascension,
The declination,
The magnitude.

I felt my heart burn within me,
My mouth and mind screamed as one.
"Professor Jones, no!
You're doing it wrong!
It's like the verb is nouning
When the noun should be verbing!
You need a protractor for this.
A straight edge won't do, you need
A curved one."
He wouldn't listen though
By this point spewing something
About the longitude of the node
In the poetic body.
Disgusted I
Threw my abacus in his face,
Leaving to go measure
With my protractor
In peace.

(Actual) Lessons from Philosophy
Mitchell Gauvin

In no particular order:
One,
learning about Aristotle
is like walking
a beagle,

similarities are key—
it's annoying and pisses on
everything.

Two, seek the right habits,
you cannot identify as a rabbit
or you're a twat.

Three,
it is clear that floor boards
lack something men
do not.

Four, do not give
voting rights to
racoons.

Five, you can try at home,
throw a tipi off a cliff
and the same effect
will follow if
you throw
a beaver.

Six, if metaphysics
is a pursuit for the ultimate
furniture of the universe,
might I suggest starting
at Leon's?







photographs by Natale Danko

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / REG HARTT

Toronto's notoroious expert on LSD and French New Wave Cinema sits down with The Varsity's **ASSUNTA ALEGIANI** *to discuss the closure of his Cineforum and the fallacy of cinema.*

Assunta Alegiani
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Reg Hartt, a film archivist, programmer, and lecturer has been showing rare and obscure films since the 1960s. In 1992 Hartt moved his screenings into his living room at 463 Bathurst Street, with 20 seats and a big screen, and started a venue called The Cineforum.

Due to a complaint earlier this year to the city's Licensing and Standards division about Hartt running a business from his home, the Cineforum's existence was altered. Though Hartt can longer charge admission, and the neon-lit Cineforum sign is out, the doors remain open to the public.

The Varsity: *For those out there who have seen your posters but never stepped into your living room for a screening, what would you tell them to expect?*
Reg Hartt: I'm everything your parents warned you against. (grins)

TV: *That sounds pretty good. That always lures people in I think.*
RH: I think so, too. If you never have enough guts to do what your parents told you not to do, you're worthless, dead meat. Go away, don't bother me.

TV: *So you're all about the revolutionary spirit?*
RH: Well, there's not enough of it.

TV: *I saw the Henri Langlois quote on your website...*
RH: Yeah isn't that cool?

TV: *That's a good quote.*
RH: That's a bitchin' quote!

TV: *"An art form requires genius. People of genius are always troublemakers, meaning they start from scratch, demolish accepted norms and rebuild a new world. The problem with cinema today is the dearth of troublemakers. There's not a rabble-rouser in sight. There was still one, but he went beyond troublemaker to court jester. He clobbered the status quo. That's Godard. We're fresh out of 'bad students.' You'll find students masquerading as bad ones, but you won't find the real article, because a genuine bad student upends everything." Langlois' words introduce the viewer to your website. Is this supposed scarcity of truly revolutionary spirits in cinema the reason why you aren't screening much contemporary material?*
RH: No, I show contemporary films as well. You know people look at these films I show as old movies. These are not old movies! Films from the teens and the twenties are films from the youth of the cinema and when we're young we're daring, we're bold, we take chances, we don't mind upsetting people. It's just that energy and when we get older everything gets muted and seasoning is taken out. Today's movies are arthritic. They're toned down to such a degree or they're marketed to their specific target audience to let them know in advance that they may be shocked by this. Well, I'm sorry but that's not what it's all about. It's just that "boom", that splash of cold water in the face that wakes us up. Once things become an industry they become a product.

TV: *Where does your love for film come from?*
RH: I don't have a love for film, I have a love for ideas. I much prefer books because with a book I'm much more in contact with one mind speaking clearly and with movies you're not getting that. My interest in film began when I was 12 years old in grade six. They carted us off to see an MGM movie, The Knights of the Roundtable, based on Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur. I was determined to one day tell that story right. When you're twelve you think that way. Today I'm no longer determined to tell that story right because movies to me are for the most part not worth the time and the money to spend making them. People go to see them and they say, "Wow that was terrific." It's like a heroin addict – they just want their next fix immediately after the last one.

TV: *You don't think a film can be a lasting experience, that it gets you to think and grow more ideas?*
RH: No. Reading is a lasting experience. Even there...well it depends on what we're reading. We're feeding the brain with ideas when we're reading. With movies we're observing and the ideas tend to get lost.

TV: *If you think that books are much more experience worthy, why don't you have a library?*
RH: I do!

TV: *For the public?*
RH: Well, the whole place here is for the public. It's not a lending library but for anybody who comes in and shows a spark it's a resource centre. People are allowed and have always been allowed access to the material. I attract bright people; I don't get the dumb ones.

TV: *Let's talk about the City of Toronto. You and Toronto – is that a love-hate relationship?*
RH: No, I love Toronto. And the city loves me. I'm not going to stand by quietly when a bureaucrat says you can't do what you're doing, you're charging admission. I'm sorry, Cinematheque Ontario is charging admission, and does that make them a business? It's not a thing that's different anywhere else, it's not like the City of Toronto is being mean to me. It's the way bureaucrats are.

TV: *Have you ever considered going somewhere else?*
RH: I had offers to take what I do out of here and they're not acceptable because once I move from here then everything changes. See, in here one person can walk in and I'm not going to have a problem putting a program on just for them. But in a bar I can't do that. In a club I can't do that. In a space I rent, I can't afford to do that. So then I have got to program things I know that will put bums on seats; if it's in a bar things that will put bums on seats and things that those bums will drink during, so the whole parameter of the thing changes. "Cine" means film, and forum is a place where you talk, discuss ideas and that's what this place has been: it's been a forum.

SEE **'HARTT'** – PG 12



Reg Hartt (right) poses with The Varsity's Assunta Alegiani. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

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CUPE 3902 Membership Meeting

All members of CUPE 3902 are invited to attend the first General Membership meeting of the new year.
Financial Q & A pre-meeting begins at 4pm.

Agenda items include:

- trustees' report
- by-elections (Grievance Officer and Trustee)
- unit 1 Health Care Spending Account
- faculty of arts restructuring

Full agenda and Executive motions available in advance on the union website (www.cupe3902.org)

Thursday, October 14
5:00-8:00pm
Hart House (East Common Room)

Refreshments provided.
Childcare reimbursed with receipts.

CUPE 3902

'HARTT' – CONTINUED FROM PG 11

TV: *How can you keep this up without taking admission?*
RH: I don't know. It's called living by faith. I've been putting faith in this idea for a long time and I know the idea is true. I'm not really concerned about that, I shouldn't be. The thing is, you can't come to these screenings unless you're my friend and friends take care of each other. I learned to do things with nothing. My uncle was furious with me for not riding the grants carpet, but I just felt that it would be more important to learn how to do things on my own and self-reliance. And I'm not in favour of grants for the arts, chiefly because the people who receive those things all too often sneer at the public and, again, because an artist, a real artist, is called to be a witness against your time and I don't think you can be a witness against the beast when they're feeding you. It's bad manners. (laughs) I don't do this to make money. I do this because I love the works I'm presenting to people and I love the people who are coming through my door. All of them, even the ones who are nasty.

TV: *You're not allowed to put up posters anymore?*
RH: No, I'm putting up posters. The posters say "Films at Reg Hartt's place," and they make it clear that you can't come unless you're a friend of Reg Hartt's. It's all very inside the law. Actually, "Films at Reg Hartt's" are a lot friendlier than "Films at the Cineforum."

TV: *How come?*
RH: Because a person is always friendlier than an institution.

TV: *I have noticed that your program is almost exclusively composed of foreign films and music. I'm just wondering about Canadian films. How do you see the Canadian- -*
RH: I don't.

TV: *Why?*
RH: The government. Today in this country people go to film school and then they apply for grants and then they make movies. They make them for their friends; they make them for their grants-giving committees. They're boring – they themselves are boring.

TV: *There's no exception there?*
RH: None. If there were, they would be standing up.

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Pelee Island Winery Merlot (2009)
$9.95 at the LCBO

If you've had red wine you've probably had Merlot, the most common variety. But don't fall into the trap of always choosing Merlot instead of other unique, affordable wines. If you're still yearning for Merlot, Pelee Island Winery's 2009 vino is a decent choice with its dark, ruby red appearance and black cherry and oak nose. Fairly acidic with a lingering finish, this wine is very sweet, which may disappoint Merlot fans. It is, however, a good choice for those just discovering Merlot.

One of the few under-$10 corked bottles, this wine is well suited for a romantic party – though, of course, it may be slightly cumbersome if you forget a corkscrew. Best paired with pasta, barbeque, and Cora Pizza at 2 a.m.



ART!
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Let's get geophysical

U of T geology undergrads prospect for archaeological remains at Tell Ta'yinat, Turkey

Danica Pascua
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Good communication in the field is essential to geologists. The seven-member team was divided into at least three groups, with each group venturing out into different areas of Tell Ta'yinat to perform geophysical surveys. *PIERRE GRONDIN LEBLANC*

Since the early 1920s, researchers and adventurers alike have been attracted to the dense archaeological treasures of the Amuq plain in southeastern Turkey. Some of the first expeditions were led by Robert Braidwood from the University of Chicago, whose excavations revealed mosaics, sculptures, pillars, and clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions. However, due to shifting political tides, operations at the site were abandoned, leaving it to become overgrown, and eventually bulldozed to develop local cotton farms. Although the work done was never published, in 2003 the University of Toronto founded the Ta'yinat Archeology Project (TAP), reigniting interest in the long forgotten site.

A team of six geology students were invited this summer by the TAP to conduct various geophysical surveys under the supervision of Dr. Charly Bank, a senior lecturer at the Department of Geology. The students performed three weeks of fieldwork at Tell Ta'yinat, with data analysis and interpretation continuing into the current academic year.

The TAP team includes professionals in a wide range of specialties including paleoethnobotany, zoology, epigraphy, photography, illustration, and conservation. They have one common goal: to piece together the puzzle behind the origin of this ancient buried city and the people who lived there.

The site, encompassing around 20 hectares of land, was once the ancient capital of the "Land of Palastin." For decades, archaeologists were puzzled by the site's proximity to other known Bronze Age sites as well as several gaps in the archaeological record. However, a recent unearthing of a 2700 year-old tablet at Ta'yinat has revealed that the occupation of the site may have been cut short by acts of pillage and mass burning.

The task at hand for the students was to investigate targets of archaeological interest that were out of reach for basic field techniques. The crew would drive to the excavation site before dawn to conduct the surveys while temperatures were cooler. At noon, they would pack up the equipment and return home to study the new data. Environmental geosciences and physics student Kanita Khaled points out, "It was incredibly hot and dry up on the mound, especially with the heavy equipment that we had to carry around with us for the seven-hour surveys."

For decades, archaeologists were puzzled by the site's proximity to other known Bronze Age sites as well as several gaps in the archaeological record.

Scientists use the geophysical methods of magnetometry and resistivity to map the subsurface of regions of archaeological interest. These methods rely on the principle that different materials have different physical characteristics. Just as one can identify a mud brick wall from surrounding dirt by its texture, one can also use more complex physical characteristics such as density, electrical conductivity, viscosity, magnetic field, and capacitance to distinguish subsurface materials.

Magnetometry is a technique in which subsurface materials are distinguished based on their influence on the earth's magnetic field. One way to collect data over a large area is to attach a GPS antenna onto a magnetometer and traverse the area in a grid pattern. A slower, but more precise method is to manually collect data points at measured intervals. Thousands of individual readings are needed to make a single magnetic map.

Ironically, the mysterious fire that had baked the city's walls provided a slight advantage to the geologists. Since burnt mud-brick is more magnetic than its surroundings, it features more prominently in the magnetic maps.

The researchers found that a key area of interest lay on the lower mound, an area now covered by cotton fields, under which lay the remnants of the city wall. Although a visible topographic change indicated the approximate location of the wall, magnetometery data proved a compositional boundary as well.

Another team of researchers set out to collect data with another technique known as resistivity. Resistivity is the method by which an electrical current is passed into the ground by a pair of electrodes while the resistance of the subsurface is measured by another set of electrodes. Because the physical properties of the layers and objects in the subsurface are different, they can be mapped out based on their resistance.

Various resistivity results produced at Tell Ta'yinat displayed blocky, almost rectangular, anomalies of high resistance, which could be attributed to possible building walls.

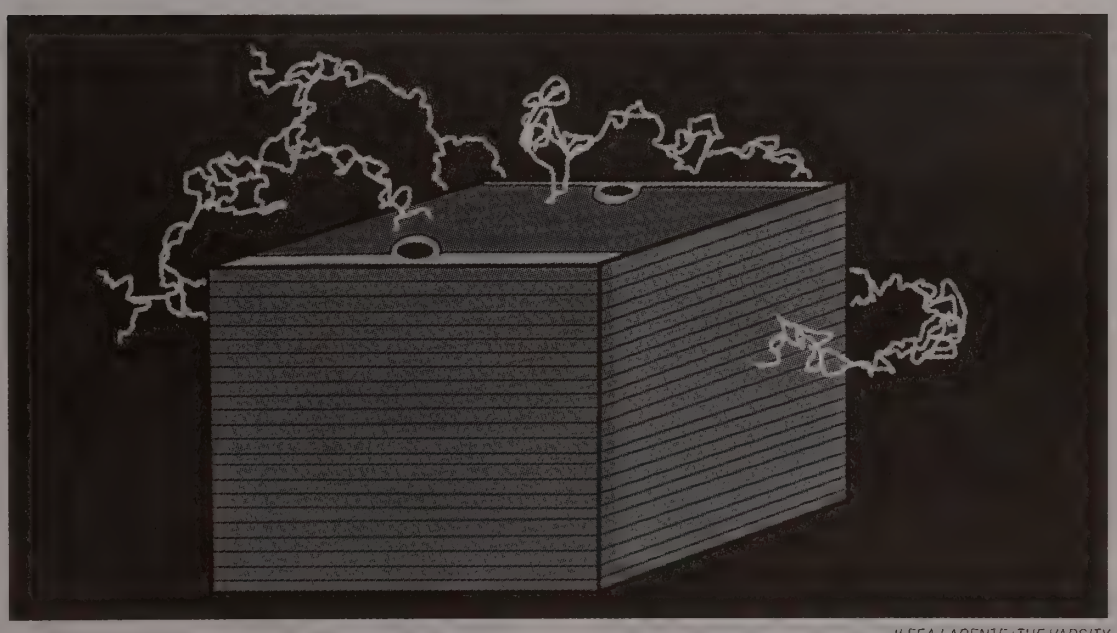
The students involved hope the results produced will prove themselves valuable and lead future archaeological work to new discoveries. "Working on the field and in the laboratory allowed our team to acquire important professional experience and skills as well as to provide data for the Ta'yinat Archaeological Project," notes geology student Pierre LeBlanc.

This work was possible through the Faculty of Arts and Science's Independent Experiential Study Program. According to Bank, the research team's supervisor, "Such a project allows student the rare opportunity to work on an interdisciplinary project and view their contribution as piece of a larger puzzle put together by researchers in history, artefact preservation, textile production, zooarchaeology, and social network analysis."

Tech review: Bloom Box

Affordable sustainable energy for the win

Charlotte Tombs
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



ILEEA LARENTE/THE VARSITY

The Bloom Box is a green tech innovation that has the ability to drastically change our way of life. Developed by Bloom Energy, a company that is working to change the way we produce and consume energy, the Bloom Box is meant to be a power source that is inexpensive and clean. The idea for the Bloom Box was derived from a project that Dr. Sridhar, from the University of Arizona, was asked to complete for NASA. This project involved creating a device that could sustain life on Mars by producing air and fuel from electricity, and vice versa.

When the Mars project ended in 2001, Sridhar and his team of engineers decided to apply the principles they used in the Mars device to an energy-producing box that could be used on Earth. The box is composed of "cells" made primarily of beach sand, which is baked and then cut into wafer-thin squares. The squares are painted onto one side with green ink and on the other side with black ink. Both inks were developed by Sridhar, and contain secret ingredients.

The cells are then assembled into boxes, with sheets of inexpensive metal alloy placed between each cell in the box. Oxygen is fed into the cell on one side, while fuel is fed into the cell on the other, creating a chemical reaction that produces energy. As Sridhar states, "Fuel goes in, air goes in, out comes energy."

One box can power one European home, while two boxes are required to power one American home or four to six Asian homes.

John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers was the first to see potential in the company in 2002, and has been investing in it ever since. The Bloom Box is currently being tested at the data centres of many companies across the United States, including FedEx, Google, Ebay, Staples, and Walmart. These data centres require a few huge cylinders, each containing many Bloom Boxes, in order to power the centre. One cylinder costs between $700,000 and $800,000, and four are required to power the Google data centre.

However, the box has yet to operate flawlessly. For example, after only three weeks at the Google data centre, one cylinder suddenly stopped working.

This shows a huge concern among skeptics: the question of whether or not fuel cells can actually be used as sustainable energy. Michael Kanellos, Editor-In-Chief of the website GreenTech Media mentioned, "I'm hopeful but I'm skeptical: people have tried fuel cells since the 1830s and they're [a] great idea because they produce energy at an instant. [But the concern is] longevity."

Sridhar's goal is for Bloom Box to be powering homes all around the world in 10 years. He also expects that the unit required to power a home will cost less than $3,000. However, Kanellos argues that there is only a 20 per cent chance that this will occur — and if it does, the box will be a product of General Electric (GE) or another energy conglomerate, not Bloom Energy.

John Doerr invested $400 million up front into the Bloom Box back in 2002, which Kanellos says makes him cringe. "Anytime a company is given more than $100 million dollars up front, [one tends] to question the company and the investment." Doerr has some huge failures on his record, including the Segway. However, he has also had some huge successes, such as Amazon, Google, and Netscape.

The Bloom Box is already proving to be a valuable energy source for large companies — it saved Ebay $200,000 of energy costs in one year. Bloom Energy is also constantly receiving new orders from companies who are interested in trying out the Bloom Box.

However, a few questions remained unanswered: will the Bloom Box have a place in the home, and will it be possible to create an affordable box that can create sustainable energy? When told that his goals for the future seemed far-fetched, Sridhar replied: "My job is to see the world as it could be, not as it is right now."



WONDERLAND in space

Finding the local fluff

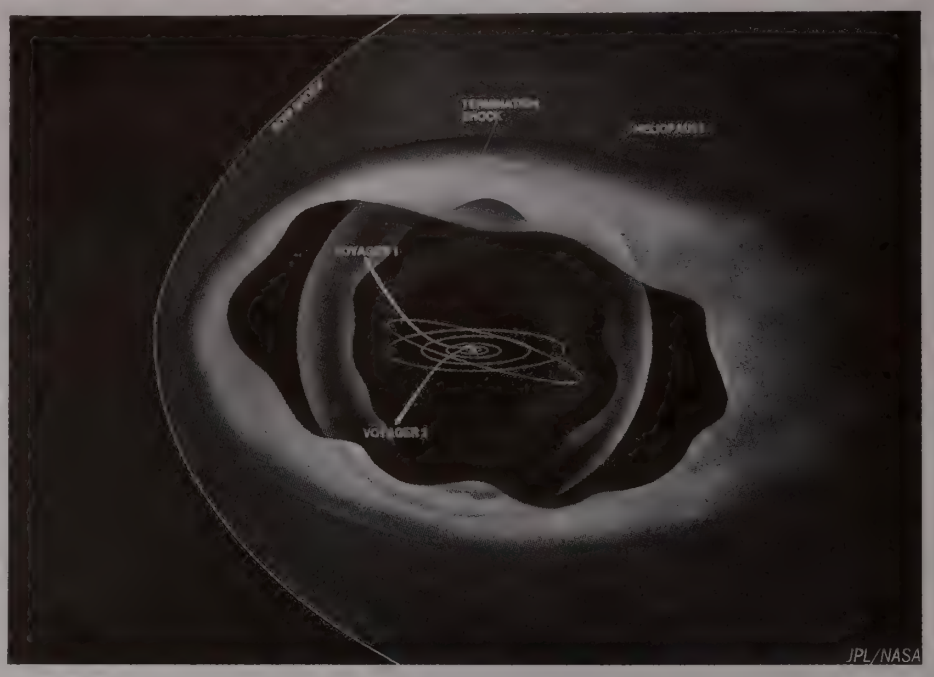
Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

As the Voyager space probes continue their journey out of the solar system, they approach a region called the Local Interstellar Cloud, more commonly known as "local fluff."

The 30 light year-wide cloud consists of helium and hydrogen atoms. Scientists believe the fluff is located within a large gaseous region created by supernova explosions, which occurred about 10 million years ago.

As Merav Opher and colleagues described in the December 24 issue of *Nature*, the local fluff is able to survive due to its stronger than expected magnetization. The magnetic field present within the cloud compliments its lack of exceedingly high temperatures, therefore providing the necessary pressure to counter the crushing force of the supernova's remains, and avoid obliteration.

The local fluff is positioned at the edge of the solar system, and is held in place by the sun's magnetic field, which, in combination with the solar wind, creates a protective bubble around the solar system called the heliosphere. The heliosphere serves as the solar system's armour against interstellar clouds like the local fluff, as well as cosmic rays.



The pressure the local fluff exerts is not only capable of resisting destruction by the supernova exhaust, but it also exerts pressure and condenses the heliosphere itself. Although the solar wind — a stream of charged particles ejected from the sun — helps expand the magnetic bubble, the discovery of the local fluff's magnetization signifies that other local interstellar clouds may also possess this characteristic, which could result in further compression of the heliosphere.

While it would take hundreds of thousands of years for our solar system to switch to a new local interstellar cloud, if we were to entertain the idea and hypothesize the events, further compression of the heliosphere could allow cosmic rays to enter within the solar system, changing terrestrial climate, while also reducing the distance between Earth and interstellar space.

Although the presence of the local interstellar cloud is a relatively recent discovery, next week we will analyze a star that has been studied for many years, and like our Sun, is also present within the local fluff. Until then, splendid space expeditions await.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

TBHQ!

Did you know that eating 500 chicken McNuggets will kill you? This is thanks to Tertiary Butylhydroquinone, a preservative and antioxidant that prevents unsaturated oils from becoming rancid.

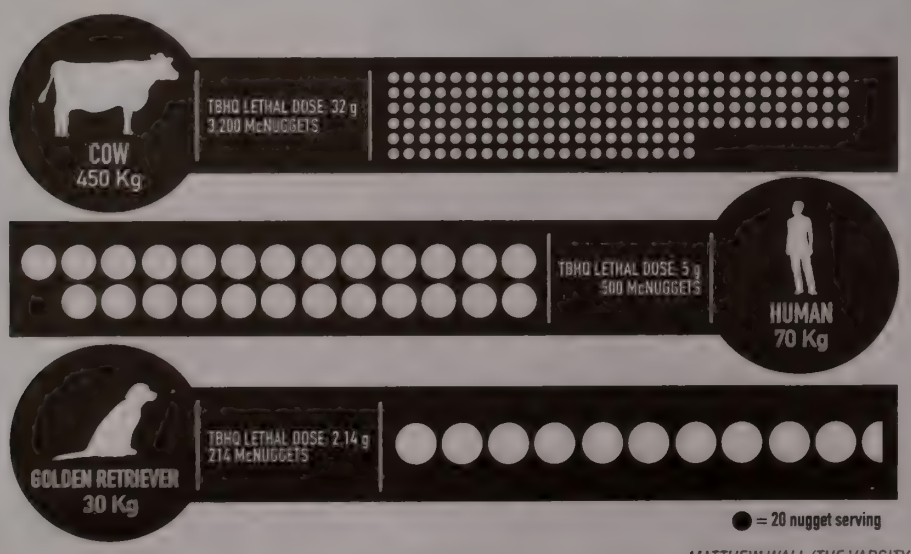
TBHQ is derived from petroleum and is a form of butane, making it equivalent to lighter fluid. Ingesting a single gram of TBHQ will likely cause nausea, vomiting, a sense of suffocation, or ringing in the ears. Consuming five grams will kill you.

While the amounts of this ingredient are limited in food, its safety remains questionable, as some studies show that it might be carcinogenic. There is yet to be a clinical study, but findings suggest that TBHQ may also aggravate ADHD symptoms as well as anxiety and restlessness.

TBHQ is largely found in oils, high-fat packaged foods, and chicken nuggets (at least if you're in North America). What's interesting about TBHQ is that chicken McNuggets in the UK do not contain the controversial ingredient. Because McDonald's tailors its products to its customers, nuggets in the UK are produced differently than those produced in North America. In the UK nuggets are cooked prior to being coated, while in North America they're coated prior to being cooked. The latter procedure allows more oil to be absorbed, explaining why American nuggets contain 33 per cent more fat and Canadian nuggets contain 56 per cent more fat according to mcdonalds.com.

As a result of this difference, TBHQ is needed to protect this extra fat from oxidation. This example illustrates that the extra fat in chicken nuggets not only promotes obesity and heart disease, but also necessitates the use of poison, showing that when it comes to product formulations, the food industry desperately needs to be thinking less about taste. Personally, I'd prefer a slightly less flavourful product in exchange for a TBHQ-free diet.

TBHQ is a perfect example of how the food industry manages to incorporate what is literally considered to be poison into our food. Sure they only use miniscule amounts, but its presence is definitely not heartwarming. Watch out for TBHQ, it tends to turn up where you'd least expect it.



MATTHEW WALL/THE VARSITY

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Ape shtick: orangutans use mime to communicate

Marcel Marceau can check off another trait he and the Pongo genus have in common. After 20 years of observing captive Orangutans in Borneo, Dr. Anne Russon of York University observed 18 cases where these primates used mime to communicate, a medium previously considered unique to humans.

One orangutan used a stick like a machete to mime to her human counterpart that her coconut needed opening, while another mimed scratching her back until the researcher reluctantly attended to her itch. These gestures, some of which became quite complicated, demonstrate that great ape communication is more complex than was previously believed, and may provide further insight into the evolution of human language.

In a CBC interview Dr. Russon noted, "[These abilities] could have evolved uniquely in humans, but the kind of evidence we have with orangutans now, and in some cases with chimpanzees, and gorillas and bonobos all suggest that all the great apes can [mime]... they've got the roots of it, so that could be something like the platform on which the human system then built." — ***ARIEL LEWIS***
Source: BBC News, and CBC's Quirks and Quarks

Bed bugs hit the sack: how immature females avoid sexual trauma from older males

In a recent study, researchers from Lund University in Sweden found that sexually immature female bed bugs, called nymphs, have an adaptive chemical signalling system to protect themselves from traumatic insemination, the form of copulation in this species.

Traumatic insemination in bed bugs requires the male to pierce the female's abdomen with his penis in order to inject sperm through the wound. Since nymphs are similar in size to adult female bed bugs, they are targeted by males for mating. The problem lies in the fact that nymphs have not yet developed specific mating adaptations, and are often injured due to the forcefulness of the male, which can even decrease life span.

The chemicals emitted serve as an age signaller, to let males know that they are not ready for insemination. This reduces unwanted attention, as well as the energy costs that males would have spent in attempted copulation. This research finding is an insightful look into the importance and mechanisms of intraspecific communication in the common bed bug that may be lingering in your mattress. — ***CRISTINA OLTEANU***
Source: BioMed Central

Cocoa genome sequenced three years ahead of schedule. Bring on the chocolate!

Two years ago, Mars Inc., the makers of M&Ms, put $10 million into funding a project that would determine the genome for the cocoa tree. The project was supposed to last five years, but instead only required two. The entire cocoa genome is now sequenced. Cocoa production has diminished in recent years due to pests and disease, resulting in loss of revenue for farmers. Marc, Inc. hopes that the genome will help produce cocoa plants that are resistant to pests and disease. The project, which was facilitated in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, IBM, and researchers at universities across the country, should allow for a greater and more robust cocoa yield.
— ***CHARLOTTE TOMBS***
Source: The Globe and Mail

Artificial skin gives robots a sense of touch

Engineers at UC Berkley and Stanford have created a skin that gives robots a sense of touch, similar to that of a human.

To create the skin, nanowires, which are microscopically small wires, are formed from an alloy of magnesium and silicon. These are then arranged in a uniform pattern and coated with pressure-sensitive rubber.

This new development would allow robots to determine how much force should be applied to a particular object, so that it is handled properly. Scientists hope that in the future this technology can be used to help restore sense of touch to individuals with prosthetic limbs. — ***CT***
Source: The Globe and Mail

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October 18th- 21st

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October 27th, 28th 11am - 7pm

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On the rebound

The Varsity's **DANIEL TSIOKOS** *takes a look at the restructuring of the men's and women's basketball teams as they get ready for the season ahead*



ndrew Wasik trying to get a shot past his defender. *DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY*



Veteran Nicki Schutz driving the ball as she looks for an opening. *DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY*

MEN'S BASKETBALL

arters Nick Magalas, Rob Paris, Pat ewell, and Nick Snow have all played out eir eligibility and last season's 12–10 Var- ty Blues men's basketball team is a distant emory. After a heartbreaking loss in the UA East quarterfinal last year to the York ons, U of T returns with a much younger am and many uncertainties heading into e upcoming season.

Losing four starters is going to take a ll, especially since Nick Magalas and Rob aris were first and second team OUA all- ars, respectively. This year's team may ruggle to find its identity early on, but is o for the test.

"It's going to be challenging," said Coach ike Katz. "We're going to probably score ss because we've lost some prodigious coring, and we're going to have to try to anufacture points in other ways. It's going be difficult to replace [last year's] scoring utput of the team."

Forward Drazen Glisic is the only remain- g starter, and while he is mostly known for is hustle plays and dirty work, he will be ssuming a more offensive role this season.

"Glisic is emerging as a scorer," said Katz. He's a reluctant scorer, though. It's not omething he's comfortable with. We're ask- g him to look to the basket to score more."

Many players who have had smaller roles the past will be stepping up and contrib- ting heavily this season.

Fifth-year point guard Anthony DeGiorgio ill be responsible for filling in the void left y Magalas, while guard Justin Holmes and orward Andrew Wasik — mainly spark- lugs off the bench last season — will be xpected to expand on their previous roles nd be consistent night in and night out.

"Our offense takes a whole different per- pective now because those four guys are one. We have to have a more productive ench," said Glisic.

The team will be relying on forward Ben arvin and guards Dakota Laurin and Arun umar to assert themselves on the court. f the three, only Garvin averaged double- igit minutes last season, with 12.6 per ame.

To fill the holes left by Magalas, Paris, now and Sewell, Katz and his staff recruit- d several new players.

"That's part of the cycle of programs," add- d Katz. "Recruiting is a major priority now.

"I've got a great staff that works hard, all of my assistant coaches. I think that's a real positive for us. Between the recruiting, developing players, and devising game plans, we're certainly going to hope that we can be competitive."

Alex Hill, a transfer from Cornell University, is projected to be a starter and a focal point in the offense.

"It's an opportunity to see if Hill can become the player that's expected of him, which could be a pretty important guy," said Katz.

The new lineup will probably go through some growing pains, but Katz expects the team to come together and improve over the course of the season.

"I think it's a team that's going to suffer initially," said Katz. "But that may very well help us down the road. I'm hoping it's a team that gets better and better through the season."

What may prove most difficult for this team to overcome is building team chemistry. Being familiar with each other and how each teammate plays will be crucial in how the team performs as a unit.

"It's an unproven team," said Katz. "This team has not played together. There are guys who are going to step on the court who have never played a game with each other. That being the case, we're going to be doing a lot of adjusting.

"This is such a rebuilding year that we're going to find our identity throughout the season. We seem to have the potential to make shots, and I think we're going to have to be aggressive defensively, but those are the staples of winning. You've got to score and you've got to stop people."

Centre Andrew Wasik believes that though their team will not be as talented, they can still perform at a high level and possibly make it nationals.

"We're going to be a harder working team because we're not going to rely on our skill, per se, like in previous years," said Wasik. "We're going to have to outwork opponents, buckle down on [defense], and push the ball more into our offense."

Infused with youth — every player except for DeGiorgio is eligible to return for at least another season — the team is still going to try and compete on a nightly basis and not back down from any opponent.

"The goal is to win," said Glisic. "We're not playing for fifth place."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

This season's Varsity Blues women's basketball team will look almost unrecognizable.

Coach Michele Belanger overhauled the roster after a disappointing 2009-2010 season when the team finished sixth in the OUA East with an 11–11 record and, despite upsetting Queen's in the East quarter-finals, lost to Carleton in the semi-finals.

This season coach Belanger expects her team to do much better, and is quite optimistic.

"Our aspiration is to win our division, get ourselves at the Nationals, and earn a berth in the final eight," said Belanger. "We've added some great athletic players to our team We're looking to run better, shoot the ball better and certainly defend better.

"We made some very big changes, and we needed to. Our job is to find the best, and I think we did a pretty good job this year."

There are only six returning players from last season, and only four of them have more than two years' experience — fifth-year players Erin McNeely and Nicki Schutz, and fourth-year players Megan Stoncius and Joanna Medri. The other two returning players are second-years Katelyn McConnell and Alicia Van Kampen.

Last season Schutz was named an OUA first team all-star and CIS second team all-Canadian, finishing the season averaging 18 points and 11 rebounds per game. She amassed a whopping 14 double-doubles.

McNeely ran the point last season, accumulating 10.2 points and 3.1 assists per game. Medri knocked down 24 three-pointers last season, allowing Schutz and McNeely the room they needed to operate by spreading the floor. On the defensive end, Stoncius led the charge with her hustle and determination, and she and Schutz combined to shut the door on opposing offenses looking to score in the paint.

Returning to the team after missing last season is fourth-year guard Sherri Pierce.

"[Sherri's] speed is outstanding and so is her ability to beat her defender one-on-one," said Stoncius. "Her intensity on defense really sets the pace for our team. She is the push our team needs."

While the starting lineup is strong, Belanger felt that she needed to solidify her bench, so as not to rely so heavily on her starters.

"We need to infuse our rookies so that the veterans feel that they don't have to carry the show," said Belanger. "We became more athletic on the perimeter, we added more depth in the post, and we added more depth at the point guard position."

Belanger is preaching defense this season, as it is the area that needs the most improvement.

"Offensively, I have total confidence that they can find a way to score," said Belanger. "This year we've brought on players that can score."

"Our team identity and style of play this year is all about defense," added Stoncius. "Practices are dedicated to defense and getting stops."

Belanger does not feel the need to set a goal in terms of wins and losses, only that the team performs to its potential and works hard during the entire process.

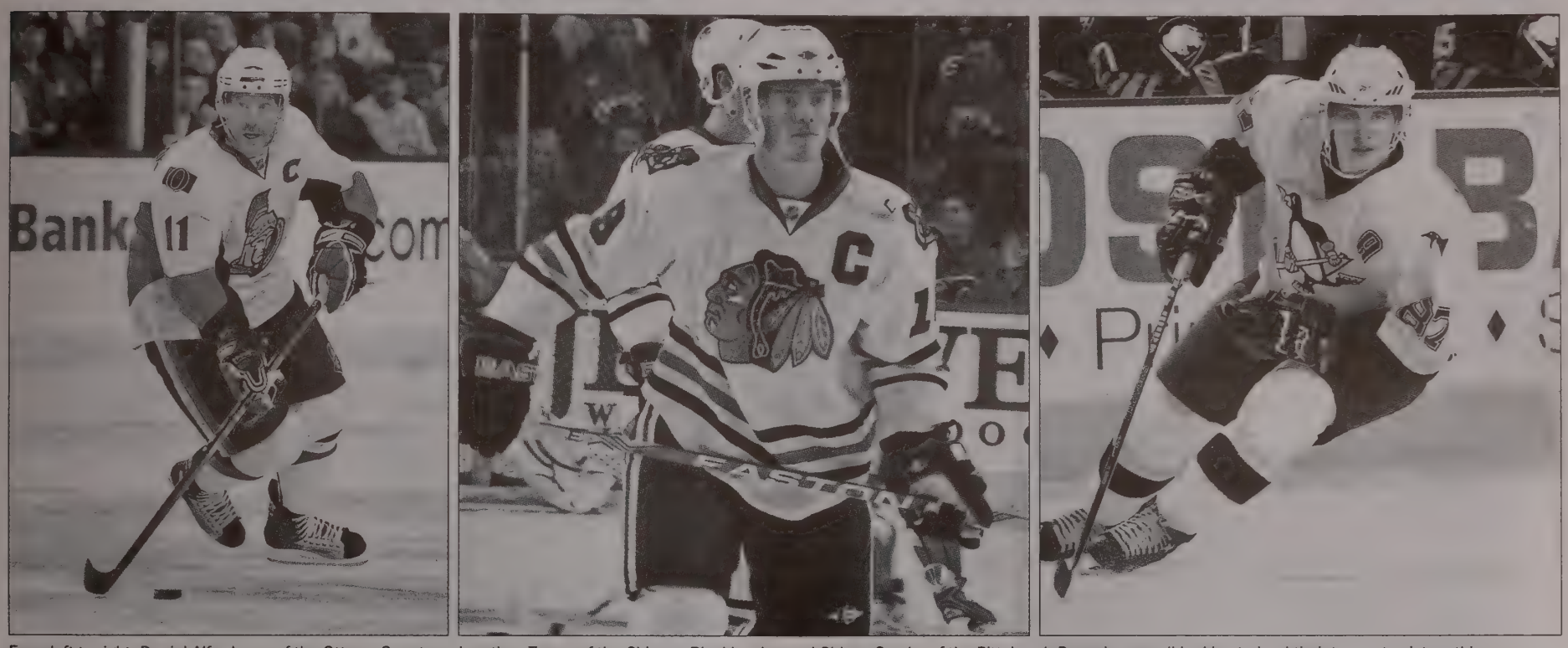
"At the end, I want to be the team that's left standing with a banner," said Belanger. "After all is said and done, how you get there doesn't matter."



Returning player Joanna Medri getting ready to shoot. *DAN EPSTEIN/THE VARSITY*

Blades, trades, and the overpaid

The season's just kicked off and the NHL's finest are back at it again



From left to right: Daniel Alfredsson of the Ottawa Senators, Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks, and Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins are all looking to lead their teams to victory this year.

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The term "off-season" seemed inappropriate this summer as the hockey world was bustling with surprising trades, league-changing drafts, investigations and fines into hefty player contracts, and the dismantling of the Stanley Cup winning team.

As the regular NHL season begins to pick up, it will be interesting to see how all of these major changes pan out. Needless to say, there are more than a few key things to keep an eye on.

Let's start with the beasts in the East.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

For their sake, let's just hope Ilya Kovalchuk is worth that $100 million. Not only did he sign a lucrative 15-year deal with the franchise, he cost them $3 million in fines as well as a first- and third-round draft pick after the NHL rejected his first contract of $103 million paid over 17 years on the grounds that it circumvented the league's salary cap.

Although the team won the Atlantic division last year, its playoff performance was pitiful. Kovalchuk, who has been having consecutive 40-goal seasons, really needs to prove his worth in order to break this team from their post-season slump.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

General Manager Brian Burke and newly appointed team captain Dion Phaneuf both vowed during the summer that the Leafs would make the playoffs this year — a pretty hefty claim considering the team finished second last in the league.

On paper, the Leafs back-end looks amazing, but that skill needs to be translated onto the ice before the team begins to even think about the playoffs.

And will Tomas Kaberle's heart be in the right place? Not only did Burke try to trade him away this summer but he and Coach Ron Wilson have stripped Kaberle of his assistant captain title.

A few key acquisitions were made to an otherwise lacking front-end this summer.

Kris Versteeg will be a good addition to the top six forwards and will bring key experience, having just won the Stanley Cup with the Chicago Blackhawks. Colby Armstrong will be a force up front. Prospect Nazem Kadri was sent down to the Marlies and won't join the forces of the rest of the young stars dominating the league anytime soon.

OTTAWA SENATORS

Expect this team to make the playoffs. During free-agent frenzy, the team landed veteran defenseman Sergei Gonchar from the Pittsburgh Penguins. Gonchar consistently produces 50-point seasons and chose Ottawa as he loves playing in Canada. The new setting could fare him (and his performance on the ice) well. Alongside team captain Daniel Alfredsson, who is coming off of an excellent season, Gonchar will be expected to lead the team in the right direction.

BOSTON BRUINS

Don't expect to see star center Marc Savard anytime soon as he is out (most likely for an extended period of time) and recovering from post-concussion syndrome. That being said, the team is still expected to make the playoffs. Let's just hope they don't blow it again this year.

They managed to oust the Buffalo Sabres in the first round of last year's playoffs, but managed to blow a 3–0 series lead and a 3–0 lead in game 7 of the playoffs second round against the Philadelphia Flyers.

Adding second overall draft pick Tyler Seguin to an already established team could be a deadly combination.

Their toughest feat could be to remain mentally focused, which seemed to be an issue in last year's playoffs.

MONTREAL CANADIENS

In order for this year's team to be as successful as last year's, let's just hope the Price is right.

The team's decision to chuck playoff superstar Jaroslav Halak and keep Carey Price in net stirred controversy amongst Canadiens fans this summer. Indisputably, Halak was the main reason the team upset number one seed, the Washington Capitals, and defending Stanley Cup champions, the Pittsburgh Penguins, to make it to last year's Eastern Conference Finals.

While Price has big shoes to fill in net, his biggest hurdle this season could be dealing with the backlash from the harsh fans in Montreal, who have been very vocal about their dissatisfaction with the team's decision to ship Halak to the St. Louis Blues.

Price has had problems with fans in the Bell Centre before while playing at home and needs to be mentally prepared to succeed. He could be his own worst opponent.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS:

Along with a brand new arena, the Consol Energy Center, this team has been revamped on the blue line. This year, expect a strong team able to bounce back from a playoff showing that didn't meet the standards necessary to win the Stanley Cup.

After losing their key veteran defenseman, Sergei Gonchar, the Penguins responded by acquiring Zbynek Michalek from Pheonix and Paul Martin from New Jersey, who will add significant improvement to the blue line.

Although an injured Jordan Staal won't be on the ice anytime soon, expect newly acquired Mike Comrie and team staple Evgeni Malkin, who is now recovered from the injury that plagued him last season, to be lighting up the scoreboards. This duo seemed in sync through the pre-season and we can only expect that there's going to be more to come.

Keep an eye on team captain Sidney Crosby, who is now entering his sixth season. He's entering his prime, and his best is yet to come.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

There wasn't significant change to the Capitals' roster this summer, but it would be amiss not to acknowledge their potential with names such as Alexander Ovechkin, Alexander Semin, Nicklas Backstrom, and Mike Green on their roster. This core group of players led the team to earn the Presidents' Trophy last season by being the league's highest scoring club.

Expect this team to go deep into the playoffs. Although they haven't had much post-season success in the past few years, there is only so long a top team led by the league's MVP can go on without making a deep impact. This team is due.

Let's move on to the rest in the West.

EDMONTON OILERS

With this year's number one overall draft pick, Taylor Hall, and Canadian Junior standout and clinch goal-scorer, Jordan Eberle, both cracking the roster, expect this team to begin a rebuild after finishing dead last in the league last year.

Both Pittsburgh and Chicago have utilized their young talent to get them to the top spot in recent years and it seems like Edmonton is gearing up to do the same. Don't expect drastic change overnight, but this team is definitely on the rise.

CALGARY FLAMES

General Manager Darryl Sutter and his brother and Head Coach Brent Sutter confused the hockey world when they reacquired forwards Olli Jokinen and Aley Tanguay, who they had recently traded away.

The Flames missed the post-season last year, and the questions surrounding the team's new (and old) additions must be answered.

Jokinen and Tanguay need to play excellently up front (as does captain Jarome Iginla) in order to crack the top eight in the West once again. Their performance will be crucial or the team's decision to re-sign them could be scrutinized amongst fans.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

This year ended the Hawks' 49-year Stanley Cup drought when they defeated the Philadelphia Flyers to capture the title.

Celebrations were, however, cut short as the team had to strip down to their core and trade away many players due to salary cap problems. The question remains whether Chicago's Cup core, which consists of Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane, Marian Hossa, Patrick Sharp, and Duncan Keith alongside partner Brent Seabrook, has what it takes to remain a top team.

The team may not repeat with their top roster, but it will be surprising if they fare poorly being led by Toews, who was this year's Olympic top forward, and Duncan Keith, this year's Norris Trophy winner for best defenseman in the league.

LOS ANGELES KINGS

One name: Drew Doughty.

This youngster finished third in the league in scoring among defensemen and was a Norris trophy nominee for league's best defenseman this summer, a huge accomplishment for a player in his sophomore season.

Last season, Los Angeles tasted the playoffs for the first time in eight years, and considering Doughty's quick development, it will be exciting to see what he can bring. Expect this team to make it past the first round in playoffs.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

This team is the biggest Canadian cup contender. They were last year's Northwest Division champions and made smart acquisitions to their blue line this off-season by adding Dan Hamhuis and Keith Ballard.

The Sedin twins, alongside goalie Roberto Luongo, should lead this team deep into the playoffs, as long as they figure out a way to beat the Hawks in the post-season. Expect an optimal year from Luongo as he was relinquished from his duties as team Captain during the summer and should be able to focus more on his on-ice play without any added stress and distractions.

A good sport



Professional Jason Quinn showing off a fish he caught. *CHRIS DUTTON/PAA*

The right angle

The Varsity's **KEVIN DRAPER** *explores the sport of fishing*

What makes a sport a sport?

It's a good question, and different people will give different answers based on their personal prejudices. Some people think that golf is boring and therefore say it can't be a real sport when put next to hockey and football.

Hopefully nobody would argue that an Olympic ping pong player or a world champion pool player isn't a real athlete.

And what about fishing?

Dismissing fishing as a non-sport does not withstand logical scrutiny.

Let's go back to looking at what makes a sport a sport. Physical exertion? Often, yes, but not all physically strenuous activities are sports — take brick-laying, for instance.

All sports are not physically demanding either. Nobody would actually try to argue that golf isn't a real sport. Therefore, the fact that fishing is not overly physically exerting does not mean it isn't a real sport.

A sport obviously needs to involve a highly specialized skill set. This is where a lot of people might tend to write off fishing. There is, however, a highly specialized skill set involved in catching fish.

Casting accurately makes all the difference in the world. Knowing where to go on any given lake at any given time of day and year is knowledge that is parallel to a golfer knowing when to take a conservative shot on a tough hole and when to really let loose to hit a ball 300 yards. And lure selection makes as big a difference as club selection.

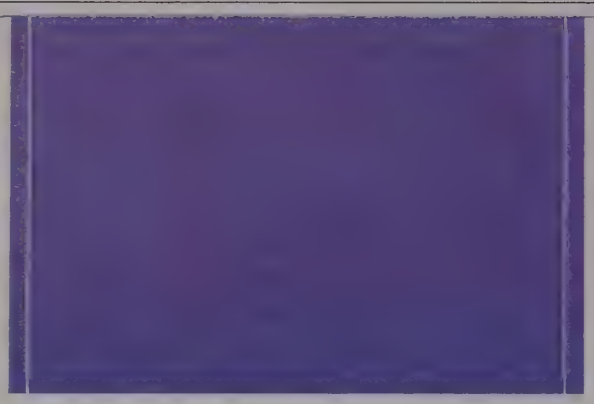
A lot of people will try to wiggle out of having to admit that fishing is a real sport by pointing out that it is more of a hobby or leisure activity than anything else.

Well, beer league softball, flag football, and weekend hacking (golfing a few weekends a year with no real clue what you're doing) are all leisurely weekend hobbies, too.

There are multi-million dollar fishing tournament circuits where, like in other pro sports, the pros far outperform the recreational players.

Fishing — not a real sport?

Chevy's pro-angler, Dave LeFebre, would probably beg to differ.



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Varsity Blues Cricket?

Although cricket is overwhelmingly popular at U of T, it is not a varsity sport

Angela Domingo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Cricket, the quintessential English summer game, has made a comeback at the University of Toronto in recent years. U of T is well aware that the sport is growing, and if progress continues, cricket could be well on its way to achieving varsity team status in the future.

Once so popular that it was declared Canada's national sport by former Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald in 1867, cricket disappeared from U of T, and from national consciousness in the early 1900s.

Over the last decade or so, however, interest has been revived, and there is possibly nowhere this interest is better represented than in the multicultural populations in colleges and universities across Ontario.

There are very active cricket communities in a number of institutions including all three U of T campuses, York University, Ryerson University, and Queen's University. University students have been participating in cricket tournaments and leagues in both intramural and extramural formats, encouraging an ever-growing number of enthusiasts to get involved.

While cricket is continuing to gain popularity, it seems there is still a ways to go before it establishes itself as a varsity team sport.

None of U of T's campuses have the space to host a standard-sized cricket game. A cricket field is oval-shaped and 130 to 150 metres in diameter. All of the cricket games at U of T have been played relatively scaled down, depending on the location and size of the venue they can secure for a given tournament. In the winter, matches are often played indoors at campus gyms.

In the fall season, King City cricket grounds and The Dome downtown are popular venues for teams to rent out for their events. While reserving such venues has proven adequate for the current setup, a field at one of the campuses is more appropriate for the demanding schedule of a varsity sport.



Ashher Shamsi, Faizan Butt, Jay Patel, Asad Munir, Uzair Iqbal, Raza Waheed, and Marlon Samaratunga of the Skule Cricket Club. *COURTESY OF THE SKULE CRICKET CLUB*

The 2015 Pan American Games are set to take place in Toronto. Such a large and popular event will inevitably call for an update and refurbishment of athletics facilities. Cricket may be one of the sports that benefit from the infrastructures that are planned.

There are also Ontario University Athletics requirements for would-be varsity teams to comply with, including a commitment from a minimum of eight universities, a recognized officiating system, affiliation with the sport's governing bodies, and participation in the sport from a club or at the high school level.

While there are a still number of boxes to be ticked to get cricket into the varsity sports system, all evidence of progress seems to be pointing forward.

CanUCric, a group composed of university-level cricket players from various Ontario institutions, was established primarily to provide a setup for cricket games to be played on a regular basis through official tournaments.

It also serves as a student-based initiative toward seeing cricket played at the varsity level.

Mahjuj Sourav, a member of CanUCric as well as of York University's cricket club said that although the process has been a long one, he remains hopeful.

"[CanUCric] came together first and foremost because we love the game. But we've been working together on the OUA requirements and have definitely been making progress on them. It takes effort, but hopefully it's just a matter of time before we're recognized on that level," said Sourav.

Although Varsity Blues cricket is still on the back-burner, there is plenty of intramural action to look out for in the meantime.

At St. George, there are a number of intramural cricket teams, which are organized and divided by various faculty areas and colleges.

At UTM, intramural games are a relatively open affair where students can form their own teams. Individuals looking to get in on the action can sign up and be assigned to teams as well.

This school year, UTM will be holding two intramural tournaments, one during the fall term, and one in the winter. UTM will also be involved in extramural games, where a single representative team will be able to compete with teams from other campuses and colleges.

Amrit Bhatia, the UTM cricket coordinator and coach of the extramural team, sees the sport as continuing to grow in terms of both number of participants and quality of play.

"I've been involved with cricket at UTM for the past four years and it's definitely been building. There's an especially high level of play from our extramural team. These are the best players that I put together from the various intramural teams," said Bhatia.

The University of Toronto's first tri-campus intramural league is also set to take off this school year. The tournament, a sort of all-star gathering, will be composed of two teams from St. George, and one team from each U of T Scarborough and UTM.

A 36-team league — three divisions of 12 teams each — to be held on the first week of January 2011, as well as an ongoing Faculty of Physical Education and Health intramural league open to all U of T students, will also be keeping the game alive and busy at the university.

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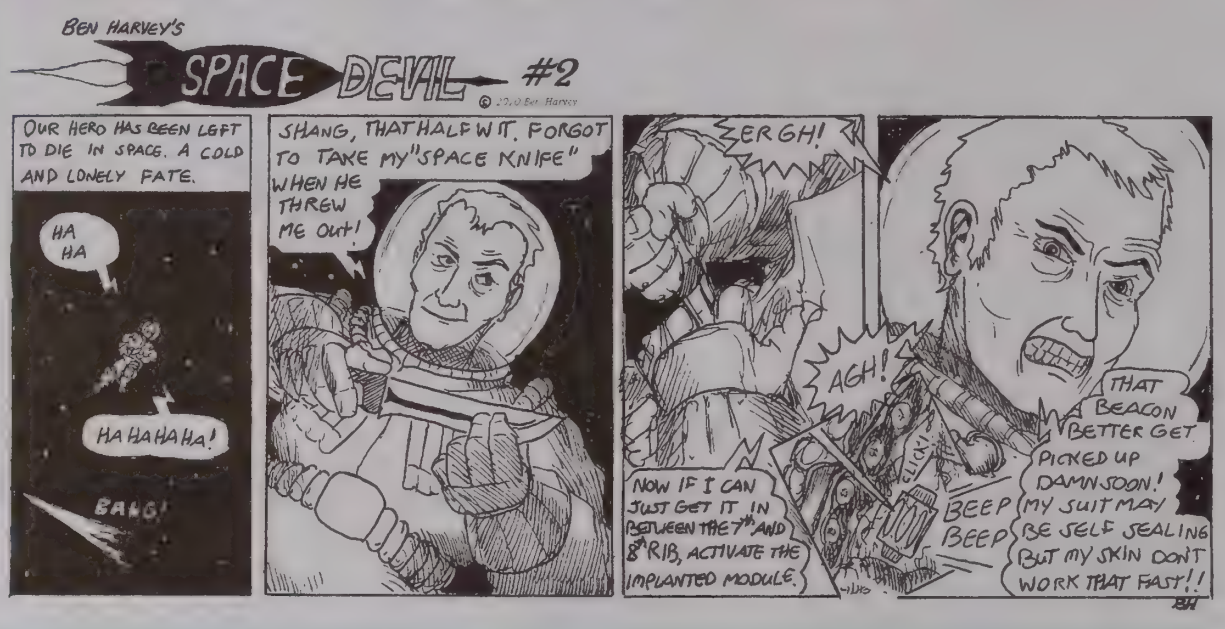
The Varsity Inbox Edition

...is the newest and best way to stay in the know. Every Monday, we'll send you an email with our top stories for the week and our best bets for events going on around campus and the city. Plus, we'll let you know about any upcoming Varsity workshops or parties, and give you the chance to win free books, concert tickets, and other great swag. And you? All you have to do is enter your email address. Visit our webspace internet cyberpage now, you sexy beast!

thevarsity.ca/subscribe







EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CLUB EVENTS:

'The Spice' Community Cooking
The Spice is a free participatory cooking social promoting community-building. The Spice invites students on campus and members of the larger community to contribute their culinary ideas and skills in a fun event that quenches intellectual and social appetites. The Spice occurs every Thursday during the school year.
- *Every Thursday between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People at U of T, Room 100 (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free!*

CONFERENCES:

The Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Conference
The Fellowship of Catholic Scholars will be holding its annual conference this Saturday. The conference is about science, culture, and the Catholic Church. Paper topics range from nursing in Ontario to DNA analysis, Galileo, biology, and evolution. You can register in the door or in advance.
- *October 16th at 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*
- *Loretto College Residence (70 St. Mary St.)*
- *$15*

FAIRS:

Eat Local! Campus Food Fair
Eat Local! brings together food, students, and community groups in an afternoon of eating and discovery. This year's program features a fresh meal from the Hot Yam, fun workshops from the Dig In! Campus Agriculture Project, and representatives from some of our city's most fascinating food-related initiatives.
- *October 14th at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*
- *Cumberland House (33 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

FILMS:

The Legend is Born: Ip Man
The U of T East Asian Film Club is proud to present "The Legend is Born: Ip Man", a 2010 semi-autobiographical martial arts film based on the events in the early life of Wing Chun master Ip Man. The film was directed by Herman Yau.
- *October 14th at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

DEBATES:

Mayoral Debate
If you're a voter, then it is definitely worthwhile to check out this mayoral debate, hosted by the Greater Yorkville Residents Association and moderated by Steve Paikin. Come see Rob Ford, Joe Pantalone, Rocco Rossi, and George Smitherman fight for your vote. If you've yet to register as a voter, do so.
- *October 12th at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.*
- *Cody Hall at St. Paul's (227 Bloor St. East)*
- *Free!*

FUNDRAISERS:

PAMOJA Tutafika
The African-Canadian community invites you to join them for a dinner and fundraiser where people of all ages come together and feast, tell stories, laugh, play music, and dance so hard that the ground rumbles. Proceeds will go toward scholarships for Kenyan youth, as well as daycare and preschool for children orphaned by HIV-AIDS.
- *October 16th at 6 p.m.*
- *Bloor Street United Church (300 Bloor St. West)*
- *$15*

Party for a Cause: Light Up
Various student societies, including WCSA, TCVS, NCSC, UCLIT, and ICSS are sponsoring Party for a Cause's newest night of glowing fun. There is an all-ages wristband policy, and the party will feature DJ Dynasty. All money raised goes to Out of the Cold and the Faculty of Dentistry Health Plan Initiative.
- *October 14th at 10 p.m.*
- *TIME Nightclub (81 Peter St.)*
- *$10 at the door*

READINGS:

The Toronto Public Library Eh List: Michael Wex
Wex is best known for bringing his inimitable and hilarious "how-to" books of Yiddish language, such as "Born to Kvetch" and "Just Say Nu" to Toronto's Jews and non-Jews alike. Wex is back this year with a novel which does for Toronto what Mordecai Richler did for Montreal.
- *October 12th at 7 p.m.*
- *North York Central Library (5127 Yonge St.)*
- *Free!*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

V 305.100

THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

No. 10 Vol. CXXXI. October 18th, 2010. Price 5 cts.

THE START.

A few years ago, a series of brilliant essays appeared in the New York Times, which enhanced the reputation at once of the writer and the paper. They were subsequently collected and published together in a single volume with the remarkable preface — "I have been urged to unite these dissertations in book form by the wishes of numerous and malignant enemies." By contrast are we reminded of this literary incident. The Varsity starts upon its career unattended by malevolence, and amid the hearty "God speed you!" of friends. The chief incentive however, has not been encouragement, but the consciousness of a capability to supply what is beginning to be looked upon as a trustworthy indication of vigor and intensity of life in a university. We lay bare the spring of action with a reluctant hand, because exposition of motives is, not infrequently, mistaken for indulgence in an apologetic strain. An appeal to charitable forbearance would be sinister to any statement regarding the opportuneness of the Varsity's appearance. If there is conviction as to such a statement having foundation in fact, then all color of extenuation should be bleached from the above given exposition. Indifference to the misapprehension we have anticipated might also be taken to argue against adequacy of conception with respect to our proper sphere of employment. The present undertaking is meant to serve advantageously the general good of a community whose professed passport to consideration is intellectuality of character. The first impression conveyed by this declaration may be, that the claim advanced is pre-eminently arrogant; that the implied assumption of competence to act efficiently in this field of operation is destitute of any responsible warrant. We hasten with the corrective. The justness of the impression would be unimpeachable if the Varsity presumed to pose as the guiding star, as the interpreter even, of a Canadian school board, or of graduate and undergraduate humanity. In reality our intentions are very demure: not a guiding star, not an interpreter, but a register of opinion in and out of the University in matters of education as unbiased annalist of University life; and, in this last connexion, a strenuous advocate of what constitutes individual well-being. Efficiency from each of these points of view will demand from the undergraduates intellectual effort of no small significance. The maintenance also of a passable standard of excellence is not to be reasonably expected unless such effort is supplemented by highly participative exertion on the part of the graduates. Finally, there is needed the moral accessory of strongly-expressed sanction from the generation whose recollections of academic life have become gilded athwart the distance of many intervening years. Few will be disposed to detect extravagance in these stipulations; a close spirit of exaction would be inconsistent with the enlightenment of an auditory gathered round a prominent seat of learning. At most, insistence will be laid on the conventional engagements of full liberty of discussion and fair play — engagements which are entered upon in an earnest spirit of determination to abide by in these columns. At the same time we decline to offer a field for the exhibition of religious proclivities, and to afford an outlet to the ardency of youthful political partisans.

Set phrases and popular formulas, however acceptable to the multitude, act as irritants when appealing exclusively to an educated audience of men and women. Hence, in forecasting the course of the Varsity, the affection of very precise language has been discarded. Yet we have an avowal to make which barely escapes the stereotyped form: Whatever element of ambition or audacity lies latent in our programme, it is wholly bound up in the desire that the University of Toronto shall possess the best university paper in America and an unrivalled index of the progress of educational systems.

From No. 1, Vol. 1 of The Varsity, published Oct. 7th 1880.

IN THIS OUR 130TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE.

WARDS 20 AND 27.

The Varsity commences upon a review of statements from a multitudinous collective of persons seeking election in Wards 20 and 27 on the twenty-fifth day of our present month. Turn to the fourth page of this issue to witness some fourteen candidates who, with boldness and vigor of spirit, having cast their names forthwith into the ongoing civic foray, were asked to edify the student populace on their visions for council and this greatest of cities in the Canadian Confederation. A geographical survey of the locations in which citizens shall be able to make heard their conception of the public virtue known is provided.

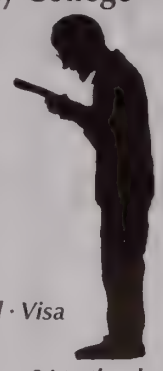
ANNIVERSARY.

In celebration of this, the one hundred and thirtieth year of our most humble of publications, The Varsity invites you to turn to page four post-haste for a review of the period situated between its commencement and the present day. Underlying this review is an understanding that the newspaper's pages represent a register for the periods of greatest tumult in the history of our institution; recognizing that, although its course has wavered alongside the prevailing passions of the respective eras through which it has travelled, it has never shaken from itself the solemn conviction to be a precise measure of the affairs of the day.

MAYORAL RACE.

As the titanic struggle for election to that highest office in our city nears its conclusion, only three candidates remain who register above the first percentile on the polled measure of support each would receive, should the public suddenly declare its intent to exercise the full force of its democratic inclinations on the present day. Shattering the presumptions of the punditry which mediates the civic discourse so rabidly, three students speak from the eighth page with the balanced sentiments of caution, support, and celebration for those three persons, one of whom we suspect commands enough recognition to gain the office on the twenty-fifth day of the month.

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35th Annual Book Sale
October 22 – 26, 2010
Friday October 22: 4 pm – 9 pm
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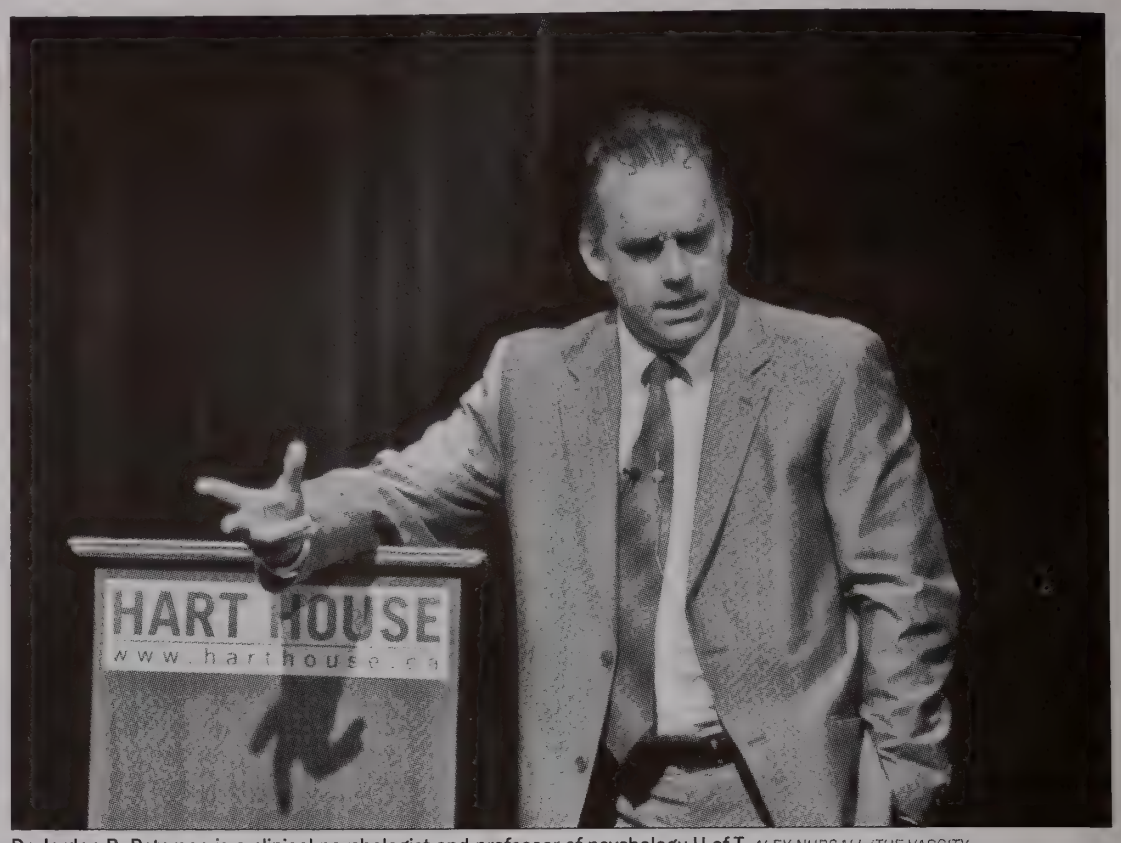
the Spiritual MIND
Exploring the Spiritual Dimension of Mental Health
A U of T mental health month event
Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 12 noon – 2 pm
Hart House, Music Room
What role does spirituality play in mental health?
Can your mental health benefit from spiritual practices?
Panelists: **Dr. Michele Chaban** PhD, MSW, (Social Work, Thanatology), **Mary Lee Laing** (Chaplain at CAMH) and student **Farah Jindani** (doctoral student at OISE) will explore mental health from a variety of spiritual and professional models, including the relationship between spiritual practices, religious traditions and mental health.
Light food provided. All are welcome.
More info? Jeanette Unger, student.minister@utoronto.ca
Sponsored by The Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U of T, The Campus Chaplains Association, The Multi-Faith Centre at U of T, Health Promotion Programs, Lupina Centre for Spirituality, Healthcare and Ethics at Regis College, Hart House

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HANCOCK LECTURE

Virtue key message of Hancock Lecture

U of T psychology professor speaks to sold-out crowd



Dr. Jordan B. Peterson is a clinical psychologist and professor of psychology U of T. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

Amanda-Marie Quintino
VARSITY STAFF

Dr. Jordan B. Peterson practices what he preaches.

As a clinical psychologist in the study of the psychology of belief, including religion and mythology, as well as the assessment of personality, he has dedicated his life to attempting to understand why people do what they do.

"Virtue is of central importance," Dr. Peterson, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto, told a sold-out crowd at the 2010 Hancock Lecture, entitled "The Necessity of Virtue." Not even the torrential rain kept students, fellow psychologists, and general supporters away from Hart House theatre on Wednesday night.

After spending hours every week for years helping people sort things out, Dr. Peterson says he has learned one core fact from all of his studies: virtue is necessary. His lecture addressed why being virtuous is, in fact, necessary for living a fulfilled life.

"People who don't live virtuous lives or are surrounded by people who don't live virtuous lives, live bad lives, live poor lives, live lives that don't justify themselves," Dr. Peterson said, speaking with a cadence to accentuate the point.

His research and observations have taught him that the best way to live a virtuous life is by way of honesty. He follows the mantra of "honesty is the best policy," making an effort to always be honest, even if it means being offensive or hurting someone's feelings.

"Honesty is a big part of living a virtuous life," explained Dr. Peterson, hands in his pockets. "Honesty is difficult because a lot of things you experience and a lot of the things you think aren't necessarily what you would like to experience or what you would like to think or what you would like to tell people."

Throughout his many years of addressing crowds and dealing with people on a daily basis, Dr. Peterson has become a very confident public speaker. His speaking style is effective, with a loud nature and a particular poise. He knows when to pause, when to ponder, and when to play off his audience's energy. The audience was consistently silent, anticipating Dr. Peterson's next assessment, dissemination, or observation.

From 2005-2008, he was nominated by TVOntario as one of Ontario's Best University Lecturers, and according to his former student, Yunjie Shi, he deserved it.

"He was the only class that I found myself looking at my watch not to see when it would end, but because it was so mind-boggling, I didn't want it to end," said Shi when introducing him at the lecture.

"As Dr. Peterson walked into my first lecture, setting up his laptop, my first reaction was 'Hmmm, this guy looks a lot older than he looks on his website,'" she joked. "It didn't really take long, however, for me to realize to overlook the fact that he neglects to update his website and to start really appreciating his lectures."

Shi described Dr. Peterson as "really something," adding that she had never before seen someone who had so much knowledge and passion about what they taught but also had the uncanny ability to give people the kind of treatment he thought they deserved based on who they were through their actions.

"He tells you exactly what he thinks all the time which is a great risk to take because he might offend you and make you think negatively of him," she explained. "He's someone whose words you can always trust, who never says things just to please

SEE 'HANCOCK' – PG 6

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

The downside of work flexibility

U of T research finds people who multitask experience more work-family conflict

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY STAFF

Ever feel overwhelmed trying to balance work and home life? Well, you are not alone.

"People who report being very or completely in charge of their work schedules are much more likely than others to report multitasking at home. The same people, in turn, report more work-family conflict," says researcher Scott Schieman, a University of Toronto sociologist.

Schieman examined data from a large sample of American workers to explore the factors that increase work-family interference. That is, the frequency that work-related conditions spill over into non-working life.

"Most people probably would identify schedule control as a good thing — an indicator of flexibility that helps them balance their work and home lives. We wondered about the potential stress of schedule control for the work-family interface," he said. "What happens if schedule control blurs the boundaries between these key social roles?"

"We were motivated by the fact that this is a common stressor that can have consequences for psychological and physical health, as well as the quality of social relationships," said Schieman.

Schieman and PhD student Marisa Young asked study participants their experience of work-family interference, the nature of work life, and a range of other socio-demographic variables. Some questions they asked the participants were to outline whether they control the start and end of their work day, whether they work at home and multitask, and whether they experience conflict between those two roles.



Work-related demands have been tied to higher levels of work-family interference.
CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

"We found that many work-related demands were related to higher levels of work-family interference. But we also found that some things that people see as resources (like schedule control at work) were also related to higher levels of work-family interference," said Schieman.

Schieman has also noted that "[they] found several surprising patterns. People who are well-educated, professionals, and those with job-related resources report that their work interferes with their personal lives more frequently, reflecting what we refer to as "the stress of higher status." While many benefits undoubtedly accrue to those in higher-status positions and conditions, a downside is the greater likelihood of work interfering with personal life."

Asked if he found these findings shocking, Schieman said, "not so much "shocking" but more surprising because most people assume that some higher status work conditions should be related to less stress, not more stress.

"We found the opposite in some cases. The findings for schedule control were the most interesting. Long work hours were related to more work-family interference among people who had the most schedule control — this was unexpected based on the "flexibility" model."

"Some key work-related conditions are central influences on these stressful processes and outcomes. So, if people are aware of these things, they might be able to cope more effectively with them," said Schieman.

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WHO'S WHO IN WARDS 20 AND 27

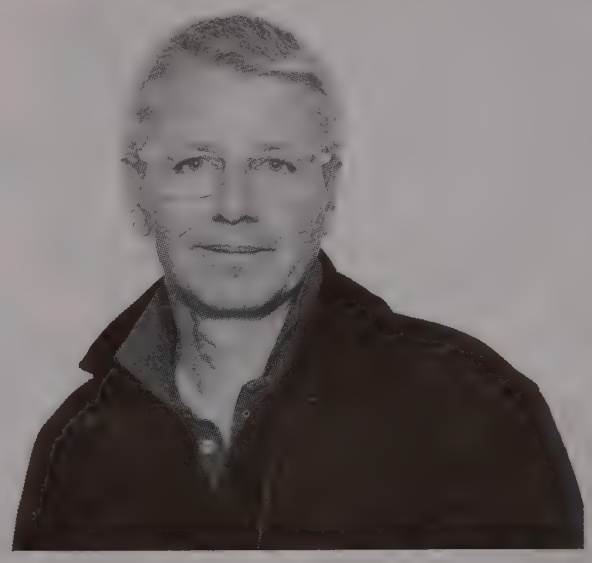
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WARD 20: TRINITY-SPADINA



DEAN MAHER

The five main points of my campaign platform are fiscal responsibility, public transit, housing affordability, neighbourhood livability, and environmental sustainability. Many of these will improve the lives of U of T students, some sooner than later. If elected, I will continue to work on ways of making transit more affordable for U of T students and try to find ways to build affordable, subsidized student housing. Many students pay expensive market rate rents. I want the city to invest in social housing specifically for students so we can offer subsidized (or in some unique cases, free rent) for students, based on their individual circumstances. This will help students focus on their studies and not be preoccupied with how they are going to pay their rent. I will also demand that proactive (preferably environmentally friendly) pest control is completed on campus-supported accommodations to avoid any bed bug infestations.



ADAM VAUGHAN

From Kensington Market, Chinatown, the Waterfront, Harbord Village, the Grange, the Annex, and Seaton Village, Ward 20 is home to a diverse mix of students, artists, workers, academics, professionals, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. Sustaining livability and opportunities for all of these constituencies is at the core of my values. In my first term as councillor, I delivered real change. I fulfilled a campaign pledge to build more family housing downtown — delivering six times more than the previous decade. Local parks in every neighbourhood are being redeveloped. With local residents I developed a neighbourhood plan for Alexandra Park, the first public housing revitalization project in the city's history that will not require funds from Ottawa and Queen's Park. We need relevant and affordable city services, and our transportation systems must address the needs of the local residents. I am asking to be re-elected so that we can finish the work we started to ensure our neighbourhoods are affordable, inclusive, beautiful, and green.



MIKE YEN

Students rarely vote. This is why City Hall has not placed importance on the voice of students, but U of T students graduate to become lawyers, doctors, politicians, teachers, community planners, etc. — our community's leaders. They are the future of today's community and it's important that their voice is heard now and not just when they graduate. The city is changing and we need help from these future leaders to shape it for a better tomorrow. Many students worry that they can't find jobs and that city services are too expensive and inefficient. Let your voice be heard. Vote! Students, you tell City Hall what you need and not the other way around. Once elected, I will provide a better platform to engage students, to hear their voice and foster opportunities for them to be more involved in our community. Your future is now!

WARD 27: TORONTO CENTRE-ROSEDALE



ENZA ANDERSON

One issue that is at the forefront in my campaign is the issue of landlord licensing. Licensing landlords will ensure students are dealing with legitimate property owners who provide fair housing costs and regular maintenance. Students deserve to be protected. The cost of transit is another issue that impacts the lives of many U of T students. While a reduced student Metropass program has been introduced, I would advocate for an even lower fare rate and make the passes transferable (currently photo ID is required on the student passes). Many students cycle to campus. Having a comprehensive bike plan is important. We need more bike lanes that interconnect but more importantly, place them on arterial roadways that are safe for cyclists and motorists. I also believe in maintaining a quality of life outside of school studies. As city councillor I would lobby to reduce student user fees at city-run facilities.



BEN BERGEN

Although the City of Toronto has no direct control over the University of Toronto's academic affairs, it has a major influence on the quality of student life. Post-secondary students rely on city services and infrastructure every day. As a U of T student myself, I am deeply aware of your needs. Your concerns are literally my own. Many of my proposals would affect students' lives for the better. I advocate expanding the transit network and instituting a fare freeze to keep that access affordable. Building more bike paths and better transit would make getting around Toronto easier than ever. I want to improve and add public spaces in the downtown core so there are more places to study, relax, and enjoy the city. Increasing funding for arts programs and events like Nuit Blanche would give students more opportunities to add to Toronto's cultural scene.



KEN CHAN

As a graduate of the Rotman School of Management, it is great to know that many University of Toronto students live in Ward 27. City Hall must be a champion for making our city an attractive place to live, learn, work, and play. For that to happen, I will champion for a public transportation system that works; for neighbourhoods that are safe; and for a strong local economy so that you have access to well paying jobs today and when you graduate. Having lived and worked in a world metropolis like London, England, I know firsthand what it takes to make Toronto a true world city — universities located downtown play an integral part in building economic prosperity and a vibrant arts and culture sector. I want to work with you to build a bright new future for our great city and in doing so, unleash Toronto's potential.

In 150 words or less, councillor hopefuls tell us how they'll be working for U of T students

Photographed by ***DAVID PIKE***

WARD 27: TORONTO CENTRE-ROSEDALE (CONTINUED)



JOEL DICK

I envision a vibrant, sustainable, and prosperous Toronto that provides opportunity for all of its residents. We must invest in transit. I will work toward a system that is efficient, safe, and affordable for students. I am also committed to completing the network of bicycle lanes proposed in the Toronto Bike Plan. I believe in a pedestrian-friendly city. Many students are tenants and the city needs to be more aggressive with bad landlords. Bylaw officers should be inspecting rental housing to make sure landlords are living up to their responsibilities. We must build more affordable housing. I will meet with student governments and groups on a regular basis to ensure that your ideas are heard at City Hall. Visit joeldick.com and check out my ideas. I want you to vote for me, but whatever you decide, please take the time to vote on October 25.



SUSAN GAPKA

My name is Susan Gapka and I am seeking to earn your vote on October 25. I'm a tireless and effective campaigner for social justice, addressing issues of affordable housing, post-secondary education, mental health, community safety, and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual) issues. My record of success is strong since coming out as a community leader on Church Street more than 10 years ago. After graduating from Community Work at George Brown College, I studied Public Policy and Administration at York University where I graduated in June 2009 with a degree in Political Science. While at York, I served on the Board of Governors, Senate, York Federation of Students, and Canadian Federation of Students Ontario. In 2003, we secured a two-year tuition freeze and I was able to codify the "Student Experience" in the York Academic Plan. With my student experience and your support, we can create the strong leadership that deserve [sic].



JONAS JEMSTONE

My campaign platform is based on short and long-term objectives. The three most important short-term concerns with urgent attention are: safety for Ward 27 residents, employment opportunities for the marginalized ward residents, and the deteriorating environmental conditions, including garbage recycling and incineration. For long-term objectives, I'll fight against wasteful spending of taxpayers' money, improve the transport grid system within the GTA, and tackle the $3 billion city deficit. The only way I can generate employment opportunities for the distressed visible minority communities of Ward 27 is by negotiating with real estate developers to hire minorities from the ward. Everyone should know the official youth unemployment rate of Canada exceeds 19 per cent, and most of the unemployed youth are from the GTA. It's time for the youth to stand up, the support of all U of T students throughout Toronto is essential to fight for the interest of future generations.



GARY LEROUX

I was born, raised, and educated in the city of Toronto. I currently teach at York University in the Department of Design. I have a strong sense of community and have volunteered on different committees. I ran for councillor in Ward 27 in 2006. I am running as a candidate for The Toronto Party in Ward 27. Here are some of my priorities: to put a freeze on taxes, wages, fees and new spending in year one, while council reviews city budgets and introduces greater efficiencies in government departments. I want to repeal the car registration fee, and the land transfer tax in the first term; introduce term limits to ensure that fresh thinking happens at City Hall; and revamp the transportation system in our city to get subways built and get Toronto moving.



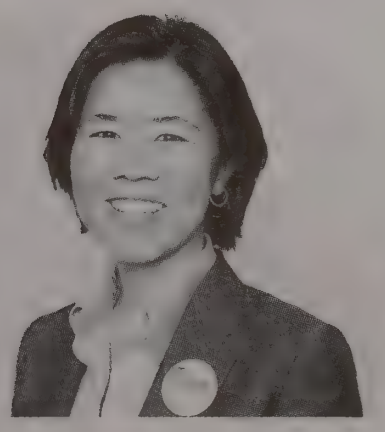
RAM NARULA

I have a BSc, a Master's of Interdisciplinary Studies in fifteen subjects, and a Certificate of Teaching from U of T. I have taught in Ontario high schools for 20 years. Students face financial pressure. I will, therefore, create a trust fund of 25 per cent of my salary (about $25,000 per year) in scholarships for needy students in Ward 27. Education is the key to a successful and fulfilling life. They need health education to reduce health costs (currently 42 per cent of annual budget). I am a teacher of yoga, meditation, ayurvedic medicine, and motivation. In the last 25 years, I have taught 20,000 people techniques for self-development. My knowledge and experience of happiness and peace, health and success will soon be available on YouTube. I am available to share knowledge with students in person.



ELLA REBANKS

I am running for city councillor because I don't like the waste we see at City Hall. Wasted money and wasted time just wastes opportunities to make Toronto better. The public's goodwill has been abused by City Hall and it must be re-established. I use city services and know how important they are to you. I don't like to see them hindered by bad planning and bad spending. Transparency in city spending and increased accountability in city works projects will ensure that Toronto has the finances needed to protect these services and to continue the critical work to improve the TTC. I have extensive experience in politics, communications, and community advocacy. I am a pragmatic thinker who knows how to listen and how to get things done. I would be honoured to have your vote on October 25 and to serve as your councillor.



KRISTYN WONG-TAM

As a past student of Woodsworth College, I bring to City Council a history of student activism, community advocacy, and business experience — a rare combination in municipal politics. Our city must be a safe, vibrant and healthy environment for residents to study, work and live. As a board member to the University of Toronto Arts Centre, and as a donor to the President's Circle, I am an active supporter of your university. I am committed to affordable housing and transit for students, local food security that provides affordable, healthy meals, and family housing for students in residence. Together with the Toronto Workforce Innovation Group, I seek to create jobs and opportunities for you after graduation. Working with my community, I will support smart economic growth and sustainable development while preserving the core values that make Toronto such a world-class city.



SIMON WOOKEY

Upon graduation, you will be starting your careers in the middle of the worst recession since the 30s. The last thing you need is a civic government that is driving business out of the city. Toronto is a great city to live in, but not if you don't have a job. As your councillor, I will fight to make it easy to do business in the city again. I will reduce commercial taxes, cut red tape, and bring back those jobs that are moving to the 905. This will allow you to continue to live in Toronto and enjoy all of it arts, culture, and nightlife, without being forced out of the city to look for work.

For voting locations on campus, please see page 7.

CORRECTION

In the article "Candidates duke it out at Hart House" published in the October 11 issue of The Varsity it was incorrectly reported that Adam Vaughan had expressed his plan to run for Mayor in 2015. In fact, the next Municipal election is a year earlier in 2014 and the remarks were made by another individual. The Varsity regrets the error.

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Who do you plan to vote for in the mayoral election?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Sal
3rd Year Criminology,
"Rocco Rossi because he's Italian."



Alana
2nd Year English,
"I don't think any of them are doing a good job. I wish I could vote for my mom."



Julia
3rd Year Celtic Studies,
"Anyone who isn't Rob Ford!"



Alma
4th Year German,
"I'm not feeling any of them."



Murad
1st Year Undeclared,
"What election?"



Patrick
1st Year Physical and Mathematical Sciences,
"I don't know who the candidates are."

'HANCOCK' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

you or just to put himself in a favourable light."

Being in Dr. Peterson's class taught Shi that she was "doing it all wrong," giving too much to people, and therefore becoming resentful as a result of it.

"Keeping them oblivious to the true consequence of their behaviour denies people the opportunity to grow as individuals," she said, speaking loudly and closely into the microphone.

Once Shi realized that she was actually boing people a disservice by being overly nice to them, she started to put Dr. Peterson's recommendations regarding how to treat others in practice and immediately noticed improvements in her relationships.

"A lack of virtue makes people ill," said Dr. Peterson, calmly and slowly at first, but quickly elevating to a booming, high-speed voice. "People feel resentful because they feel like they've been taken advantage of. Resentment puts you on the road to cruelty and atrocity. Misery loves company."

Shi told the audience that Dr. Peterson's methods challenged her thinking and transformed her life, and she has faith that he will continue to impact many more.

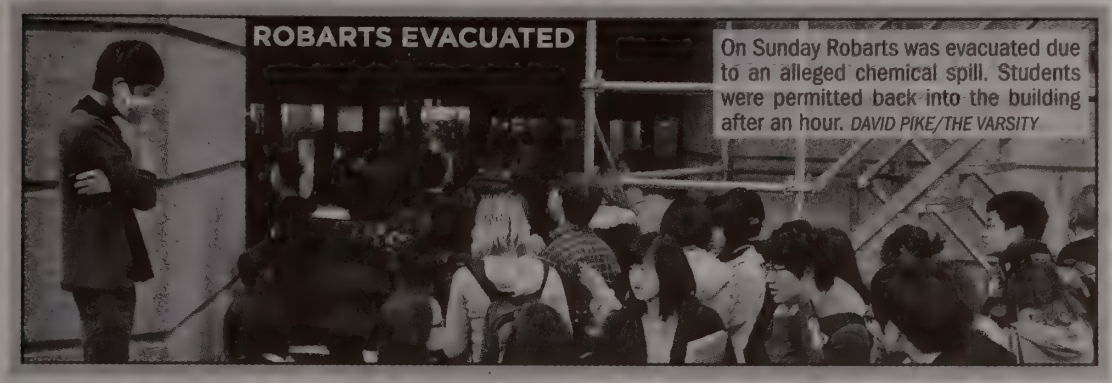
Dr. Peterson has also done experimental and theoretical work on self-deception, neuropsychology, aggression, alcoholism, drug abuse, and motivation for social conflict. He is the Vice-President of Examcorp.com, a neuropsychological assessment company and has written over 70 articles published in academic journals, making regular appearances on Canadian radio and television current affairs programs.

After graduating from the University of Alberta, Dr. Peterson went on to earn a PhD in psychology at McGill University in 1991. He spent his post-doctoral fellowship at McGill's Douglas Hospital. In 1993, he became an assistant in Harvard University's psychology department before securing a position as associate professor. He came to U of T to become a professor in 1997. Even after leaving Harvard, his work was recognized by the university with a nomination for the Levenson Teaching Prize in 1998. In 1999, he wrote Maps of Meaning: The Architecture of Belief, which was later made into a thirteen-part televised series on TVO.

Dr. Peterson is currently working on a new book that will assess brain function and the nature of experience.







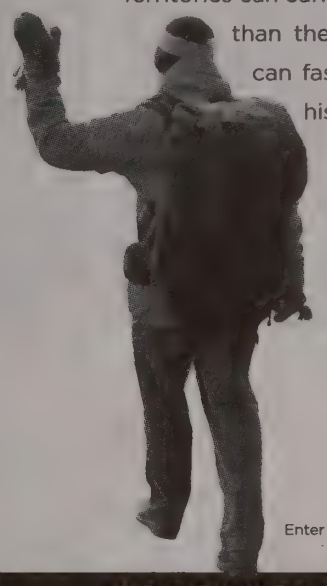


On-campus voting locations include OISE, the St. Vladimir Institute, St. Basil's Church, and Hart House. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

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Mark is checking out job prospects in the Northwest Territories and sampling the NWT lifestyle. He is in for some surprises! There are all kinds of jobs up here - and they pay well - so Mark's student loan will vanish like an ice-castle in the spring. Graduate degree holders in the Northwest Territories can earn $25,000 more per year than the national average. Mark can fast-track his career, make his mark and fill his bank account all at the same time in the NWT.



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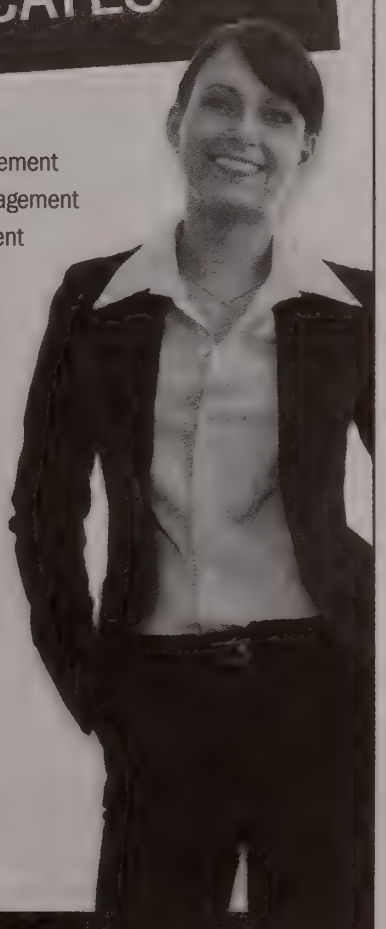


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THE VARSITY MAYORAL DEBATE

PHOTOS BY TOM CARDOSO

Rob Ford

A dispassionate look at the man and his policies



Why is there so much ambivalence and hostility towards Rob Ford at U of T?

Alex Ross
COMMENT EDITOR

Last week, I extended an invitation to our pool of writers and the University of Toronto community to write an article in support of Rob Ford. This was to be part of the comment section's municipal elections special, which would feature an article about Ford alongside articles about Smitherman and Pantalone. Despite a proactive campaign, I was unable to procure an article in support of Ford, much to my disappointment.

It is true that there is a certain amount hostility on campus to Ford and his bid to be mayor of Toronto. As documented in our article "Mayoral election comes to U of T" [The Varsity, September 20] the crowd that gathered to hear the mayoral candidates' debate at Innis College were primarily against Ford. Furthermore, Ford, probably sensing that those who gathered to hear the debate were mostly against him, was the only candidate to leave as soon as the debate was over. Why is this? Why is there so much ambivalence towards Ford on campus? Why don't his supporters even want to write articles defending him? Even at Diabolos', a University College coffee shop, Ford has been placed under their least popular coffee with large, blue sad face. The present editorial is not an apologia for Rob Ford, nor will it praise or blame him. It will merely present Rob Ford's platform and let you decide what you will.

Rob Ford has mostly criticized what he perceives to be the wasteful spending habits of City Hall and has promised to reduce expenses in a series of drastic ways. One of his proposals is to reduce the number of councillors from 44 to 22, which he claims will save about $9 million a year in direct costs. One of his justifications is that Toronto is already served by 22 members of Parliament, 22 members of provincial parliament, and over 22 school trustees. He has also promised to eliminate the vehicle registration tax and the land transfer tax, claiming that $45 million will be saved by taxpayers on the vehicle registration tax alone.

Ford has also promised what he designates "customer service" improvements to City Hall and is looking to privatize garbage collection and possibly some aspects of TTC service. He has stated his opposition to bike lanes and has even doubted the effectiveness of streetcars.

He has proposed that he will introduce some security improvements within the Toronto Police Forces by adding 70 more offices to the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS). He has also promised to add about 30 School Resource Officers within schools. These are the main tenets of his campaign.

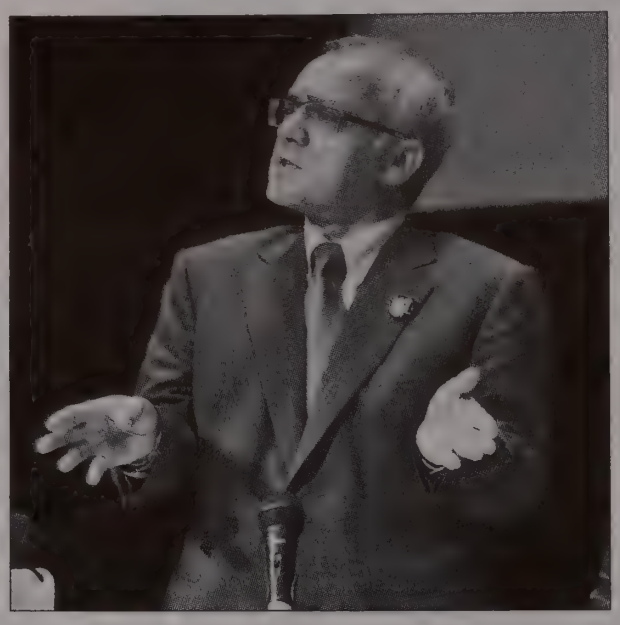
Overall, Rob Ford has run a conservative campaign with an emphasis on reducing taxes, decreasing government, and increasing security. It's not clear whether it's his conservative politics or his somewhat pugilistic debating style that has made students at U of T ambivalent or hostle towards Ford and his policies, but it can not be doubted that he has made an impact in the rest of Toronto. This past spring it appeared to be Smitherman's race to lose and now polls place Smitherman and Ford neck-and-neck with 20 per cent of voters still undecided.

This is all I have to say about Rob Ford and his campaign. I personally wish that this could have come from an impassioned supporter, because I realize that I am not the most qualified surrogate for Ford's ideas. I just think it is important that Ford have a chance to have his ideas heard somewhere in the pages of the Varsity.

Only 39 per cent of eligible voters voted in the last election: an appallingly low number. Whoever you decide to support for mayor just remember to head out and vote on October 25. You owe it to yourself and to your city.

Joe Pantalone

Despite my past criticisms, Pantalone is the only viable candidate for progressives and the labour movement



Unlike Ford or Smitherman, Pantalone is not going to engage in wage freezes or city privatization.

Arash Azizi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

If you've read my previous articles on the Toronto municipal election then you know that I have been less than enthusiastic about the campaign that Joe Pantalone, David Miller's deputy mayor and only left-wing candidate in the race, has run. He has failed to adopt a program that would mobilize Torontonians around a socialist agenda that would give real solutions to people's problems. His campaign has been characterised by a lack of serious appeal or charisma. He has even made unimportant promises like Saving the Trees and Building a Cricket Stadium for Toronto, which are both 'nice' proposals, but do nothing to address the main concerns of the electorate.

Having said that, I've been actively canvassing for Joe for the last few weeks and come October 25, I am sure I will vote for him. Isn't this hypocrisy, one might ask? How can you support a candidate whose agenda you don't fully support? I should begin by saying that even if I think Pantalone's campaign has been a dull one, he is much more to offer than the two other candidates.

What Rob Ford and George Smitherman have in common is a resolute will to privatize considerable portions of city assets and their desire to attack the wages of Toronto city workers by engaging in a demagogic "war on unions". Pantalone to his credit, has stood for saving and expanding public transit and has promised not to freeze or cut worker's wages. Compare this to Smitherman, who advocates privatizing the TTC (.i.e. leaving the quality of our public transit system to the mercy of the "invisible hand" of the market). Those who think attacking the living conditions of city workers means Torontonians will get "more for their buck" should remember that such an attack will be part of a general offensive, concurrent with that of provincial Liberals and federal Tories on the living conditions of working families and people in this city. One might reasonably ask if I am adopting a lesser evil approach? To that, I empathically say no.

I support Pantalone because his bases of support are the labour movement and progressive forces in this city. If elected, he will be amenable to pressure from those who supported him and put him in office, .i.e. trade unions, NDP activists, labour activists. Since he is our candidate, he should expect to be pushed by us. When canvassing for Joe, we ask the people not only to vote but to get active in politics and hold their politicians accountable. This is a crucial difference that makes Joe different from the other candidates.

If elected, Ford or Smitherman will simply pursue the agenda of their own social base .i.e. big corporations and organizations like the Toronto Board of Trade. Notwithstanding their shallow posturing (be it 'waste fighting' by Ford or 'consumer service' by Smitherman) their agenda is one of attacking the social gains of working people of Toronto, as promised by the candidates, and they will make sure to follow it, if elected.

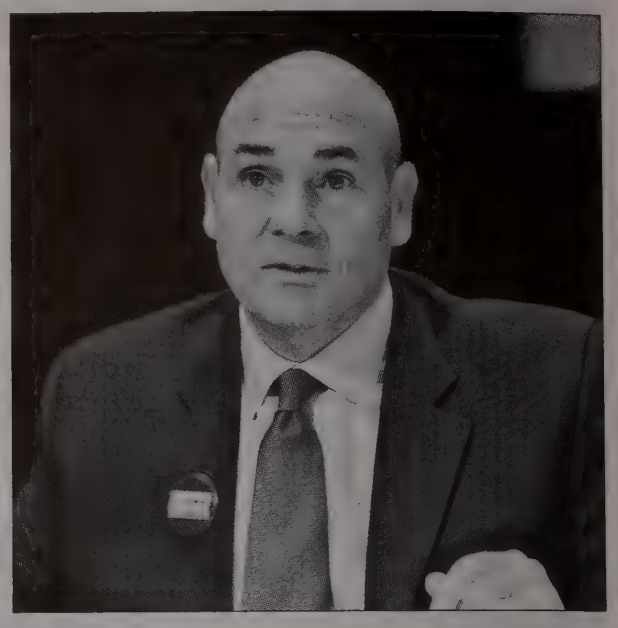
According to the myth of bourgeoisie democracy, elections are about different candidates, putting different policies in front of us so we can then choose which policies best reflect our needs.

The more Machiavellian reality, however, is that the real decisions that affect our lives are usually taken outside Parliament and outside City Hall. What we need is a government that would not only promise policy change, but would be determined to

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George Smitherman

Smitherman is the one candidate who has a definite vision for this city



Smitherman's leadership experience, transit, and green energy initiatives are what this city needs.

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, October 25, you have the opportunity to voice your opinion on who should be running Toronto. The work of the municipal government impacts how you move around the city, the services you can enjoy, and how much you pay for them. In the 2006 municipal election only 39 per cent of residents actually voted, which is pretty shocking.

At this point, the race is really is between Rob Ford and George Smitherman and it is definitely in your best interest to vote for the latter. But you don't only need to vote for Smitherman because he isn't terrifying like Ford. George Smitherman is the right person for the job based on his own merits.

Smitherman has leadership experience. He has been MPP for Toronto Centre for 10 years, enriching the community through initiatives like recreation and reading programs for kids and helping Toronto's newcomers navigate the health care system. This is probably why he's the only Liberal ever to be voted best MPP by NOW Magazine readers. After becoming Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Deputy Premier in 2003, he created housing for persons with severe mental illness. This is the kind of proactive, big picture thinking that is critical to good leadership. More cops and prisons don't translate into fewer criminals in the way better support systems do.

In 2008 he became Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, receiving an international award for his dedication to the environment. His Green Energy and Green Economy Act has created jobs and helped Ontario become the leading wind energy jurisdiction in North America. He also worked at City Hall as chief of staff to former mayor Barbara Hall. Smitherman has been dedicated to this city and province for years, and has shown that he can lead people and effect positive change through government. It's like he actually cares, which is what we need in Toronto's next mayor. Smitherman has very detailed, intelligent plans for the city. Your vote really comes down to who you can trust, who has the proven ability to be a great leader, and who embodies your vision of the city you live in. If you like to leave your home that person must be Smitherman, because Ford's Gotham-esque image of Toronto is only for cars and corporations.

Smitherman has plans for basically everything, some of which are more directly beneficial to students than others. He wants to reduce tax for renters and to address the unfair property tax system in place. Did you know, as a tenant, you pay 3 times the property taxes homeowners pay? He has an Integrated Transportation Plan that includes Smart Cards for the TTC that you can fill through the internet and ATMs — so finally no more inefficient change/token system. He also plans to expand subway lines, build a rail link from Union Station to Pearson Airport, and keep streetcars. He'll support cyclists by making a physical separation between bikes and cars. He even wants to help you get a job, especially through a special fund to subsidize businesses for employees under 25. Smitherman wants Toronto to be an "accessible, livable city" that is welcoming to everyone.

In conclusion, he has the proven political leadership experience we need in a mayor. Smitherman stands for fostering a sense of community, which includes welcoming newcomers immigrating to Toronto. He is a proponent of the arts, LGBT issues, sustainable development, green energy, accessibility, and making progress by tackling difficult issues that need to be addressed in order to make Toronto an even better place to live. Smitherman has clear plans that will directly benefit you.

On October 25, cast your vote for George Smitherman.

Toronto the good

Although media pundits and mayoral candidates disparage our city, we're actually doing quite well

Grant Heaslip
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

In the months leading up to the upcoming Toronto municipal election, the city has found itself repeatedly caught in the crossfire. If some campaign speeches, newspaper columns, blog posts, and op-ed sections are to be believed, Toronto is a city perpetually in crisis. This kind of obnoxious discourse is, unfortunately, a fact of life in today's media and political landscape, but it has the mutually-beneficial effect of keeping the intellectual underclass of angry, barely-coherent online news commentators off the streets. What's more worrisome is how commonplace it is to have a vague dislike of the city. It's such a subtle and commonplace phenomenon that it can be easy to miss, but when was the last time you heard anyone (besides a politician) say that they like, let alone love, this city? I am by no means innocent of the offense of offhandedly speaking ill of our city, but enough is enough: Toronto, it seems, has become a city that everyone loves to hate, and nobody takes the time or inclination to appreciate it.

The most common gripe, at least among students, is the TTC. It's a complaint that has a lot of validity behind it—fares are among the highest in the world, vehicles break down, signals fail, streetcars are often missing-in-action at the most inopportune times, and the drivers aren't always the most friendly or communicative bunch. Everybody has a collection of juicy TTC horror stories in their back pocket. While the TTC is a mess anecdotally, the fact is that, for the most part, it gets the job done. Around 1.5 million trips are taken on the TTC every day, and it's safe to assume that all but a small fraction of the trips are relatively painless. Terrible anecdotes are always unfortunate, but if there's one thing that I hope most take away from this election, it's that no amount of anecdotes are a valid substitute for a sound argument. The TTC, at the very least, does quite a good job with what it has—it's the only major city transit system that's entirely self-funded.

The TTC aside, Toronto is often characterized as a boring, sterile, less culturally-significant version of New York. It's unfortunate because, while Toronto shares some characteristics with New York — most notably the mix of big city and neighbourhood, multiculturalism, and the strong financial industry, characterizing Toronto in relation to a city that could be fairly described as the financial, and perhaps cultural capital of the world is bound to lead to unfavourable conclusions. PricewaterhouseCoopers, in a joint study with Partnership for New York, recently ranked Toronto as the single most liveable city in the world. This year, Mercer ranked Toronto 16th, and The Economist ranked Toronto 4th. These studies are of questionable real-world value, but they do demonstrate that sane minds are viewing Toronto as a competitive, if not thriving, city.

Meanwhile, Toronto is better at being Toronto than any other city in the world. Neighbourhoods are effortlessly, genuinely multicultural—between Spadina and Parkside one can pass through Kensington, Chinatown, Little Italy, Little Portugal, Roncesvalles, and Koreatown. Besides the obvious culinary choices, you wouldn't have a hard time finding Indian, Carribean, Greek, Middle Eastern, Japanese, or Thai gems in between. The multiculturalism rarely, if ever, feels stilted, and though some neighbourhoods are relatively culturally homogeneous, there's never a sense of tension — it just feels right. This isn't a forced, show-the-tourists-what-they-want multiculturalism—it's authentic. Toronto's neighbourhoods, cultural or otherwise, are its greatest strength, and have an atmosphere few other cities can match.

Add to that our often-overlooked wealth of green space and natural attractions within close proximity to the downtown core — think Toronto Island, High Park, Allen Gardens, the Beaches, Ashbridge's Bay, Dufferin Grove, Rouge Park, and the Botanical Gardens — and Toronto's unique, but solidly world-class character is apparent. Despite the common refrain that the city is resting on its laurels, recent developments such as Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common, the Evergreen Brickworks, the Bell Lightbox, and even the conversion of Gould Street and Wilcocks Street to pedestrian zones show that progress is still happening, provided that you're looking for it.

It seems to me that complaining about one's city (and really, complaining in general) is a near-inextricable part of modern urban living. The ability to communicate surface-level insights to a mass audience and to receive instant feedback, is a reality of modern life where pessimism is in style, the world is smaller than ever, and sanitized accounts of the lives of others are all-too-accessible. In short, it's never been easier to be cynical. One of the few things that most can agree on is our apparent shared disdain of our city, and there's a certain comfort to that.

It's almost certainly the case that living in Toronto has never been better. Despite the hysteria, cynicism, and grass-is-greener syndrome that has taken a hold of discourse about our city, life goes on. And for the most part, life is good.

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mobilize people to fight for them against the incursions of big business.

If you are wondering what I am talking about, a historical example may suffice. Tommy Douglas, founder of the CCF and father of Canadian Medicare, not only promised to bring free and accessible medical care to Saskatchewan but mobilized and fought for it to happen in a nationwide scale. He did this not by some act of genius that he passed in the Parliament, but by an active struggle in which he had the support of labour movement and activist wings of the CCF-NDP.

For those who say we should vote for Smitherman to "Stop Ford," we are entitled to ask what the fundamental difference is between the two of them?

I urge the readers of The Varsity to vote for Joe Pantalone and to say no to the agenda of wage cuts and privatization of public services. But what is even more important is to remember that the battle to improve the state of our city and conditions of its citizens don't begin or end on October 25.

Whether or not Pantalone is elected on October 25 we should actively struggle with the ranks of labour movement and the New Democratic Party to fight for a better future. For real political changes are never results of this or that election campaign, but a culmination of a real struggle of social forces that happens not in ballots and legislative chambers, but in streets and factories of our city.

Arash Azizi is a member of the University of Toronto New Democrats

Re: The violence must end, October 11

• The de facto prohibition on prostitution is both useless and counterproductive. Like most outright prohibitions of activities that do not inherently harm anyone, it is both costly and harmful in that it actually increases violent crime by creating a lucrative black market.

What I don't understand is why Mr. Azizi is incapable of writing an article where he presents a factual argument rather than engaging in socialist rhetoric for several paragraphs.

Only a socialist could somehow twist a victory for the free market into some sort of bizarre commentary on the Marxist class struggle.

Azizi's commentary betrays a huge lack of knowledge of how Canadian courts function. For one thing, the SCJ is not "the Ontario courts", nor is it "Stephen Harper's court". Furthermore, by appealing rather than letting the ruling stand, the Crown is opening the door to a precedent-setting ruling at the appeals level that would bind all Ontario courts (and almost certainly secure similar challenges in other provinces) and potentially a SCC ruling that would settle the issue once and for all.

If the Crown truly wanted to contain the impact of this ruling, they'd let the superior court ruling stand and let their opponents bankrupt themselves trying to set a precedent.

Rishi Maharaj

• Dear Rishi,
Thanks for your comments.
Just to clarify:

LETTERS

1- As I work as an interpreter for the Ministry of the Attorney General and deal with the court system on a weekly basis, I think I have some knowledge of the courts.

2- When I said "Stephen Harper's Court" I wasn't referring to the judicial system but to an analogy of Tennis. (Challenging his court, as in sending the ball to his court). Maybe it should have been small c.

3- I don't believe in the independence of judiciary in Canada or any other capitalist state and I don't believe the real political changes are result of anything but a raw struggle of social forces. Call me Socialist, or even Machiavellian. But that's the view I take anyways.

4- And I don't believe your little nicety about why the government did what it did. It was clear that "Victorian Ladies and Gentelmen" that I refer to in Toronto and Ottawa challenged the ruling for political purposes.

Thanks for reading the article.

Arash Azizi

Re: Universities allegedly spent millions, October 11

• [Joel] Duff said universities and colleges, which like to see tuition fees increase, are "using our money against us" by lobbying the government for more funds, which could mean increased tuition fees.

Wait... what?! More government funding means increased tuition fees? But then:

"The fact of the matter is institutions are underfunded. The government needs to put post-secondary education at a higher priority," [Sandy Hudson] said.

Maybe Sandy and Joel need to schedule a little policy pow-wow over at CFS-Ontario because I don't think they're on the same page.

Rishi Maharaj

Re: The Varsity Interview Reg Hartt, October 11

This guy seems pretty thick-headed with his comments about Canadian film. I think the kind of pessimism he spouts off is part of the problem with our film culture. According to him, it seems, Canadian films are utterly worthless because they've been given some form of government funding. Is there something inherent in government funding that makes the film and the filmmaker "boring"? I think not. We only need to look at the NFB to see some of the cinematic greatness that has come out of this country. This guy should be embarrassed by his comments.

Grant

Re: What's That In My Food with Mary Scourboutakos, Oct 11

Ms. Scourboutakos alerts her readers to the fact that Tertiary Butylhydroquinone (TBHQ), a preservative, is added to chicken McNuggets. She notes that "THBQ is derived from petroleum and is a form of butane, making it equivalent to lighter fluid". Any organic compound can, in principle, be derived from petroleum (alcohol, sugar, aspirin, etc.). Being a form a butane says nothing about a compound's safety; a small change in chemical structure can dramatically alter the effect of a compound on the human body. Water and hydrogen peroxide only differ by one oxygen atom, but the latter is corrosive and undrinkable.

Ms. Scourboutakos admits that "[t]here is yet to be a clinical study", but this does not prevent her from throwing around the word "poison" as if it were meaningful. Even grandma's organically grown cabbage contains an abundance of scary sounding compounds (1-cyano-3,4-epithiobutane, butyl glucosinolate, neochlorogenic acid, etc.), many of which are carcinogenic or lethal at high concentrations. (See Ames BN, ProfetM, Gold LS, Dietary pesticides (99.99% all natural), Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1990; 87: 7777–81.)

This article is an example of the Naturalistic Fallacy.

Cameron Funnell

Praise for The Varsity

Hi folks—am an old leftie, found your Oct. 4 issue absolutely heart-warming— Cheers!

Jay Macpherson,
retired prof.

In Retrospect



The Varsity masthead and business board pose for a photograph in 1895. Future Prime Minister W.L. Mackenzie King is third from the left in the front row/LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA.

As the Varsity celebrates its 130th birthday, Editor-in-Chief LUKE SAVAGE recounts the rich history of one of the oldest student newspapers in Canada

THE START

The University of Toronto was a very different place in the late nineteenth century. Confederation was only 23 years old, and most of its relatively small population came from fairly privileged backgrounds.

Nevertheless, an expanding undergraduate population and an increasingly secular attitude in public education began to give rise to an independent student life previously non-existent. Several student societies blossomed, including, in 1879, a newspaper called *The White and Blue* which represented one of the earliest incarnations of student media anywhere in the country (*The Dalhousie Gazette* had begun publishing in 1868 and *The Queen's Journal* in 1873). Though no copies of this experiment survive in print, *The White and Blue* seems to have inspired the ambitious graduate and undergraduate students who launched The Varsity as an independent stock company the following year. The paper's inaugural editorial possessed a palpable optimism about its own prospects and those of further student ventures:

The Varsity starts upon its career unattended by malevolence, and amid the hearty "God speed you!" of friends. The chief incentive however, has not been encouragement, but the consciousness of a capability to supply what is beginning to be looked upon as a trustworthy indication of vigor and intensity of life in a university.

Since student life remained fairly decentralized in various clubs and societies, The Varsity quickly became a voice for dissent and criticism of the university administration. In 1895, when the University Council cancelled a debate organized by a campus political club on the grounds that the views of several of its speakers were "unorthodox," the paper published an editorial condemning the move:

This [is a] truly regrettable state of affairs…no other society about the University has ever been required to…submit its programme to the council for approval before applying for an assembly room…[the university council should] act on some manifestly honest principle.

In the same year, editorials appeared criticizing alleged meddling by the provincial government in the affairs of the university and accusing administration officials of making nepotistic appointments.

President James Loudon, observably unpopular among some sectors of the campus and later described by historian W. Stewart Wallace as "conspicuously [lacking] the faculty of conciliating the goodwill of either the public, the university staff, or the undergraduates," grew increasingly uncomfortable with this state of affairs. On January 18, 1895 the University Council passed a motion demanding an apology from The Varsity's Editor-in-Chief Joseph Montgomery, who agreed, following a meeting with Loudon, to publish an editorial apologizing for "insubordination." But when he confronted the rest of the paper's editors with the agreement, they refused to comply and he was forced to resign his post. Though the president had no authority to censor content in The Varsity, Montgomery's replacement, James Alexander Tucker, was expelled within days for persistently rejecting demands to print an apology. Tucker wrote defiantly: "Rather we would leave the University without a degree than surrender the principle for which we have been contending."

A fourth-year philosophy and English student studying at University College, the hard-working and ambitious Mosbaugh once succeeded in trumping *The Globe and Mail* by publishing an edition of The Varsity in spite of a massive blizzard which had shut down large parts of North America.

Tensions between students, faculty, and the administration seemed to be high all over campus. Latin professor William Dale published a letter in *The Globe* on February 9 criticizing the university for its attitude towards The Varsity, and was himself dismissed on February 15. That same day, a large gathering of undergraduates, including Varsity staff member William Lyon Mackenzie King, voted to abstain from classes until Dale was reinstated. The strike was so effective that professors soon found themselves speaking to virtually empty lecture halls, yet after several days King, who later in life earned a reputation as "the Great Compromiser," offered president Loudon a truce with the understanding that the university would appoint a commission to study the problems that had led to the strike ("a strike if necessary but not necessarily a strike").

When fired Varsity editor James Tucker tried to write his exams later that year, he was forbidden to do so. He finished his degree at Stanford and became Assistant Editor of *Saturday Night Magazine*. His friends published a book of his fiction and poetry following his untimely death in 1903. His predecessor Joseph Montgomery earned his diploma at U of T and became a corporate lawyer.

The strike represented a defining moment for both The Varsity and the university. The report made by the ensuing commission formed the basis for the U of T Act of 1905 which, among other things, led to the creation of the Student Administrative Council: a centralized organization for student social, cultural, and political life.

In addition to the provocative editorials published during its first few years, The Varsity also regularly printed poetry and prose by U of T students. These were eventually compiled in an edition called *The Varsity Book of Prose and Poetry*, a copy of which remains in the E.J. Pratt Library at Victoria College to this day.

WOMEN OUT OF THE COLD

Though the inaugural issue of The Varsity had addressed the issue of co-education, it would be four more years before women were first admitted to U of T. William Houston, who had graduated from the campus several years prior, wrote:

The question of co-education of the sexes in Colleges is still a vexed one and some time must elapse before it can be regarded as finally disposed of…it is only a question of time when female undergraduates will be knocking down the door of University College for admission…Let a few young ladies muster courage to break the ice and they will soon find a numerous troop plunging in after them and the young gentlemen generously applauding their intrepidity.

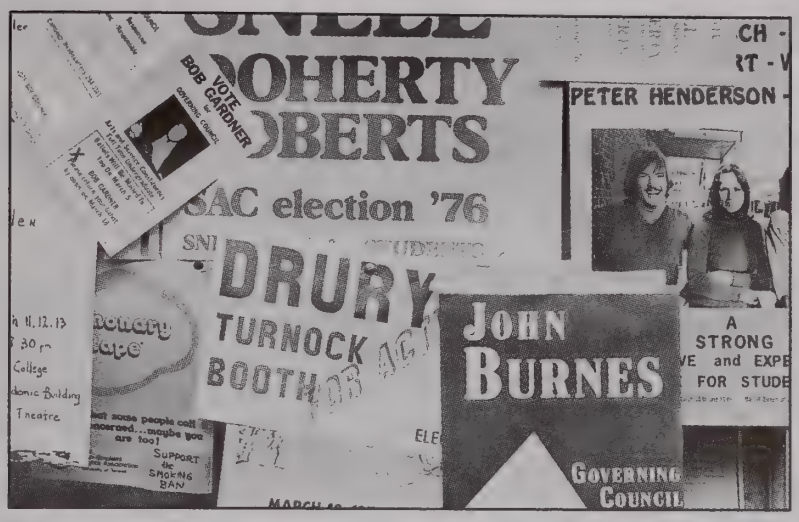
Just over ten years earlier, president John McCaul and the university senate had prevented Emily Stowe from entering to study medicine. (When she predicted that the entrance of women to the campus would be inevitable, McCaul is said to have angrily rebutted: "Never in my day madam!"). Stowe would become the first woman in Canada to be licensed to practice medicine and as she correctly foresaw, women would be regularly admitted to the University of Toronto soon after in 1884.

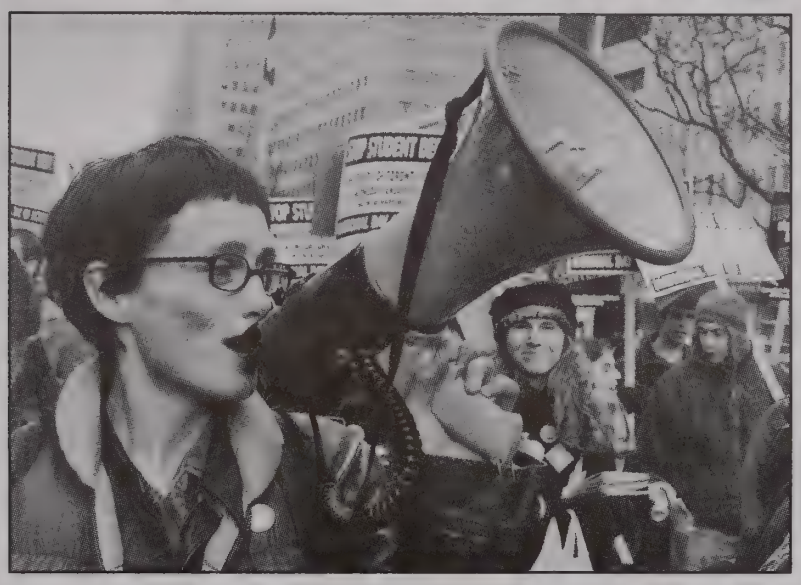
For the next several decades, The Varsity would regularly publish fiction and poetry by female students, though publication of their other efforts occurred much less frequently. Eventually, women became members of the staff and in 1944, Betsy Mosbaugh became the paper's first female Editor-in-Chief at the age of 21. A fourth-year philosophy and English student at University College, the hard-working and ambitious Mosbaugh once succeeded in trumping *The Globe and Mail* by publishing an edition of The Varsity in spite of a massive blizzard which had shut down large parts of North America. Speaking to U of T Magazine in 2006, Barbara Michasiw, a former News Editor who had worked with Mosbaugh described her as such:

We were kind of in awe of her… Long before there was a feminist movement she was a very strong woman. And although she probably would not have been editor had it not been war years and there was a shortage of men, it wasn't because she didn't have the ability. She certainly did, and she did a great job as editor. You didn't cross Betsy. But she was fair, she was very fair.

BRIGHTER DAYS IN STORE? THE S.A.C. YEARS: 1914–1960

The Varsity celebrated the arrival of the twentieth century with an editorial announcing a "revived spirit in university life" and predicting "brighter days in store". It was absorbed into







Clockwise from top left: Posters advertising the S.A.C. elections in March 1976; a candidate in the 1970 S.A.C. election rallies a crowd of students; in an undated photograph U of T students protest rising debt levels on the streets of Toronto/VARSITY ARCHIVES.

S.A.C. and so began a difficult relationship which would span most of the next 40 years. In 1926, the council decided not to take positions on political or other controversial issues — a policy that perhaps aimed to keep the organization united, but created decades of tension between it and The Varsity. Even editorials of a thoroughly apolitical nature were subject to scrutiny by S.A.C. executives and there were many instances of censorship throughout the 1930s, 40s, and 50s.

In a 1929 issue of The Varsity, the paper's editor L.J. Ryan wrote an opinion piece in response to a speech given by a preacher at a meeting of one of the campus's leading Christian organizations which denounced the practice of "petting." It is probable that the tone of the article was intended to be every bit as sarcastic as it sounds:

It is not for undergraduates to contradict a man whose experience of the world has been so much greater than their own, but in light of our close connection with the younger generation who are thus accused of debasing their souls, we should like to attempt an explanation of our generation and its actions... Petting as an institution has come to be recognized by all who are not wilfully blind to existing conditions.

Following a request from the university's board of governors, S.A.C. fired Ryan. Incensed, the entire Varsity masthead resigned their posts and began a new publication dubbed *The Adversity*, which published in the pages of the *Toronto Telegram*.

In another incident two years later, the paper's editor, Andrew Allen, wrote an extremely controversial editorial suggesting that many people on campus practiced religion purely out of social convention; attending church as little as society would permit and contributing to what Allen claimed was a widespread "practical atheism." In an issue soon after, he published an excerpt from Milton's *Second Defence of the People of England* in response to criticism about the propriety of his remarks. The university's chief disciplinary body, aptly named "Caput," reprimanded The Varsity and it did not print for the remainder of the 1931-1932 publishing year. Soon after the paper resumed printing, S.A.C. implemented a series of guidelines for Varsity editors, actively forbidding any discussion of politics or other topics likely to provoke "hostility," telling the university's board of governors "The Varsity shall cause no more trouble." Needless to say, it did.

In March 1952, it printed a joke issue which, among other things, partially reproduced the text of a document published by university president Sidney Smith concerning the need for teaching reforms in the field of English, substituting every instance of the word "English" with "sex." Once again S.A.C. suspended publication of The Varsity prompting Editor-in-Chief Barbara Brown, News Editor Ian Montagnes, and most of the rest of the senior masthead to resign in protest. Five years later, another joke issue provoked an especially harsh response from S.A.C. who called it "libellous" and "in bad taste" and, on the morning of March 7, 1957, ordered the North Toronto Herald Printers to burn all printed copies of the paper in their possession without informing anyone on The Varsity staff. The paper's editor Peter Gzowski released a statement in response which read:

We deny that yesterday's gag issue was libellous in form or content, that it contained material that would have offended any but the most fanatically puritanical of minds, that any mature student would have received anything but a healthy laugh from reading it.

THE 1960s AN 1970s: ACTION AND ACTIVISM

Varsity editors and members of S.A.C. began to work amicably together for the first time in at least 30 years during the latter part of the 1960s. In concert with other student organizations across North America, both pursued a more activist course, amid increasingly liberalized attitudes within the postwar generation towards politics, culture, and sex. At times in its history, the paper had adopted conservative positions on a number of issues. In one case in 1947, a demonstration by left-wing students at Queen's Park in support of unionizing workers from the Imperial Optical Company was met with an editorial declaring that "[the protestors] had a lot to learn" and suggesting that they take their concerns to university administration.

These attitudes were nowhere to be found in the 1960s when, at times, The Varsity took positions not only critical but openly antagonistic towards the university's policies. Towards the end of the decade, university officials had become so threatened by student demonstrations surrounding the Vietnam War and other causes that the Committee of Ontario University Presidents — on which U of T President Claude Bissell sat — published a report recommending the advent of harsher measures to crack down on dissent including new rules which

> In 1972, Varsity co-editors Linda McQuaig and Thomas Walkom helped initiate a massive demonstration of students at Convocation Hall after undergraduates were banned from the new stacks in Robarts Library.

would have effectively banned students from disagreeing with professors during lectures. S.A.C. publicly condemned the document and when the president refused to distance himself from it, The Varsity published a front-page ultimatum to university officials, which also called for the takeover of Simcoe Hall if demands were not met by October 1, 1969. The same issue carried an editorial which called the document "an insult to every student's intelligence and freedom". In the fall of that year, following the reformation of the criminal code, The Varsity printed an advertisement for the first Gay and Lesbian group on campus: The University of Toronto Homophile Association.

In 1972, Varsity co-editors Linda McQuaig and Thomas Walkom helped initiate a massive demonstration of students at Convocation Hall after undergraduates were banned from the new stacks in Robarts Library. McQuaig also notably championed feminist causes, on one occasion pretending to be pregnant to expose an anti-abortion counselling service and later going undercover as a stripper.

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

In 1980, after more than half a century in S.A.C., The Varsity became officially independent: collecting its own levy, electing its own board of directors, and enjoying complete editorial autonomy for the first time in its history. During the neoliberal revolution of the 1980s and 1990s the view that public universities should adopt a more economically-focused outlook increasingly gained traction. In this period, The Varsity was particularly critical of the administration on the issues relating to educational reform, with its editors including current U of T philosophy professor and author Mark Kingwell (Editor-in-Chief, 1983-1984) and left-wing activist Naomi Klein (Editor-in-Chief, 1992-1993). More recently, its editors criticized President Naylor's "Towards 2030" planning document on the grounds that it would push the university into adopting a virtually private educational model.

Autonomy from S.A.C., however, came with its problems. In 2004, tensions erupted between the paper's staff members and it's board of directors over the latter body's intent to assume control of the hiring of editors. The Annual General Meeting was cancelled and several editors walked off the job. Yet the paper survived this existential crisis and succeeded in reconstituting itself over the summer and continuing to publish the following year. The board of directors was not reassembled until 2007 and not fully reconstituted until January of last year.

Having overcome these problems, the newspaper now enjoys a level of editorial freedom and independence the likes of which a century's worth of its editors could never have dreamed. From the Boer War to Trudeaumania, from the first electric streetlight to the first extraterrestrial launch, The Varsity published in an inhospitable atmosphere of hostile scrutiny — first at the hands of the university's administration, and later from the more conservative factions of the student government. Its final separation from S.A.C. gave it total autonomy over its own affairs, complete with both the freedoms and struggles independence produces.

Today The Varsity continues upon its career unattended by malevolence, and amid the hearty "God speed you!" of friends.

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / JOHN WATERS

The filmmaker, author, and "Pope of Trash" talks to Arts Editor WILL SLOAN *about why he's more similar to Johnny Mathis than you might think*

Even if you've never seen *Pink Flamingos*, *Polyester*, *Hairspray*, *Cry-Baby*, or the rest of his colourful filmography, you probably still know plenty about the American institution that is John Waters. He's the dandy with the pencil-thin moustache who turns up as talk show guest, essayist, documentary talking head, and all-around droll raconteur. He's the provocateur whom William S. Burroughs famously called "the Pope of Trash." A modern-day Wilde, if Wilde had been inordinately interested in serial killers and bizarre sexual fetishes. And yes, he's the one who filmed Divine eating dog doo in that movie all those years ago, though perhaps you're a little tired of hearing that too.

Waters is one of our leading ironists, which is why *Role Models*, his third prose book following *Shock Value* and *Crackpot*, is something of a surprise. It is a personal collection of profiles of Waters' influences, a group that includes mainstream entertainers Johnny Mathis and Little Richard; underground pornographers Bobby Garcia and David Hurles; artist Cy Twombly; and even "Manson Girl" Leslie Van Houten, a friend of Waters. He writes about these and others with a mixture of affection and — here's the surprising part — respect.

The Varsity: *The book caught me off guard because compared to* Crackpot *and* Shock Value *it feels a little more personal, a little less arch. Because a lot of your work deals in irony, did this book's tone seem like more of a challenge, or maybe a little intimidating?*

John Waters: Well yeah, I don't think it's ironic at all. No, it came really naturally to me, because I wanted to write about people I really did respect even though, y'know, when people think of "role models" they wouldn't usually pick some of the people I've picked. But still, I thought that every person in this book I do look up to for being braver than I have to be, or even because of something maybe they did that was terrible, or maybe because they've had great success, or maybe because they've had a tiny bit of success with just one thing. Each one of those things involves a certain progress in being able to deal with it to get through life, and I think they all have, so I've learned something from every one of these people. I didn't write about one person, ever, that I thought was "so bad they were good," which certainly I have written about in the past.

TV: *I found the chapter where you talk about your friendship with Leslie Van Houten and advocate for her parole unexpectedly moving. I know you published it on the* Huffington Post *about a year ago — what sort of reaction has it had?*

JW: I published that because it was the 40-year anniversary of Helter Skelter and I knew there would be a lot of sensational coverage, and, y'know, let's be honest, it's pretty clear that the people convicted of that crime don't have many good reviews. But I think I did more than the defence lawyer because I also put in all the most devastating things that the victims' families had said against her release, which I think I had to do.

I was very serious about it. I do like Leslie, she's my friend, and she's told me since that she can feel the difference the article has made just in the visiting room, with people saying stuff to her, and the guards and everything, but she was, I think, fairly brutally turned down again [for parole] this summer. They didn't use [the article] against her, which is something I feared. But it's a tough case, and it's just too famous, and she did do a terrible thing and no one is ever saying she didn't do a terrible thing, but she didn't think it up, and she was a 17-year-old girl and met a madman. She does not say that, I say that. She said, "It's my fault for making him a cult leader, because you can't be a leader if you don't have followers." You can never turn back the hands of a clock – the only thing you can do is what she's trying to do, which is become a better person than she would be if she'd never committed the crime. And I think she is that person today. Whether that is ever enough? From society's viewpoint, I think that is. From a personal viewpoint of her victims? I can't answer that.

TV: *There's a recurring motif in the book of people being very suspicious of you when you ask for interviews.*

JW: I would be too! With Johnny Mathis, his lawyer was, although I don't think the lawyer knew me, and then if he Googled me, oh god, I don't know what comes up first. The funny thing was, some of Leslie's supporters were uptight about it, and she's like, "God, somebody's gonna hurt MY reputation? That's quite a feat." But I don't think that happens too much anymore. I mean, Johnny Mathis was a good sport. He certainly didn't know when I came to interview him for that chapter in the book that I was also going to be writing about killers, or, y'know, my apartment, but I did use him as a springboard in a way, and I think I respected him, and every time I do a TV or a radio show now they play "Chances Are" when I come on. I would have been really upset if anybody that I wrote about didn't like it, and I've heard from almost everybody and they've been very favourable about it. I would have been very devastated if they hated it.

TV: *Your reputation does precede you. There are certain things I've read about you maybe a thousand times, like Divine eating the dog shit in* Pink Flamingos ---



WILL SLOAN/THE VARSITY

JW: Well, that's the thing. I mean, yes, that happened, and there's nothing you can do about that. Yeah, I'm proud of that too – it was part of me. I actually realized the other day I filmed that scene 40 years ago this fall, that's when it was shot. So, it is certainly from a long time ago, but my sister said, "Y'know, it just opened in Washington again, it's playing as a midnight movie." Isn't that amazing? It certainly never became old hat.

TV: *There's also that quote, "If someone throws up at one of my movies—"*

JW: Oh, that quote. Well, that's an old quote. Y'know, that was said in *Shock Value*, and *Shock Value* is still in print. It's never gone out of print since 1981. What can I say? I said that as humour then, and...what was the line? "If somebody throws up at one of my films, it's like a standing ovation"?

TV: *Yeah, I think that's it.*

JW: Depends which film! For *Pink Flamingos* it doesn't hurt. It's good for publicity in the old William Castle kind of tradition. I remember some theatre owners used to put sawdust down. It was just a joke, but at amusement parks, that was the easiest way to clean up vomit, they always put that outside the rides. It's more theatrical, so I should have hired fake people to puke – that would've been good!

TV: *I think what I'm trying to get at is, I sense an undercurrent of the book where now that you're older and all this is in the past, you're kind of dealing with "the John Waters persona." You know what I mean?*

JW: I think...yes, I'm proud of my career. I don't think those days are "better" or anything, and I don't have many regrets, but I think some of the stuff I talk about in the Leslie chapter I do regret because I was pretty inconsiderate of the victims when I made humour of it [in my early films]. But many, many people use Manson in the punk rock way. There's Marilyn Manson – I mean, it's not just me who seized on that as basically a Halloween costume, '"merica's boogeyman." But the problem with that is, these are real people, and the people that were in his cult were, I think, victims themselves, also dealing with interminable guilt of something they never would have done and would never do again.

TV: *The book profiles some people, like Little Richard and Johnny Mathis, who are very different from you, and others, like the 'Outsider Porn' filmmakers, who seem like extreme versions of you.*

JW: No, I think the opposite: I think I'm more like Johnny Mathis and Little Richard than I am like the outsider porn people, because as much as I respect them, I don't think I'm an "outsider artist" at all. An outsider artist is naïve; an outsider artist doesn't care if the world notices. I think I'm much closer to Johnny Mathis and Little Richard — not comparing my talent, but the fact that I've had a long career in show business and have had to always reinvent myself to keep going, whereas the outsider porn people are compulsively driven. They don't have a choice but to do what they do, and I find that fascinating, but I think I'm much less like that in real life.

TV: *Maybe I'm getting distracted by the fact that in the Johnny Mathis chapter, you talk about how he's had mass middle-American success, and reaches a certain audience that you don't. Is that something you desire?*

JW: Well, in a comic way, yes. I'm not losing sleep over it. I love my audience, and I think I have great fame, because the kind of fame I have means you can always go out, and the people that recognize me are the people I probably wanna meet... Do I want their life? No, but I always tell every publicist I ever have for a book or movie, "The only magazine I really want to do is be on the cover of *Parade*!" I don't know if you get it, but *Parade* is a weekly supplement that goes in every Sunday newspaper in the country, and it's incredibly middle-of-the-road.

TV: *All I really know about it is they used to have Jerry Lewis on the cover every year for the Telethon.*

JW: Well, I'm jealous of Jerry Lewis, too, in a way. Oh, I love Jerry Lewis, but I don't know that he was a role model because his personality seems to be a little...off base to me. [Laughs] So, I jokingly say I want that kind of fame, but...everybody does! I talk to everybody all the time, even peers my age who have had success, and they say, "Why do we keep doing this?" I had someone who said to me, "What are you trying to prove? God, do you ever stop?" And no, we never can stop, because we're insecure, that's why we're in show business, and we have to keep being driven to have other people tell us we're good, which is really a sickness. So, I think everybody in show business is basically insane. Including me.

John Waters will be participating in a reading/interview for the International Festival of Authors on October 22, 8 p.m. at the Fleck Dance Theatre. He will also be introducing a screening of Salo, or The 210 Days of Sodom *on October 23, 8:30pm at TIFF Bell Lightbox.*

A photo affair

Toronto-based fashion photographer Miguel Jacob talks shop with characteristic swagger — and Ray-Bans — in tow

Elizabeth Haq
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



On a flawless autumn Sunday, in a simply-adorned espresso bar flooded with midday light, photographer Miguel Jacob recognizes and nods to a chicly outfitted woman and thanks a stranger quietly when she exclaims that she likes his shirt: a geometric button-down in pastel hues. It's obvious that Jacob frequents the place; in fact, an unsuspecting customer became the subject of an impromptu portrait recently.

"There was a guy sitting here waiting for someone, and this plant made him look almost like he had a mohawk," Jacob recollects. "He was bald and the curve of it looked like a question mark. It was just really interesting, I really liked that moment."

The world of professional photography is full of similar question marks — and Jacob has been navigating it for as long as he can remember. On the eve of his first solo exhibit, a series of dark portraits that are a dramatic departure from his commercial successes at *Chatelaine* and *Fashion*, Jacob recalls his years at U of T studying French literature and cinema before completing a stint at OISE and spending a few years in the Toronto District School Board. "I was good at teaching, I got a lot of great feedback from educators and parents alike. But my heart wasn't in it. At the time, I almost felt like I was living a double life. I remember going to OISE in these crazy outfits. I've collected magazines and books and followed what was going on in the world of photography for as long as I can remember."

Jacob's fervour for capturing moments is infectious, and as you talk to him you find yourself itching to pick up a camera and have a go at it yourself. "You have that short and intense connection. It's strong and powerful," he explains, "It's almost like having an affair. It's intimate and on a separate plane from everything else. And I think that's something that a lot of photographers are attracted to."

After several years in the industry gathering experience and receiving accolades, Jacob continues to be driven and fixated on perfection. But his first experience with editorial fashion wasn't as glamourous as the P&G Beauty Award-winning covers he shoots these days. There was no Coco Rocha, 21st-century supermodel, or Canadian crooner Michael Bublé — larger-than-life personalities that Jacob has worked with on several occasions. "There was an opportunity to shoot a quarter-page to accompany an article on adult female acne at Fashion Magazine. I took total advantage of the opportunity and put my heart into that image. I used red coloured gel to connote stress and had to buy frosted glass and a lot of other equipment. The assistant made more than I did on that one. But I wanted my work to speak for itself. Doors can be opened for you, and they can close in your face very quickly if you don't deliver or if the timing is wrong."

Jacob emphasizes the importance of surrounding yourself with the best, whether it's stylists, assistants, or even caterers. "You have to align yourself with people who are doing great work in order for your work to be great. And that's just how I've defined my career."

As a professional photographer, a significant portion of Jacob's work is commercial, including advertisements for The Bay and covers for any number of prominent Canadian magazines. His latest endeavor, however, is a labour of love.

"This portrait series that I started last December, I was doing on the weekends. I was shooting a lot of fashion models, the majority of whom are white and female, but I've always loved portraits and was always intrigued by the idea of putting people in a certain context and seeing what they can do. People who may not be used to being in front of a camera."

He counts British photographer Nick Knight as one of his premier influences, and cites a series of 100 portraits he shot in the 80s in particular. "The play of shadow and light really influenced and spoke to me. By keeping the light very simple and mobile I could have an incredible amount of options. I wanted to do something in that style but put my own spin on it."

On paper, Jacob is your typical Toronto fashion photographer: he's got swagger, presence, and can name-drop his connections to budding local designers and internationally-renowned photographers at a moment's notice. He's dabbled in designing and spent time assisting at the Toronto Fashion Incubator. He's seen *Breathless* more times than he can count. He sports a pair of really snazzy Ray Bans. But Jacob's relationship with the camera and with the process of transforming those raw memories into something concrete is authentic and beyond the negative assumptions that so often suffocate the art of fashion photography.

"A camera is a black box that allows light to come in a render images on film," he tells me, with a hint of incredulity at the simplicity of his craft. "But it's magical, that chemical process. One of the things that drew me to photography is that it's one of the simplest art forms and yet it can be so complicated. There are so many possibilities. If I didn't have this job and I had a camera, I'd be taking pictures. I still can't believe I'm really doing this."



A sample of Miguel Jacob's fashion photography.

VarCity

The Varsity's guide to Toronto's best shows



Local Natives

With their debut album, *Gorilla Manor,* the five-some from Los Angeles entered the scene of experimental, naturalistic folk-rock to critical acclaim. Here's hoping the group — which has been compared favorably to everyone from Arcade Fire to Grizzly Bear — lives up to the hype.
Mod Club, $17.50. October 19. 19+

Deerhunter

The four-piece indie rock band hailing from Atlanta, Georgia stops by Toronto on their latest North American tour. While their line-up has gone through a lot of changes in the past year, with their latest album, *Halcyon Digest*, they stay true to their psychedelic take on experimental indie rock.
Opera House, $18.50. October 19. 19+

Frank Turner

The singer/songwriter charms with earnest lyrics, a wide-eyed performance, an acoustic guitar and a British accent (The man went to school with Prince William). Though he started out his music career with the hardcore band Million Dead, his most recent album, *Poetry of the Deed,* with its (wide-eyed) almost grating sincerity, is a far cry from his hardcore background.
Horseshoe Tavern, $13.50. October 22. 19+

Band of Horses

A country-rock band with psychedelic sensibilities, Band of Horses has been likened to the Flaming Lips and an early Neil Young. Check out these stallions at the Kool Haus.
Kool Haus, $27.50. October 21. All ages.

Diamond Rings

The rainbow-faced John O'Regan becomes Diamond Rings, his musical alter-ego. Releasing his first album October 25th, Diamond Rings has already received much hype. Coming from the successful indie group the D'Ubervilles, his own brand of 80's dance glam-rock somehow manages to sound like glitter.
Garrison, $10.50. October 26. 19+

Interview: Olivier Assayas on *Carlos*

The Summer Hours *director discusses his epic-length film about Venezuelan terrorist Ilich Ramírez "Carlos" Sánchez*

Blerta Meraj
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The Varsity: *How was Carlos conceived? Could you give me an overview or outline of the film's conception? What prompted you to make Carlos?*
Olivier Assayas: It's kind of a long story. It's a long story because it starts awhile ago. And it starts pretty far from where we ended up. It was initially a project that was brought to me by a French TV producer and he had a very basic outline — about four pages based on how Carlos was arrested by the French. I was not really interested in doing the movie. I did not see any angle that was really exciting. But when he sent me his project, he included research that a journalist was doing for a while around Carlos. There was a thick file of facts, basically a chronology of what is known of the story of Carlos. After reading it, I thought it was great. I thought it was amazing. So I said to him, "I am not interested in the way you approach it. But if you are okay starting from scratch and doing it like the story of Carlos seen through the eyes of Carlos or something like that, I am interested in giving it a shot."

So basically, I started writing it and the film grew out of proportion. Pretty early on, I understood that it would not fit into one film, so I thought it was going to be more like two films. And then even with two films, we didn't have the space to tell the whole story.... Well, I always thought about it as a five-and-a-half hour film. But then I knew that I would also be doing for the multiplexes a shorter version cut that would be condensed of the story....

TV: *Was this conceived as a film or a hybrid of television and film? Because most movies are not five-and-a-half hours long.*
OA: No, no...the financing is a hybrid...and you can't get movies on that scale financed, really.You know if I had brought this project to a film producer and tried to finance it on the movie side, I would have got nowhere because no producer is going to spend that kind of money on a film that long because you know, it's, you just can't sell it. I think in only one way which is the one way I know how to make movies. Basically, it's cinema. It is not like I am going to use some kind of different language because it is TV financing. The DNA of the film is not exactly the money that you use to make it. The DNA of the film is your inspiration.
TV: *On that topic, where did your inspiration come from for this movie, considering that you were reluctant in the beginning?*
OA: A lot was exciting about it. I grew up in the '70s, so it's not like a world that is alien to me, like European leftism of the 70s. So you know I was a kid but still I lived through it and when I was writing the dialogue I realized that I still speak the language, this kind of specific political language of the time. It's something that I just realized that I was fluent in it...
TV: *What do you have to say about...well, I'm younger and I don't speak the political language of that time. There's a lot of political discourse in the film — operations, negotiations and discussions — could you comment on that within the framework of the film?*
OA: One side of it is about recreating those times, recreating the inner-working and logic of those times. Another side of it is showing how terrorism is connected to geopolitics. That it is not some angry individual throwing bombs, that bombs are not about ideology but bombs are about messages that are being sent by one power to another power. And so there's one media side to it because you do get it on the first page of the newspaper. But on the first page of the newspaper you don't have the explanation really of what happened and why it happened. The explanation is something that will surface much later because it was part of the politics of the time.

Again, it's about geopolitics. You have politics, you have diplomacy and when both don't work you start using terrorism. And when terrorism does not work you use war. But it's one of the tools politicians use. And so what I'm trying to say is that it can be relevant in terms of looking at modern events, you know, because the logic is not very different ultimately. It has an aspect that is about reflection on what terrorism is and how it connects with contemporary politics.



"O, livier - my livier!" Assayas on set.

TV: *Ok, I see what you mean. In terms of the protagonist of the film, Carlos...the film is inspired by real events and based on extensive historical research presenting twenty years in the life of this international terrorist. However, since much of his life is unknown, you had to speculate on some of the more personal aspects of his life on screen. How did you go about doing that?*
OA: It involves a level of responsibility. You know, you have some stuff that is established, like what happened during that operation. You have stuff like when there is the shootout in the small studio; you have police reports on basically what happened, what the individual said, and ultimately the dialogue is based on transcripts. So you have a lot of material that is extremely accurate.

And then you have stuff that you do not have access to because there were no recordings and people have not written their souvenirs or is simply classified, like dialogues with [Waddie] Haddad. That stuff is not accessible. Or even anything that has to do with Syrian intelligence: in terms of the Eastern secret service or the Hungarian state security, the files have been opened up after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Some of that stuff is available. But in Syria, there has never been something like a Berlin Wall that has fallen. It's still pretty much the people who were in power at that time that are in power now. So obviously that stuff gets made up. You have to make it up, and here you have to be very careful. You try to use only known facts. You make people speak but ultimately what they say is things that are more or less established. I am not trying to use any kind of psychology or I am not trying to interpret things or whatever, but still, it's a thin line.
TV: *What I am trying to get at is that when you were making these things up, what did you have in mind for Carlos as a character? How did you want to present him? Because by the way you present the material, you will shape people's perception of it?*
OA: My approach was that I do not have an agenda. I don't have in the back of my mind an overall idea of Carlos I want to transmit to the audience. To me, what is exciting about it is just being as incredibly factual as I can. And that through the accumulation of actual fact, there is a bigger picture that will emerge which ultimately you know people will basically make their own idea. ... Carlos is a different person at different ages of his life. And somehow you can't say Carlos is this...I think Carlos is this and that and that and that...I mean he kind of morphs, he changes, he evolves, he adapts to an ever-changing world. I suppose there are some characteristics which is this kind of Latin, machismo and this kind of violence he has, but at the same time he adapts and he ages. So you know he can't do the things when he's forty that he was doing when he was twenty.

Carlos opens Thursday at TIFF Bell Lightbox.

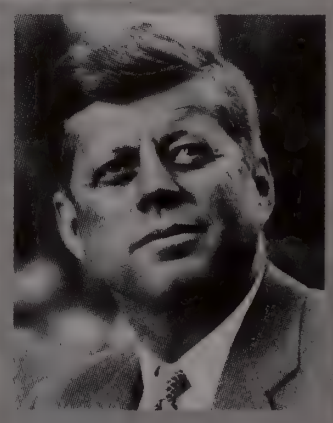
The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Two Oceans Pinot Noir (2008)
$9.95 at the LCBO

The first time I cooked dinner on Valentine's Day I bought a $30 Shiraz from Australia. It was a mistake. I hadn't yet been exposed to the $10 Wine Snob commandment: "Wines from Australia are almost always overpriced." The Two Oceans Pinot Noir from Australia is no exception. It has a dark red appearance and a strawberry nose. It's acidic, and no flavours distinctly stand out once in the mouth. It is certainly drinkable, but nothing to write home about. Not only is the taste mediocre, but Two Oceans is the Wal-Mart of Australian wine brands: satisfaction might be guaranteed but if you want anything more than that, good luck.
Wine under $10 does not need to be substandard – just look at the three wines reviewed from the Niagara Peninsula in weeks past. Never fear, next week we'll explore an underappreciated and undervalued wine country: Argentina. Olé!



"Ask not what your [arts section] can do for you, ask what you can do for your [arts section]!"
— John F. Kennedy

Contribute!

Can't stop the music

Quadriplegic engineering student develops technology to help disabled kids make music

Cristina Olteanu
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Eric Wan, a U of T engineering graduate student, can sympathize with disabled children who cannot play music because they can't hold an instrument. He was diagnosed with transverse myelitis after a measles vaccination when he was eighteen, leaving him paralyzed below the shoulders.

Over the past five years, Wan has focused on applying his engineering skills toward helping children who, like him, can't engage in everyday activities like making music. He explains that his work lies "in making software or electronic gadgets that enable people to be able to do more, and so to improve their quality of life."

The Virtual Music Instrument, the project that Wan helped to develop, "lets ... kids experience music and creativity that they otherwise would not have had an opportunity to do. In this way, VMI allows children to participate more fully in our society," says Wan.

Wan first began volunteering at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in the summer of 2005. He subsequently had the opportunity to participate as an intern, and has been a member of the research team ever since. Wan collaborated with Tom Chau, a senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, while working for the Paediatric Rehabilitation Intelligent Systems Multidisciplinary Lab, or PRISM.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Holland Bloorview is the largest children's rehabilitation center in Canada. The PRISM lab emphasizes efforts to help youth with disabilities to participate more fully in society, using engineering and science. With a long-running interest in computer systems, Wan completed his bachelor's degree in computer engineering at U of T, and also learned his first programming language at the tender age of eight.

According to Wan, "the Virtual Music project was created for pediatric rehabilitation, and it had been used as a therapeutic tool in music therapy since it was first developed. In the recent years, VMI has been introduced in geriatrics in Australia."

Wan has been leading a team of students in the software development of the project for the past four years. "Our teamwork resulted in numerous advancements that improved user experience," says Wan.

The Virtual Music Instrument requires two simple components to work properly: a personal computer and webcam. Wan explains, "The software displays the environment that is projected through the video capture device. Virtual objects can be created on the display, where each virtual object is a configurable instrument sound. The user can then activate the sounds by interacting with the software through body movements."

The Virtual Music Instrument is unique in that it is a research effort to develop a musical instrument that all children can access, with a strong focus on those who are disabled. This is just one of the projects in which Wan is involved; he is also bringing his computer expertise to the iPod localization project, an iPod-based tracking system that allows patients using a ventilator to move through a hospital at their leisure without direct supervision. Wan has also helped develop the Aspirometer device, which detects swallowing safety.

His supervisor, Chau, speaks highly of Wan. "[He is] absolutely phenomenal as a person and as an inspiration for the lab — and this is aside from all the technical capabilities that he also brings."

Wan is now pursuing a two-year master's degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Toronto. He continues to be highly interested in software development that helps children with disabilities to gain more control of their lives.

Quantum hackers!

Physics professor is first to point out loopholes in world's most secure method for information encryption

Charlotte Tombs
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

"This was the first time that a commercial QKD system has been successfully hacked," says Hoi-Kwong Lo.

Lo, a physics and electrical engineering professor at U of T, has successfully hacked into a real-world quantum key distribution (QKD) system, proving that such a system is not as secure as one may think.

"Quantum key distribution," says Lo, "provides a secure means of distributing secret keys between two parties." Before the birth of quantum cryptography, codes were much easier to crack. An encrypted message could be deciphered if one knew the key.

In the past, a key would have to be secretly exchanged between the two parties who wished to send each other encrypted messages. This was essential so that both would be aware of how to decipher the messages they would be sending each other. However, the key could be intercepted by an eavesdropper without either of the individuals knowing. The eavesdropper could then intercept the messages exchanged between the two individuals or parties, and decipher them effortlessly. Over time, more sophisticated methods of cryptography developed, but the development of quantum mechanics, and specifically a quantum algorithm, resulted in an extremely secure form of cryptography.

In 1994, Peter Shor at MIT's AT&T Laboratories invented a quantum algorithm that could factor very large numbers that would take far too long for any human mathematician to factor. Thanks to this innovation, the number of encryption possibilities increased dramatically because a long and complex computational code could be decrypted quickly.

The quantum algorithm thus helped to precipitate a new kind of key exchange: Quantum Key Distribution (QKD). This distribution occurs over photons emitted from a laser. The key is encrypted in the photons which results in seemingly impermeable key distribution — meaning it would be very difficult for the eavesdropper to intercept the message without being detected.

This difficulty in intercepting the message occurs because of Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. The principle, explains Lo, states that "it is fundamentally impossible to know the exact values of complementary variables, such as the particle's momentum and its position."

Since this is the case, it would seem fundamentally impossible for an eavesdropper to intercept the key that is encoded in the photons, without the eavesdropper being detected. In fact, a quantum cryptographic system appeared to be impenetrable because as soon as the photon stream becomes altered, the system's detectors sense this change, shutting the system down automatically. Alternatively, the receiver (known as "Bob" to Quantum Information researchers) would be alerted of the key's compromise and would be able to throw out this key and ask for another.

Lo's hack into a commercial system in Geneva, Switzerland showed that there are, in fact, loopholes in the seemingly flawless QKD system. Lo's research in quantum cryptography, which dates back many years, led him to develop assumptions about flaws in the system. He then set up an experiment that mimicked the commercial system. With this, he was able to prove his assumptions with the experiment and substantiate his claims with data.

Lo was able to hack into the system using a "time-shift" attack and an "intercept-and-resend" (or "phase-remapping") attack.

In a QKD system, "Alice," the sender, receives two strong laser pulses — a signal pulse and a reference pulse — from Bob, the receiver. According to Lo, she then "uses the reference pulse as a synchronization signal to activate her phase modulator." This allows her to send the two pulses over one photon level and send them to Bob.

Signals are then sent between Alice and Bob. "Eve," the eavesdropper, is able, in Lo's findings, to find a weakness in the pulse by using a phase modulator on the reference pulse originally sent by Alice. Eve then modifies the pulse's time variable and introduces a phase shift on the pulse. Finally Eve sends the pulse to Bob, as was originally intended by Alice. Essentially, the time variable and the displacement variable of the pulse can be modified by Eve so that neither Alice nor Bob nor the system detect that any change in the photons has occurred.

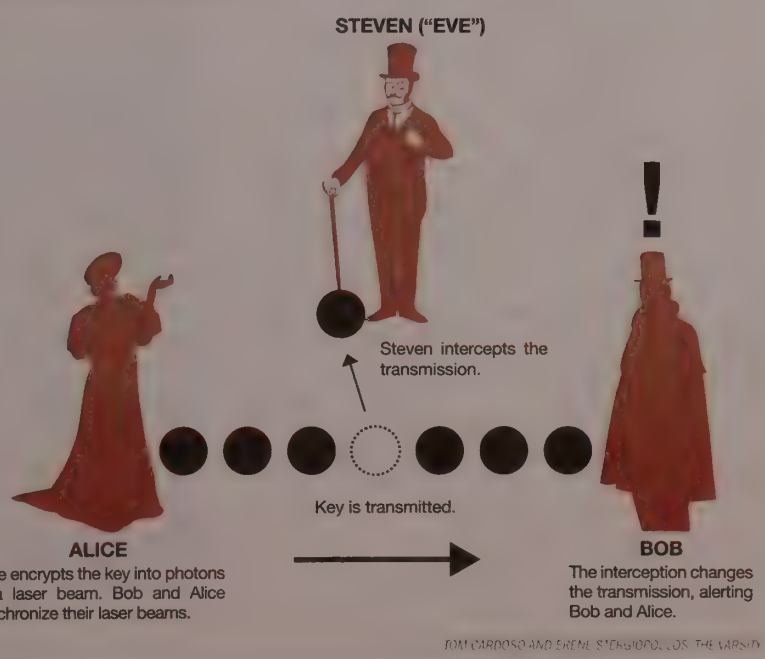
Lo proves this by showing that Bob receives an equal distribution of bits of information when he receives the pulse. This results in a quantum bit error rate of 19.7 per cent. A high quantum bit error rate, or QBER, means that the pulse and the encrypted bits were distorted enough to be detected, and cause it to shut down. Eve is detected when the QBER reaches 25 per cent, therefore Eve's QBER should be less than that percent. Lo's ability to hack into the system and achieve a QBER of 19.7 per cent is a great achievement.

Lo's hope is that the company whose security system he proved to be defective will seriously consider his findings and implement changes immediately.

"Our goal is to find security loopholes and fix them quickly, and make these systems more secure."

SENDING SECRET MESSAGES

In order to decode an encrypted message, the sender and receiver need to share a key. In classic cryptography, when the key is transmitted, there is no way to know if someone has actually intercepted the key or not. Quantum cryptography, however, makes interception of the key virtually impossible. This is because the key isn't simply a set of bits or numbers — it is actually encrypted into the spin of photons as binary code. Due to the laws of quantum mechanics, it is impossible to observe a photon's spin without altering its spin direction, which means that any eavesdropper who tries to intercept the quantum key is immediately detected.



TOM CARDOSO AND EREMI STERGIOPOULOS/THE VARSITY



WONDERLAND in space

Analysing Altair

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



If you were to gaze at the night sky for a considerable amount of time during the summer months in the northern hemisphere, you would likely come across a constellation triangle, aptly named the Summer Triangle. At the apex of this triangle, you may identify the twelfth brightest star in the night sky: Altair. While you may be mesmerized by the brilliance of Altair, this white sequence dwarf star, located 16.7 light years away, it is actually a weak and unusual star for its type.

Its name, derived from the Arabic phrase, "the flying eagle," effectively addresses the star's remarkable rotational speed, which can reach 210 kilometres per second. Unlike our beloved sun, which spends 25.4 days rotating around its axis, Altair completes one rotation in a mere 10.4 hours.

Altair's great speed accounts not only for the flattening of its poles, giving the star its distinguishable ellipsoidal shape, but it also affects the star's brightness — creating as many as nine rates of luminosity with sequential waxing and waning. What's more, unlike our sun, whose rotational speed only characterizes it as an oblate spheroid, Altair's rapid rotation decreases both its temperature and its surface gravity at the equator, making the poles more luminous than its equator. This abnormality is called the von Zeipel effect, or gravity darkening.

Altair's abnormality can also be attributed to its unusual brightness for its spectral type and size. While the star is only a few hundred million years old, its large diameter and high temperature account for its quick exhaustion of hydrogen. Scientists estimate that its outer layers will exhaust in a mere one billion years, to reveal a white dwarf.

As with every observable star, much research has been performed to locate planetary bodies in the star's vicinity. Scientists have hypothesized that Earth-like planets may reside in its distant orbit. Due to Altair's higher radiation production, the orbit of a terrestrial planet would be about four times that of our beloved blue planet. Similar to Earth's development during the sun's early years, a terrestrial planet orbiting young Altair would consist of life in its primitive anaerobic cell stage. Their hypothesised anaerobic development is due to the presumed lack of free-roaming oxygen in the atmosphere, which would also contribute to a lack of a properly established ozone layer. This would not only lead to the planet's constant bombardment by comets, asteroids, and meteorites, but also to experiencing greater amounts of ultraviolet radiation on its surface.

Since Altair has always been readily visible in the night sky, and is part of a commonly recognized constellation, it is difficult for academics to agree on the specific date and event of its discovery. However, it is known that the star was under regular observation prior to 1918, when Capitan Piper observed seven meteors shooting below Altair.

In addition to being one of the closest stars to our own, Altair is also know for being the first small, hydrogen-burning star that astronomers have been able to photograph. While recent developments have created a few red giant images, tiny stars usually appear as points of light even on the largest telescopes. The pictures were taken in June of 2007, using four telescopes that are able to modify Earth's atmospheric distortions.

Although Altair is visible with the naked eye, next week we will assay one of NASA's airborne observatories, which marked its 35th anniversary earlier this year. Until then, marvelous space stories await your discovery.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Can't sleep? Scientists might finally have an answer

Sleep disorders affect over five million Canadians. Chronic fatigue results in a debilitating lifestyle, including lowered productivity, as well as an increased risk of vehicle accidents.

These plights have led researchers to ask: what induces sleep? Scientists at Washington State University have discovered a cascade of proteins and chemicals involved in the brain process of switching from wakefulness to sleep. They showed that when one is in a state of wakefulness, regulatory substances like ATP — the energy currency of the cell — build up in the brain to induce sleep. ATP is released by glial cells in the brain, and then binds to a receptor that induces the release of cytokines, which are abundant signaling molecules involved in sleep regulation.

This research holds promise for finding therapies and new drugs. Researchers hope that new drugs can be cultured to interact with receptors that ATP normally binds to, in order to induce the sleep pathway in those suffering from sleep disorders. — ***CRISTINA OLTEANU***
Source: Science Daily

Increased levels of brain growth protein linked with Alzheimer's

Using mouse models, researchers at the University of California have discovered that an unusually large amount of the protein BMP6 is linked to Alzheimer's disease. This protein is found in the hippocampus, an area of the brain responsible for memory function. Hippocampal degeneration is highly involved in Alzheimer's. Although the exact function of this protein is relatively unknown, the researchers hypothesize that the protein is first expressed in the brain in response to amyloid plaques, a well-known characteristic of the disease. As levels of amyloid plaques increase, BMP6 levels increase as the disease progresses, and then reach a critical point at which it begins to be detrimental to the brain. This protein impairs neurogenesis — the process of producing new neurons for brain growth — but it is also a potential therapeutic target. — **CO**
Source: University of California, San Diego

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Olestra!

Olestra is a synthetic fat that is essentially a combination of sugar and vegetable oil. The resulting molecule is unusually large, which makes it indigestible by the human body. As a result, it delivers zero calories, and functions as a fat substitute commonly used for frying. It is most popularly found in potato chips, where it decreases caloric value by 50 per cent.

The potato chip was first invented in 1853 by a Native American named George Crum, who was working as a chef in Saratoga Springs, New York. Reportedly, a customer found his French fries to be too thick, and rejected his meal. Crum retaliated by creating extremely thin and crispy French fries, which the guest actually liked. As a result, seven years later, he opened his own restaurant featuring a basket of potato chips on every table. By 1895, potato chips were being sold in grocery stores.

The earliest potato chips were most likely fried in cottonseed oil, which was the major vegetable oil in the United States at that time. This means that the chips would have contained 70 per cent unsaturated fat — the good kind of fat — and 26 per cent saturated fat — the bad kind.

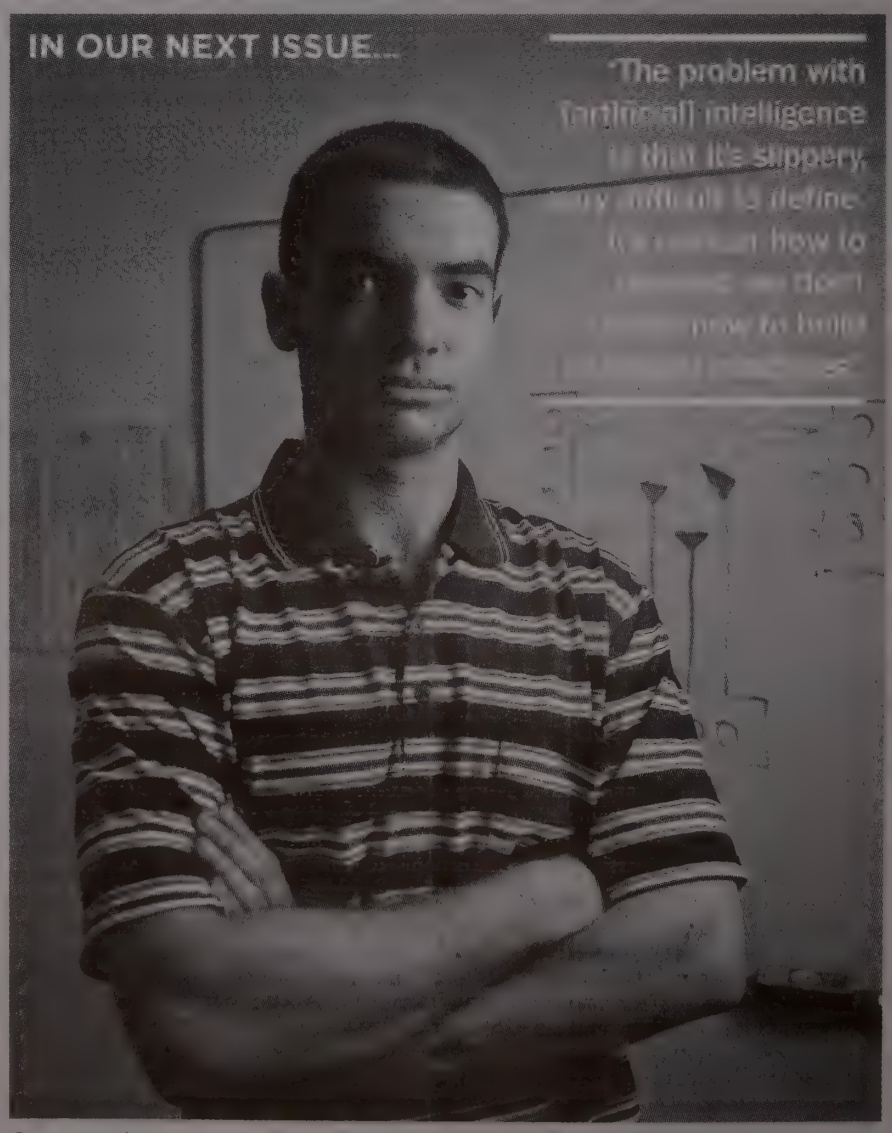
Over the last century, the oil used for potato chips has changed considerably. Until 2003, Frito-Lay used partially hydrogenated oil, which contains the infamously unhealthy trans fats. Partially hydrogenated oil is also the absolute worst-choice oil, since it is noted for raising bad cholesterol and lowering good cholesterol. Since then, non-hydrogenated corn oil has been used, which is 85 per cent unsaturated and 15 per cent saturated.

Recently, Frito-Lay switched completely to NuSun — a healthier oil that is only 10 per cent saturated — which it has been experimenting with in its Canadian products for years. While the use of NuSun is a healthy improvement, Olestra has enabled the possibility of potato chips with no fat whatsoever.

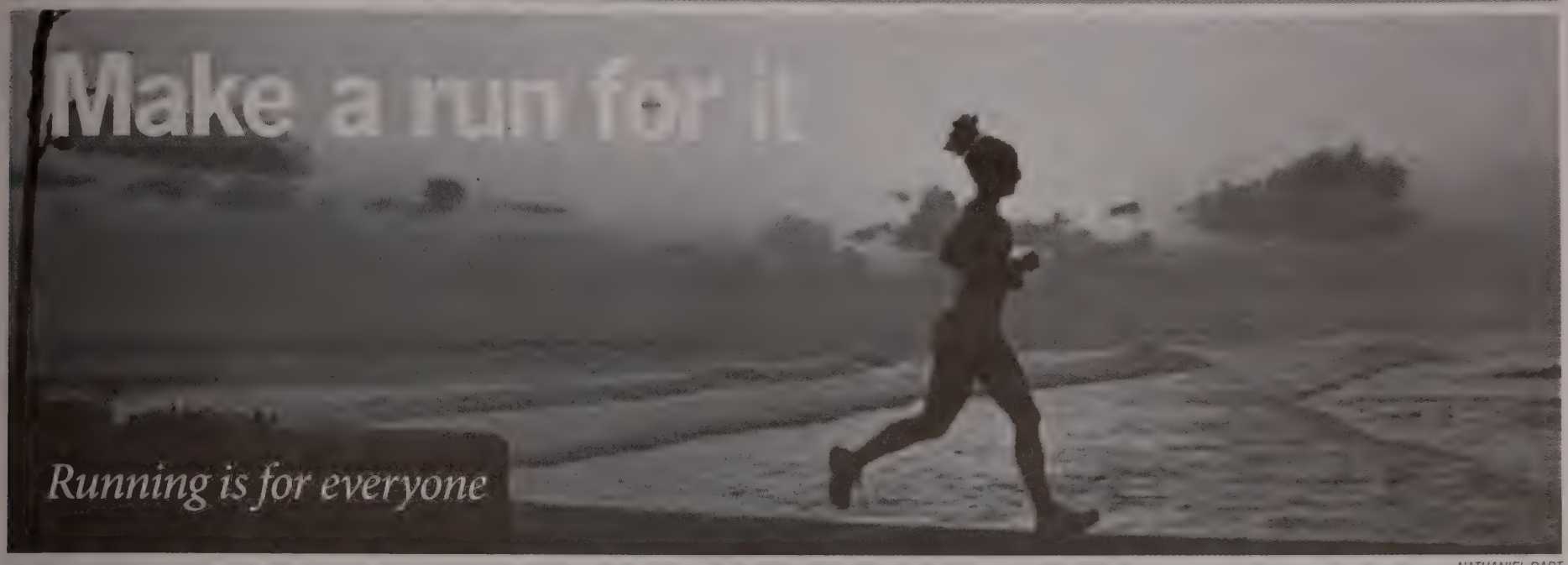
While olestra seems like a magic ingredient that will allow us to consume limitless potato chips without increasing our risk for heart disease or making us overweight, it is not without its potential drawbacks. When olestra was first created, it was nearly used as cholesterol medication, because of its ability to bind cholesterol and prevent it from being absorbed. Unfortunately, in addition to cholesterol, it also binds vitamins and other fat-soluble nutrients to inhibit their absorption.

As a result, olestra is a controversial food ingredient, and joins the list of countless food additives that are legal in the U.S. and illegal in Canada or vice-versa — despite the fact, according to Stanford University fellow Henry Miller, that is the most tested food substance in history.

The potato chip has come a long way since it was first invented. While olestra as an ingredient might be too good to be true, NuSun illustrates how some advances in food science are making products like potato chips healthier.



Computer science graduate student **ILYA SUTSKEVER** is the first Canadian to be awarded with the Google Fellowship for his work on neural networks. *JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY*



NATHANIEL DART

I would be gasping for air, have pains in my sides, sweat rolling down my face, and aches in my leg muscles.
In elementary school, I was a track-and-field star, and in high school I tried out for the team in the ninth grade.
Back then, I could run laps for hours and I loved the feeling I got when I was finished; as if the wind had been knocked right out of me.
Panting was a positive thing and pain was an almost pleasant feeling. Dripping in sweat was a sign that I had given it my all.
Now years later, the most running I do is when I'm rushing to catch the subway. When I flop down on the seat, winded, in my work clothes, and a little too sweaty for comfort, I wonder how I could have loved it so much.

Why do people run?

By AMANDA-MARIE QUINTINO



RICH GIBBS



HESTER SHARPE



CYNTHIA BLACK

THE RECREATIONAL RUNNER

Some runners run to lose and maintain their weight, reach other athletic goals, or for the company.

Joallore Alon, who is in his 30s, has a hectic work schedule and uses running as a stress reliever. He also said it helps keep him young because it's constantly "kicking his butt."

"I run because it's convenient and great for cardio," said Allore, a digital content specialist.

Jermaine James, a 23-year-old who is on the roster to be signed to a professional European basketball team next year, runs to stay in shape.

"Most of why I run is to keep my endurance," said James, who currently plays for the University of Guelph. "It helps me stay in the shape which helps me stay in the game."

Gwen Elliot, 21, runs recreationally now but she didn't always love running.

"I ran cross country in public school because I had to to play basketball. And I hated it. It was awful. It was the worst," said Elliot, a former radio and television arts student at Ryerson University.

She was the worst of all of her friends, always coming last in relay races and getting the most winded.

"When you're the worst at something, it doesn't really encourage you to keep going," she explained, but she decided to revisit it recently in order to take on a new challenge and get into better shape.

"I started running again because my friend encouraged me to try it," said Elliot. "She was having a lot of fun and it was like, 'Why not?' It was ultimately for the challenge and the camaraderie between runners. Runners are the happiest people I've ever met. They're all just happy and cheering you on and asking you how you did."

Heather Dianne Torres, 29, started running in the summer of 2004 as a way to stay fit. It became such a positive part of her life that she decided to push herself to the next level. She ran her first race, the Bluewater Bridge Race, a 10 km run in Sarnia, in the fall of 2005.

Since then, she has ran in six half-marathons — three in Canada and three in the United States.

"Running is such a great feeling and a way to clear your mind and compete with yourself and with your personal goals," said Torres.

Torres is an example of how recreational running can easily evolve into something more.

THE COMPETITIVE RUNNER

When a runner decides to get competitive about the sport, it indicates that they enjoy running for the challenge.

Andy Johns, who runs and writes about running, is one of those runners. He runs marathons to explore and compete.

"I run because I want to see what I'm capable of doing," Johns wrote in a January 2009 article entitled "Why do people run marathons?" It was written for MadeToRun, a website designed to aid runners in learning more about running as a sport, a pastime, an innate human ability, and to share this passion with runners of all types.

"Sitting in an office 50 hours a week doesn't necessarily give me the opportunity to find out what I'm capable of, physically at least. Nor does sitting in an office all week allow me to see the world, which is another reason why I love to run. I can't think of a better way to see the world and interact with it than to do so by foot," said Johns.

Richard Koo feels the same way. He started running in high school, but stopped through university and didn't manage to integrate it in with his work schedule for some years.

When a coworker recommended he get back into it, Koo joined the Running Room.

"Once you get out of university, you sort of lose the opportunity to meet new people," he said. "When you're in the office with people eight hours a day, you're kind of drawn together out of necessity as opposed to common interest. Once I joined the Running Room, I met a lot of new people through the running. It's a bit of a social network."

Koo has now found time to fit running into his lifestyle and takes it quite seriously. He knows the level of commitment it takes to run in marathons. For him, it's an annual process.

He typically focuses on fall marathons. In the winter, he takes a bit of a break, still running, but not long distances. Then he starts training again in January leading up to heavy training during the summer months in preparation.

He has since run six marathons in various cities that include Toronto, Ottawa, London, and Chicago.

"Other than being crazy, which I certainly attest to being, I run because I enjoy it," said Koo, laughing. "There's something a little OCD about running marathons, I think. I freely admit that. But there's something somewhat addictive to being healthy. You get into that cycle where you're fit and you don't want to lose it."

THE VARSITY RUNNER

Chloe Conlon has been a track star at school for the majority of her life. She started running when she was just 7 years old. Conlon is currently in her last year at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Brampton and once she graduates, she hopes to go to the United States on a track scholarship.

"I do it because it's a good workout and every time you finish, it's like you've accomplished something," said Conlon, 18, who has been running at the school and provincial level since she was four. "It's exhilarating and it works every muscle."

Conlon currently holds three Ontario records. In 2006, she won the 1600 meter run at the Hershey's Track and Field Games in Pennsylvania while representing Ontario.

Conlon believes that the reason she does so well at running is because she focuses on her goal.

"When you run, you don't think about anything, you just run," said Conlon, adding that she gets in the zone by keeping her eye on the finish line.

"I dream about going to the Olympics, but for now, I just hope to do well and keep it in my life," she said.

Much like Conlon, Eadaoin Quinn, a University of Toronto Varsity Blues runner, started running when she was just 9 years old, with her elementary school track team.

"Everyone in my family had done it at some point so it was just kind of natural," she said. "I remember when my dad told me what cross country was, saying that you get to run through the forest and over the logs and stuff, and I just thought that sounded like the coolest thing ever."

She's been running ever since, almost completely without a break — until last year. Quinn ran for four years at McGill, while taking her undergrad in Biology and International Development Studies.

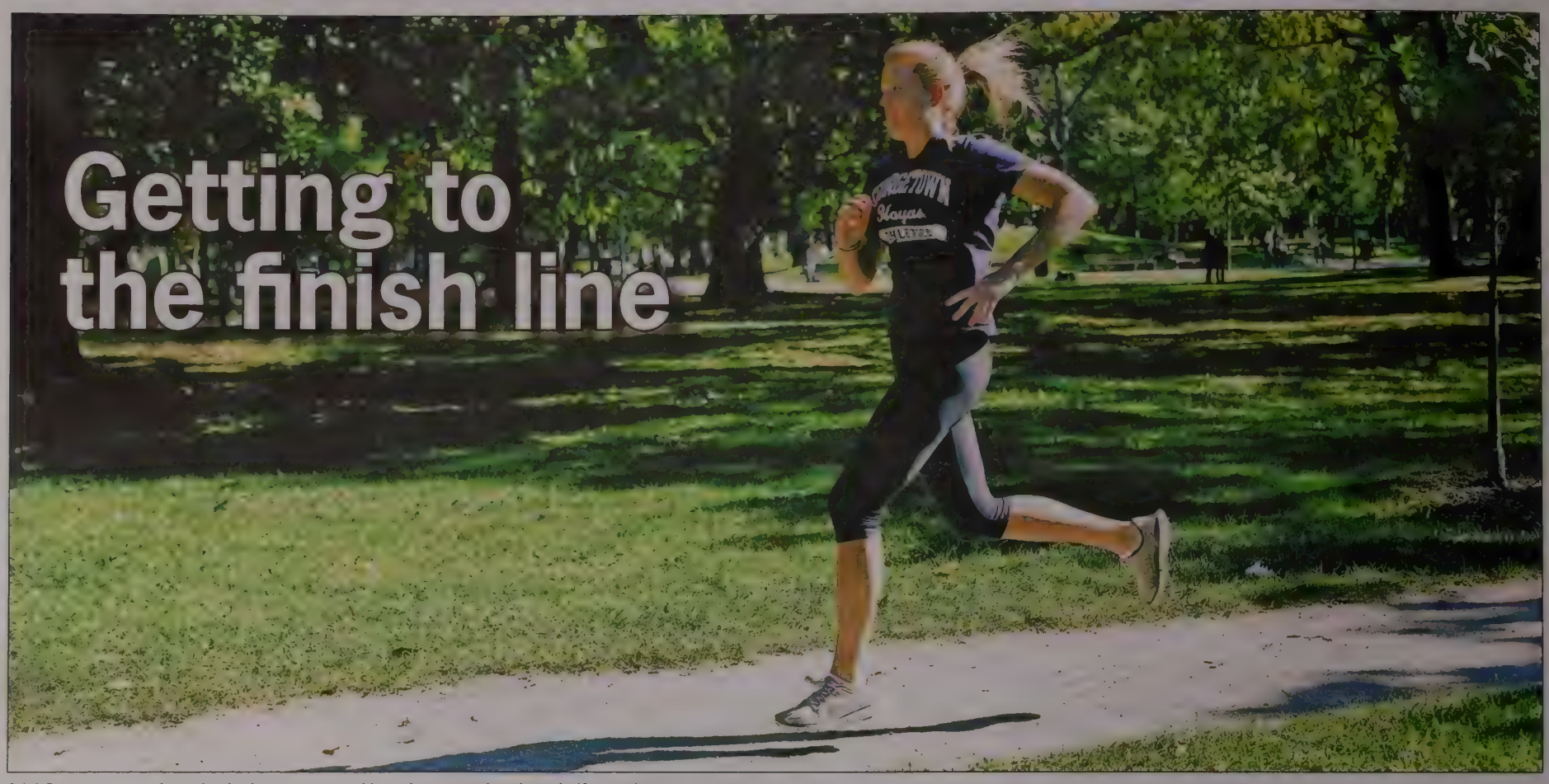
When she came to U of T, Quinn thought she was done with that part of her life, but after spending her first year doing her Masters of Forestry, she decided she needed it back and joined the Varsity Blues cross country team.

"It just feels natural for me to be with a group of people, training every day," said Quinn, 24. "Track is usually thought of as an individual sport, but there's some really intense bonds you experience when you have to put yourself through a lot of pain."

Taking some time off from running made Quinn realize how much she really wants it in her life.

"I'll run my whole life," she said. "I have hopes that I'll be an old lady with crazy coloured shorts and be still running."

Getting to the finish line



Ariel Garneau started running in the summer and has since completed two half marathons. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Ariel Garneau
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A step-by-step guide from one new U of T runner to another

Find a reason to get going!

I started long distance running, like most other people do, because I needed a way of staying fit this summer. I wasn't going to be able to do my usual routine of rugby and weight-lifting because I up and moved to Washington D.C. for four months due to an internship I landed. Whenever I travel, I always bring my running shoes (even if I'll only be in foreign location for a day or two). There's no better way of getting to know the city you're in than running its streets. You get a feel for it, its pulse, smells, sounds, people, dogs, and drivers. You can tell a lot about a city by running it.

Know where you're going and for how long

Washington is designed on a grid, so it was easy to navigate after looking at a map for a few minutes. I use www.runningmap.com as a way of figuring out where I'll run before I set out, and to measure distances. The site allows you to plot out routes, and see their elevation and distance. It's useful if you plan on running a fixed distance.

Make it fun to run

In a city like D.C., there's lots to see on any given 4 mile route, just as in Toronto. You just have to pick the right route and you'll never be bored. One way to avoid boredom is to not run laps around Queen's Park. Try running a massive loop around U of T's campus, or down along the trails by the Lakeshore. Try to steer clear of treadmills. It's not the same, and your calves don't develop the same way. I developed quite the repertoire of routes this summer, ranging from three miles to a full 12 miles. I miss them now that I'm back in Toronto, but it means I get to spend countless hours and buckets of sweat discovering new ones.

Goal-setting

In July, as an attempt to justify running increasingly long distances, I signed up for my first half-marathon – the Army Run half marathon on September 19 in Ottawa. I needed a reason to motivate myself past the standard noontime and extended weekend runs.

I spent the rest of my summer slowly but surely building up distance and time on my runs. One week I'd go for longer distances hitting as high as 12 miles. The next week I'd try and do a pace of 7 miles an hour. I nearly puked each time. It's by no means a fast pace, but everyone has to start somewhere right?

Know yourself

The thing about training for running is that you have to know yourself. Know when you need to take a break, but know when you can push yourself. Music often helps me push the last mile. I run with my iPod blaring an odd mix of rap, country, heavy metal, and pop. I found that putting some time and effort into making a playlist that motivated me to finish strong every single time was well worth it.

At the end of the day, who cares?

Whenever you go running, do it for yourself. If running was my job, or if I had to it in competition for school I don't think I'd like it as much. What started out as a way to disconnect from the world for an hour a day has turned into something else for me. Hitting the runner's high every time is still what I seek when I set out.

After running her first half marathon in September, Ariel Garneau immediately signed up for the next one she could find. She ran the Toronto Goodlife Fitness half marathon on Sunday.

A cross country calling

Varsity Blues runner Antun Pavelic is working towards his goal of competing for Croatia

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY STAFF

Antun Pavelic possesses ambitions that far exceed the lengthy distances he runs for the Varsity Blues cross country team. Now he hopes to take his determined spirit across the Atlantic and race for Croatia. His dedication on and off the tracks and trails pushes him to put injuries aside and let his competitive nature thrive.

Pavelic traces his start as a cross country runner back to his childhood in Croatia. When he moved to Canada at age 10, he continued with track and began to take running seriously a few years prior to his recruitment by current cross country coach Ross Risstuccia while in his graduating year at Michael Power/St. Joseph in Etobicoke.

"Grade 8 was when I figured out I could run for long periods of time with ease," said Pavelic. "I joined the cross country team at my high school in 2004."

Currently a third-year student enrolled in the Faculty of Physical Education and Health, Pavelic is double-majoring in physical education and kinesiology.

"I want to become a doctor one day," he said. "I still have some other things I'd like to get to before then."

He hopes to compete with Croatia, the country he considers home, at the national level as opposed to Canada due to its team's demanding criteria, which he believes is unrealistic.

Pavelic will be flying overseas next summer to scout for a cross country team he can compete with after he completes his studies at U of T.

"Canada has given me the tools to grow and excel in my sport, but their standards are ridiculous," Pavelic said. "Canadian athletes from before my time were really good and leaders in most sports performance-wise. These standards and expectations stayed, leaving athletes like my self and even guys that are better than I out in the cold because they have just set the Olympic bar too high."

Training at least three hours every day is how Pavelic prepares for his regular 10K cross country races and 1500 to 5000 metre track races. His current record for the 10K is 33 minutes and 40 seconds. He hopes to break it this season.

The fact that this isn't a sport for the faint of heart should be stressed. Pavelic describes it as "10K meters of aggravating pain," but incredibly rewarding when it's all said and done.

"You feel accomplished when you know you ran hard and well. I like the challenge," said Pavelic. "I don't like when I get beat by certain people when I know I can beat them. It gets stressful but when it comes down to the championships, it feels good to know that I came out on top."

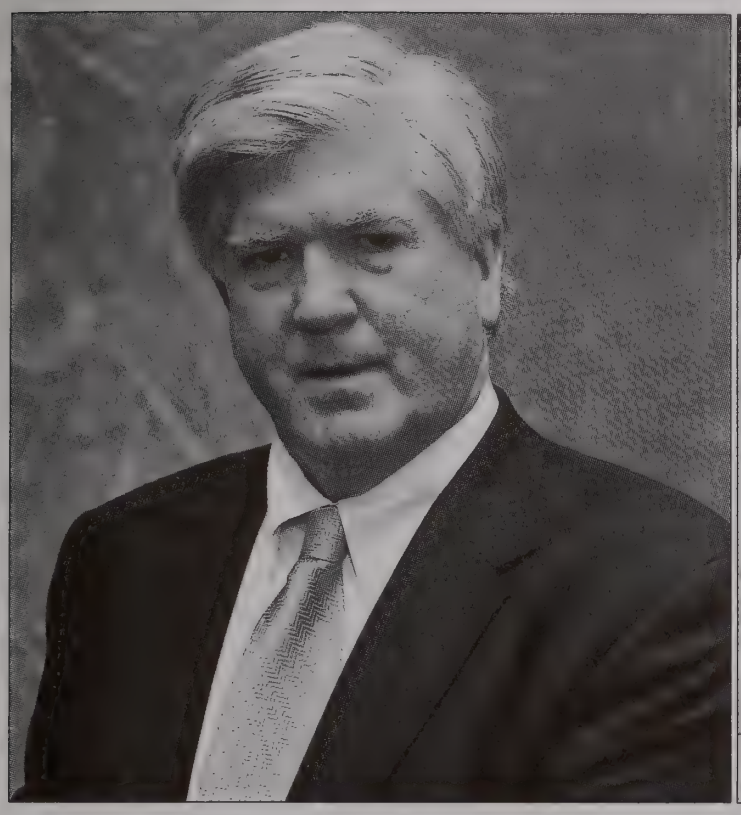


Varsity Blues runner Antun Pavelic as he blows past a McGill competitor. *COURTESY OF THE VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

A good sport

Turning over new Leafs

Is Toronto's NHL team finally getting back on track?





Under the leadership of Brian Burke it seems as if the Toronto Maple Leafs are improving on weaknesses and building on strenghts as this season's record shows.

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

If the Toronto Maple Leafs' start to the regular season continues, it's as safe to say that they will quickly take up much of the city's attention span. The re-vamped Leafs have looked strong in all of their weak spots from last season, and have only built upon last year's strengths.

General Manager Brian Burke, who some fans have taken to calling The Pope (presumably in reference to a metaphor he used during his introductory news conference, comparing the Leafs to the Vatican of hockey) finally has the clean slate he has so dearly desired since taking the reins.

Burke was faced with painful long-term player contracts that he inherited from his predecessors when he came onboard, but with most of those finally off the books he used this off-season to ensure that the club that hit the ice this October could have its players who predated Burke's tenure counted on one hand.

Things are looking awfully rosy for the Leafs right now, and there's no reason to think they couldn't get far, far rosier as the season rolls along

The talk of the town in a lot of corners is the long anticipated, and equally impressive, new complex that the Leafs corporate generals have constructed adjacent to the Air Canada Centre known as Maple Leafs Square. It includes luxury condominiums, a Longo's grocery store, and a dazzling sports bar known appropriately as Real Sports.

The bar is one that any fan must at some point check out. Its reviews have been as rave as its lines are long, and its beer collection makes even the proudest sports fan's beer fridge look inadequate. Add in a two-story HD TV and it's easy to forgive, at least a little bit, the Leafs' corporate bosses for the last 40 years of... well, whatever it was.

Of course, the complex as a whole is proof of the tremendous health of the Maple Leafs' empire. It has been ever since its inception as an architectural drawing.

Now, given his own chance to draw on a blank sheet of paper, Brian Burke's architectural drawing is starting to look not so bad after all.

Whether or not the Leafs' on ice product will match its corporate backers' heights remains to be seen, but early indications say that the day could come sooner than anyone would have bet on a few short weeks ago.

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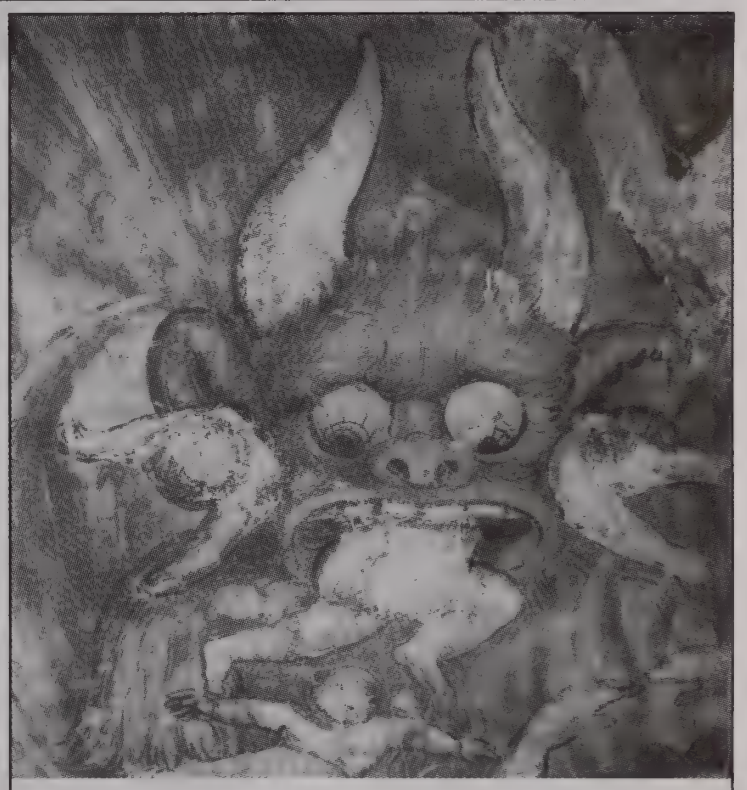
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Carleton UNIVERSITY | Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs

The Varsity

Notice of General Meeting

6 PM, Monday October 25
Varsity Offices
21 Sussex, 2nd Floor

All students welcome
Updates from
Editor-in-Chief, CEO,
CFO, COO

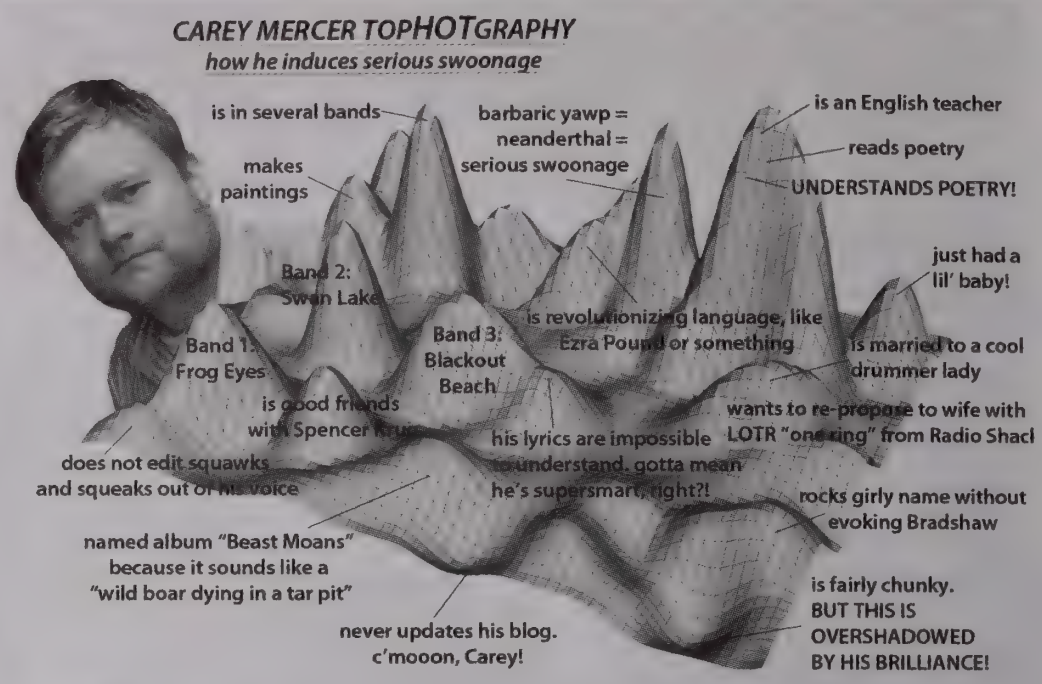
The Varsity has a pile of tickets to attend His Holiness the Dalai Lama's talk at the Rogers Centre this Oct. 22 at 2:00 p.m. Get your chance at winning by joining our mailing list, following us on Twitter, or joining our Facebook group!

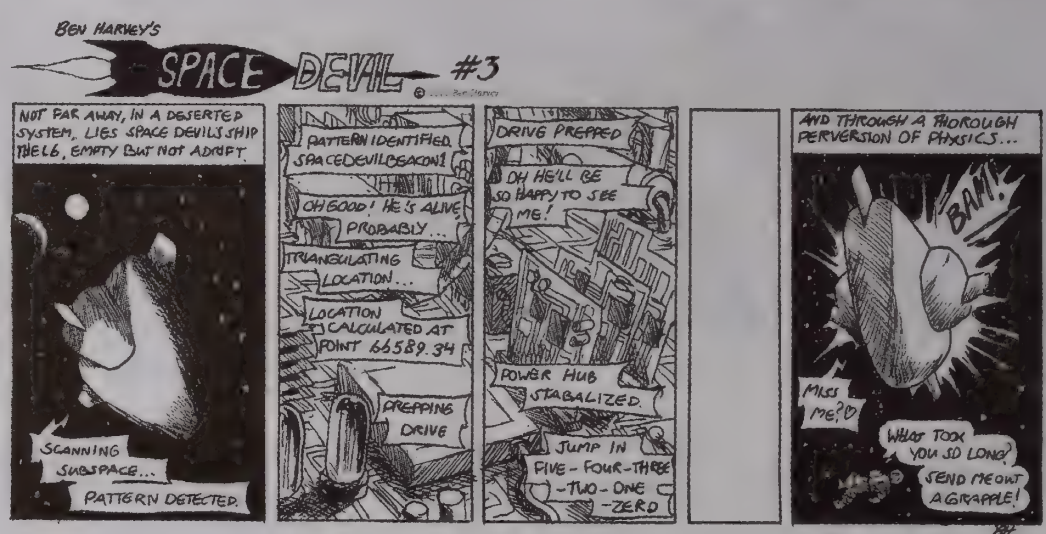
Find links to them all at thevarsity.ca

Angus and Julia Stone, the highly acclaimed brother-sister duo from Australia will be performing at Opera House on October 28 in support of their latest album, "Down the Way." Their unique interplay of melody, voice and song has been selling out shows throughout Australia, North America, and the UK. A definite must-see.

Get your chance at winning tickets to the show by signing up for our weekly mailing list: thevarsity.ca/subscribe

"CRIBNOTES" with Anamarija Korolj





EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

FILMS:

LA DANY
The Trans Inclusion Group is hosting a free screening of "LA DANY", a documentary about a trans street performer from Columbia. A look at art, activism, and joy during daily struggle and violence. There will be a community discussion afterwards. Snacks will be served.

- *October 25th at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free!*

FUNDRAISERS:

Advocate for Global Health Change
Hemoglobal, a registered charitable organization working to provide medical equipment and treatment to Sri Lankan children with thalassemia, is planning an exciting fundraising event where they will have outstanding photography from all over the world for silent auction and a panel discussion of international health experts.

- *October 20th at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Medical Sciences Building, Stone Lobby (3 King's College Circle)*
- *Free!*

PANELS:

The Spiritual Mind: Exploring the Spiritual Dimension of Mental Health
What role does spirituality play in mental health? Can your mental health benefit from spiritual practices? Dr. Michele Chaban, PhD, Mary Lee Laing, Chaplain at CAMH, and Farah Jindani, a doctoral student at OISE, will explore mental health from a variety of spiritual and professional models, including the relationship between spiritual practices, religious traditions, and mental health.

- *October 19th at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

WORKSHOPS:

The Soul's Tongue
Author and poet Ronna Bloom is having a series of writing workshops. You will write from the energy of words like 'soul', 'sacred', and 'spiritual'. Using the writing of others as a springboard, see what wants to speak, what the language points to, and what, if anything, it has to do with your life.

- *October 19th and 26th, November 2nd at 9th at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.*
- *Multi-Faith Centre, 3rd Floor (569 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free, go to www.multifaith.utoronto.ca to register*

OFF CAMPUS:

CONFERENCES:

HealthAchieve: The Student's Perfect Forum
HealthAchieve is one of North America's largest and most respected health care conferences and exhibitions. It is a must-attend event for the entire health care community, including future leaders, like U of T students. There will be panels with nutritionists, Vancouver Olympic Gold Medalists, and more.

- *November 8th, 9th, and 10th*
- *Metro Convention Centre (255 Front St. West)*
- *$25 (register at www.healthachieve.com/studentsperfectforum)*

FESTIVALS:

International Festival of Authors
The IFOA includes readings, interviews, lectures, roundtable discussions, book signings, and a festival bookstore. The IFOA also includes the Scotiabank Giller Prize, Governor General's Literary Awards, and Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize finalists. The preliminary line up includes 71 authors.

- *October 20th until October 30th, various times*
- *Harbourfront Centre (235 Queens Quay West)*
- *Various prices*

WALKS:

Zombie Walk
Haven't you always wanted to be a zombie? Now, you can almost be one! Put on your best dead face and join thousands of other creepy Torontonians at the 8th annual Zombie Walk! The parade of bloodthirsty monsters will have prizes and celebrations of "flesh feasting." If you're attending, you can also see "Night of the Living Dead" at the Bloor Cinema at 7 p.m. for a reduced price! The living will also be allowed to attend... if they dare.

- *October 23rd at 3 p.m.*
- *Trinity Bellwoods Park (790 Queen St. West)*
- *Free, but please register at www.torontozombiewalk.ca*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

Halloween costumes, equity style p9
Comment

Google awards student for neural net research p14
Science

Field hockey forced to play season away p21
Sports

THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"In brief, I can find no evidence that the Towards 2030 Synthesis Report takes any adverse view of multi-disciplinary units or programs." – David Naylor **p8**

25 October 2010

DALAI LAMA MAKES SECRET APPEARANCE AT U OF T



On Friday morning the Dalai Lama spoke at a closed symposium: Cognitive Science, Mindfulness and Consciousness at the University of Toronto. The event occurred at the Multifaith Centre and featured a four person panel discussion before the Dalai Lama addressed the 70 person group. The Varsity was the only member of the media allowed in the event. For more photos, see **p7** *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

ARBITRATION

U of T profs receive 4.5 per cent over two years

Arbitrator denies Queen's Park requests for wage freeze

Samya Kullab
VARSITY STAFF

"Students will suffer, one way or another," said fourth-year English student Jennifer Fraser in response to a decision by a labour arbitrator to approve a 4.5 per cent raise in the next two years to professors and librarians at the University of Toronto. The decision comes after calls from Queen's Park for a public sector wage freeze.

The arbitrator also ruled that professors and librarians would not have to pay more towards pension plans, denying a university request to increase faculty contributions by 2.25–3 per cent. The pension plan, as it stands, is currently in deficit.

"It will only further strain the university's budget, and at the end of the day, students will be at the receiving end of the adverse consequences," said Fraser.

At the moment, it is hard to determine how the award, effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011, will affect students. Angela Hildyard, vice-president of Human Resources and Equity, said in a memo sent to faculty and staff, "[the decision] has a significant impact on the university's finances."

The UFTA Arbitration Award — the wage increase itself — was made by Martin Teplitsky, a prominent arbitrator and civil litigation lawyer. Hired to act first as mediator during discussions between the university and the Faculty Association in January 2009, Teplitsky became an arbitrator when the two parties were unable to reach a mutual agreement.

Discussions focused on salary and benefits, a professorial appointment stream, tenure, and changes to the workload policy.

Teplitsky made the award when it was clear discussions were at a standstill. His decision comes after the release of a provincial Compensation Act, which called for a pay freeze for non-unionized public sector employees, such as the U of T Faculty Association. The university also claimed that it could not afford to pay a raise.

In a 15-page ruling last Tuesday, he stated that he "would appear a minion of government" if the provincial factors had been considered.

Hildyard expressed disappointment that the arbitration process did result in a raise for one of the two years at issue. The university already supplies merit pay at a 1.9 per cent increase per year.

"The continuing merit pay and the new [across-the-board] increases will have immediate and very significant financial implications for departments and divisions," she writes.

In discussions, the Faculty Association bargained for a wage increase of 3–4 per cent per year on top of the merit payment, as well as 15 extra benefits, costing about $10 million per year. Faculty have lauded the decision.

Students, on the other hand, are left speculating the ways in which the award will affect them.

SEE **'ARBITRATION'** – PG 6

CAMPUS RADIO

CIUT manager axed

Replacement offered position three weeks in advance

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

CIUT, U of T's community radio station at St. George campus, has fired its manager over an unspecified issue.

The station's Board of Directors voted to cancel then-station manager Brian Burchell's contract last Monday. Ken Stowar is now the station manager in addition to his previous role as program director.

"We've asked Ken Stowar to serve at least until the annual general membership meeting in March," said Gage Averill, chair of CIUT's Board of Directors.

Stowar said Averill asked him about accepting the position on September 27.

"[Averill] asked if I would consider stepping in as the acting station manager, and I said yes."

Stowar added that Burchell was dropped because of an audit issue.

"[Burchell was] requested to work in cooperation with internal audits of the University of Toronto and as to what that is about specifically, I really have no idea," said Stowar. "I was just asked to step in and here's why."

U of T's spokesperson said the university is unable to give any additional information. Averill said he could not specify what exactly led to the change, but explained it had to do with another company managed by Burchell.

"We had a process of review over the last few months and decided to terminate the contract with a company that Brian Burchell runs that had management contracts for CIUT," said Averill.

Burchell is publisher of Gleaner Community Press. Averill said he wasn't sure if this is the company in question, and that it was registered as a set of digits followed by "Ontario Inc."

Burchell did not respond to requests for comment. CIUT completed its week-long fall membership drive yesterday.

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
14°C to 17°C	13°C to 17°C	11°C to 15°C	8°C to 13°C	6°C to 10°C

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A&E
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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Vic One adds arts stream

Arts-focused program offered next fall

Mersiha Gadzo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Victoria University has announced the creation of the Norman Jewison Stream for Imagination and the Arts, a new stream of study in their Vic One program for first-year students.

"We want our students to think about the world and how you can engage the imagination creatively in addressing issues," said Victoria University President Paul Gooch.

Students will work in a creative interdisciplinary atmosphere that studies how the arts can confront social issues. The stream will feature a year-long assignment that challenges students to collaborate in various arts to create a unique project over the course of the year.

"We just have to foster a spirit where creativity can flourish," said Gooch. The stream will include 25 students and feature guest lectures from U of T alumni experienced in the arts. Upon completion, students will be encouraged to apply to major in programs such as Cinema Studies or Theatre and Drama Studies.

"This program seems like a great program for any young film-lover to begin their university career," said Alan Jones, president of the Cinema Studies Student Union, who added that he hopes the stream will collaborate with his home department. "It would seem counterproductive to have this program and not include the very accomplished instructors we have at the Cinema Studies Institute."



Paul Gooch (above), president of Vic, expects the new stream to foster a spirit of creativity. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

The stream was created to honour Norman Jewison, a renowned Canadian filmmaker who recently completed his term as chancellor of Victoria University. *In the Heat of the Night*, his film about an African-American detective investigating a murder in the southern US, was a turning point for civil rights.

"We're very excited because we think Norman Jewison is a great Canadian and a very strong advocate for social justice in his films," said Gooch. "We think that he will inspire the next generation of young people to go on in whatever creative field they're in, to challenge our conceptions about the world, and to make a better society."

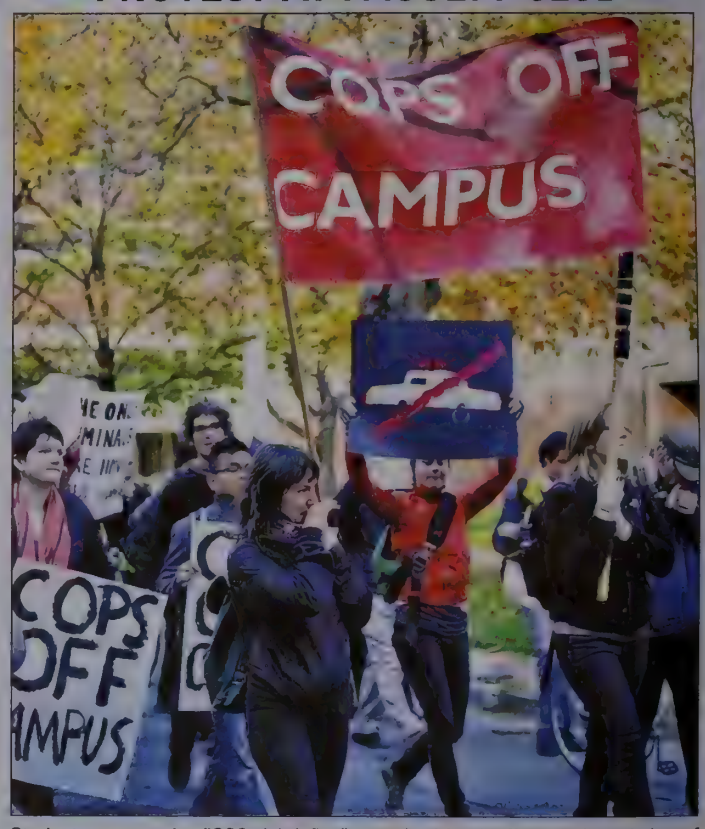
This stream was made possible by a $1 million gift from Blake Goldring, a U of T alumni. The Blake C. Goldring Professorship will be established to complement the program. The stream is planned to start in the 2011-2012 academic year, pending final university approval of the course curriculum. The courses have already been approved by the Victoria College Council.

The Vic One program has four other streams, each named after a successful Vic alumni: the Lester B. Pearson Stream for Studies in the Social Sciences and History, the Northrop Frye Stream for Studies in the Humanities, the Augusta Stowe-Gullen Stream for Studies in the Life Sciences, and the Egerton Ryerson Stream for Studies in Education.

Victoria University launched Vic One in 2003 and has grown from two academic programs in the humanities and social sciences to include study options in life sciences and education. In 2010 there were five applications for each of the 150 program spaces.



PROTEST AT FACULTY CLUB



Students protested a "G20 debriefing" organized by the Toronto Association of Police and Private Security at the Faculty Club on Wednesday. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

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CITIZEN LAB

Ron Deibert appointed leader of Canada Centre for Global Security Studies

Centre made possible by Federal grant

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Ron Deibert has been appointed director of the new Canada Centre for Global Security Studies. The centre was created as a result of a $25-million grant from the Canadian government announced in April.

"The Canada Centre will bring an entrepreneurial and interdisciplinary approach to the study of security issues facing not only Canada and our traditional allies, but also contemporary threats which countries, corporations, and citizens cope with around the globe on a daily basis," said Janice Stein, director of the Munk School of Global Affairs. Stein announced Deibert's appointment earlier this month.

"As our economies, civil societies, and institutions become more global in nature, so too are the threats that can interrupt such progress," said Stein. "[The centre] will be an essential meeting point where we can gain a better understanding of these global threats and develop effective responses."

"I think that [the centre] is a great opportunity to reinvigorate Canada's engagement in foreign policy and international security base," said Deibert. "Unfortunately our [country's] engagement has been diminished over recent years. This has been reflected by being rejected to be a part of the UN Security Council."

The centre will focus on dealing with new contemporary global threats. Deibert is particularly concerned with human rights organizations being attacked over cyberspace. "It's becoming a tool for authoritative regimes to rule over these organizations."

Deibert's solution to this threat is part academic and part practical. "We need to have technical people involved as well as policy people involved. We need to also have the private sector involved. Solving this problem is going to cost money, and we're going to need resources for it. It's a wide-ranging effort."

Deibert previously served as the director of the Citizen Lab, an interdisciplinary laboratory based at the Munk School focusing on advanced



Ron Deibert is also director of the Citizen Lab.

research in human rights, digital media, and security.

"Companies like Google, that own a big property of the internet, regularly get asked by countries for information. Sometimes those companies comply, but they don't want to be transparent about it," said Deibert. The Citizen Lab uncovered instances of Google being complicit in demands from countries to censor search content. "Google, with China, would filter search results of 'Tiananmen Square' or 'the Dalai Lama' and wouldn't notify users about this filtering."

Google later released a transparency page, in which it notified users what content was being censored in each country. Although not Deibert's idea, he claims the work of his lab inspired this development. "That transparency page we can indirectly take credit for," he said.

The Citizen Lab created an Internet freedom technology project called Psiphon, which has become a private Canadian company with annual revenues of $1.65 million.

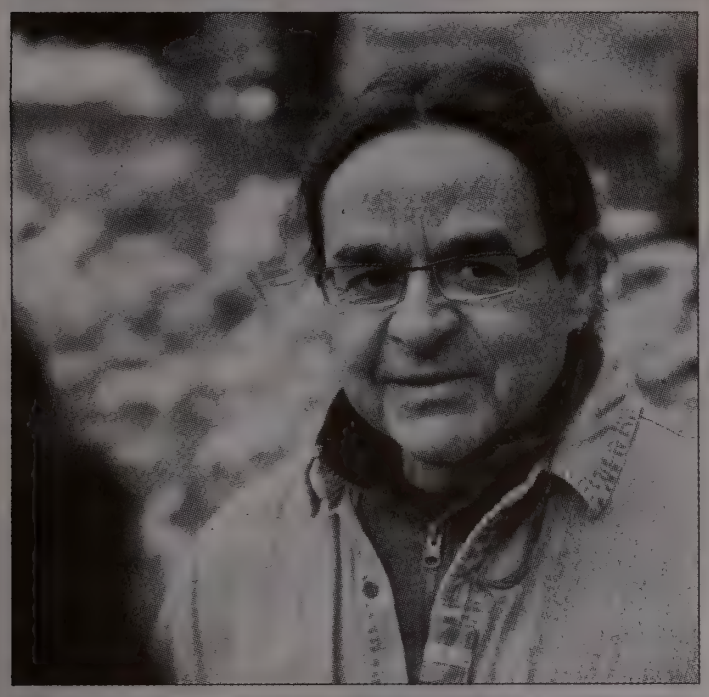
While Deibert will remain involved with both centres, he hopes to bring the success of the Citizen Lab with him to this new role. "One of the things we're doing right off the bat, is the fusion methodology centre, [which will] take the methodology of the Citizen Lab and formalize them in a dedicated centre with a dedicated staff."

Deibert views the new Canada Centre as a resource for all students. "It's going to bring in a large pool of resources and [...] a great opportunity for undergraduates, graduate, and post-doctorals," he said.

Deibert believes that the effects of this program will reach far beyond Canada's borders.

"Whatever we do [at the centre] has an impact not just on the university but on the world internationally."

EXPRESSION AGAINST OPPRESSION WEEK





eXpression Against Oppression began on Wednesday morning with a sunrise ceremony at 6:30. Events continue until October 28. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

ENVIRONMENT

U of T saves a forest of paper

Double-sided printing pilot project a success

Iona Patis
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto Libraries are going green thanks to a paper conservation program that has the potential to save over half a million sheets of paper annually. The Sustainability Office launched a pilot project in fall 2009 that set public printers to double-side print by default amid a complementary awareness campaign on paper waste.

During the pilot project the number of sheets printed dropped by 30 per cent — an average of 10,000 sheets a month. Of the library patrons surveyed, 90 per cent of respondents said that they thought the initiative was important. The success of the pilot caused the program to be expanded in May 2010 when double-sided printing was set as default on all duplex-capable printers at the central libraries and at three federated college libraries.

Elah Feder from the U of T Sustainability Office explains that the dialogue first started in 2006 when a student's research paper targeted how to best conserve paper. When Heather Cunningham from the Gerstein Science Information Centre combined with the Sustainability Office after attending a conference in the fall of 2009 that challenged all departments to rethink their paper use. Cunningham was interested in reducing paper, and having recycling bins did not seem effective enough, nor did posting double-sided printing instructions as an option instead of a default.

Feder believes that the paper-saving mentality is spreading on campus, with digital copies of books being more common, although it is not clear if this is sustainable enough,



EMILY SMIT-DICKS/THE VARSITY

since students can opt for printing out their books onto thicker paper, single-sided. The U of T Sustainability Office is also trying to see what can be done to improve photocopiers, since the jam rate is high when trying to photocopy double-sided. The plan also recommended posting instruction signs close to photocopiers on how to double-side, and suggested sustainable paper to U of T libraries. The sustainable paper is generally more expensive than regular paper — the reason why most libraries opt out. Yet there is promise with a new cheaper source of paper now found by the Sustainability Office.

Cunningham explained that Gerstein is the only library on campus that uses the most sustainable paper, recommended by the Sustainability Office almost a year ago, and that it is too early in the project to be able to say when other libraries will be using it as well. When asked about complaints of this double-sided default, she replied that she has not heard of any and that the U of T Sustainability Office's past survey indicated an overwhelmingly positive response, with a minority indicating a wish of reduced cost.

A financial incentive to save paper is an issue that still needs to be addressed. Right now, the cost of printing double-sided is still that of printing two separate pages.

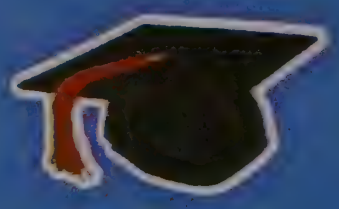
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HUMAN RESOURCES

U of T one of top 100 employers in Canada

Family programs and other benefits attributed with success

Mai Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto has been named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2011. The rankings are a result of a competition organized by Mediacorp Canada Incorporated that recognizes the best workplaces in different industries across the country. Since the list was first compiled in 2001, U of T has appeared on the list four times.

Christina Sass-Kortsak, the assistant vice-president of the Department of Human Resources and Equity, attributes the high ranking to the exceptional health, family, and skill-development benefits that the university provides.

"We see this as the key for retaining staff and faculty. Some examples of these benefits include the maternity program, the employee and family assistance program where staff and their family members can speak to professionals about a variety of personal issues, and the family care office where students can go on all sorts of workshops like on senior care for one."

U of T was rated very highly in two areas that are part of the eight criteria used to evaluate employers. They include physical workplace; work atmosphere and social; health, financial and family benefits; vacation and time off; employee communications; performance management; training and skills development; and community involvement. These criteria have not changed in the 11 years that Mediacorp, a specialty publisher focused on employment-related publications, has been holding the competition.

To be a part of this list, employers fill out an application that makes them eligible for Mediacorp's national, regional, and special-interest competitions. This year, 2,750 employers applied. They were then compared to other organizations in their respective industries to see which ones are creating the best workplaces for their employees.

Sass-Kortsak explains how the university is maintaining these excellent work conditions. "We are constantly assessing ourselves against the best and most exemplary practices in the private and public sectors. We look at other post-secondary institutions, particularly the larger ones that are more of our peers and competitors. We look at the U.S. and we look at other large employers depending on what it is we're comparing."

When asked about how U of T works to continually improve work conditions, Sass-Kortsak had this to say: "We are always looking to see how we can improve. Four years ago, we did our first ever staff and aculty work experience survey. Through the survey we gather data on how staff and faculty are perceiving the work experience, leadership, management, communication, diversity, and a lot of other areas. It identified that we had a high level of satisfaction that people are really proud to work here, but also identified some opportunities for improvement. The next survey is underway right now as we speak. It's a very competitive job market so we can't rest on our laurels and we're looking for ways to improve with the current financial conditions we're facing."

The financial downturn in recent years has had an effect on work conditions at U of T, but Sass-Kortsak maintains that it has been minimal. "There may be some things that we've liked to do but can't do. It does have an impact on workloads. But it hasn't affected our commitment to providing a really positive workplace and there are certainly lots of things we can that don't necessarily cost a lot of money. Good and positive leadership, respecting the work that people do, and providing professional development opportunities, don't all have to be huge investments."

In the end, a lot of it has to do with the work that the university does. "One of the advantages we have is the nature of the work we do. People generally feel the most engaged when they're doing work that is meaningful, when they're making a contribution. It's hard to think of anything more meaningful than education and contribution to research, and seeing that link to the overall work they do."

STUDENT INNOVATION

Grocery delivery service launched at U of T

Being a shut-in has never been so easy

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY STAFF

"We deliver the things you want to buy, but can never carry on your own. Because getting stuck in a turnstile with your toilet paper is pretty balls. And when you drop your groceries in the middle of the street, people laugh." ZippMarket's Facebook page is blunt: this new U of T upstart delivers food, beverages, cleaning supplies, and household items to students.

"I lived in both 89 Chestnut and the Woodsworth residences in my early years at U of T. I also lived in a house on Harbord [Street] with a few friends," said Anthony Darcovich, co-founder of ZippMarket. "The biggest difficulty I faced, along with my suitemates and roommates, was carrying everything home."

"We always joke about getting stuck in the turnstile with toilet paper — it actually happened to me in first year; the TTC attendant had to go pick up the bags that got left behind. That's why we designed a service around campus essentials."

The idea for the ZippMarket dorm store originally came out of an entrepreneurial course taught by Reza Satchu that Darcovich took last year at U of T. "After the course, Anila and I decided that we wanted to take the idea further."

Darcovich and and his co-founder Anila Akram have both put graduate school on hold to pursue an project they admit is a risky departure from their academic background. "To go from game theory and IR to small business accounting is a big leap," said Akram.

The company already has plans to expand their product selection. "We're expanding to cover not only food and beverages, but also other items students need on a daily basis to stay active and connected on campus," said Darcovich.

Starting a business is the hardest thing you can ever do" said Darcovich. Their project is currently funded by personal savings, earnings from summer employment, and a joint government-non-profit youth small business loan from the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

The co-founders admit that Zippmarket's reception has been mixed."We've had top business and technology executives tell us that the idea is great — and then rip into it, from a logistical and operational point of view," said Darcovich. The company has opted to personally deliver orders instead of hiring a courier service.

Second year political science and European studies student, Brent Schmidt is not sure if he will ever use the service. "I attend a lot of conferences with the United Nations Society which consumes much of my time and has me out of Toronto frequently and when I'm home I have the unfortunate habit of far-too-frequent restaurant eating. Furthermore, I eat a lot of my meals at [Howard Ferguson Dining Hall] so my need for delivered groceries supplies and the like is very low."

Katie D'Angelo, a fourth-year student completing a joint specialist in International Relations and history, has used the service twice. "It's really easy to use: you go online, pick what you want, and then they deliver it."

"If you order it before a certain time, they'll even deliver it next day for free. Not to mention that the delivery people are ridiculously friendly. It's going to be even more helpful in the winter, so I'll for sure be using it again."

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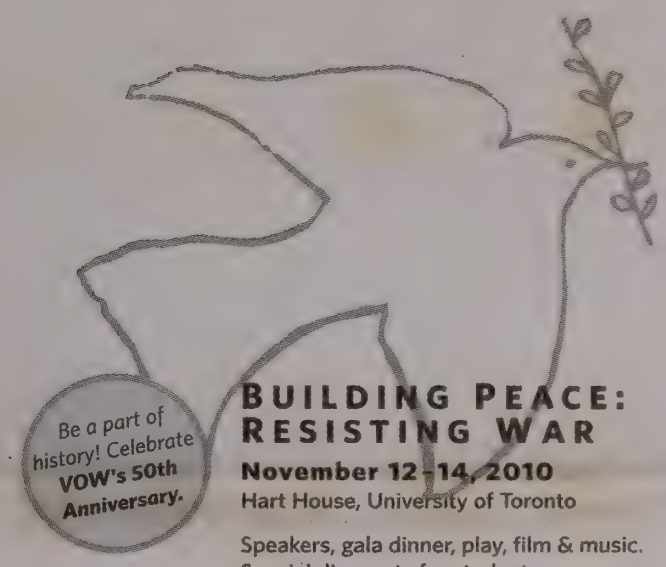
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'ARBITRATION' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"If the university says it doesn't have money, and have already installed flat fees and an Academic Restructuring Plan to address this issue, they will probably have to cut down on more things that affect student life and the quality of education of its students," said neuroscience student, Tetyana Pekar.

ASSU President Gavin Nowlan acknowledges the pay increase was "the last thing the university wanted."

He stressed that the faculty makes lower wages than their colleagues in other GTA schools. "But the fact remains that financial trouble or no financial trouble, they still need to pay their faculty and staff a decent wage."

"What this decision does though is potentially affect the current academic planning process in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Much of the dean's plan revolves around trying to alleviate the deficit that the faculty finds itself in. The dean will undoubtedly use this settlement as further proof of the need to take drastic action to sort out the faculty's financial woes," he said.

Nowlan goes on to say that an accurate depiction of the budget information of the Faculty is missing. "The Arts and Science Students' Union, as well as many faculty members and members of the Arts and Science Council, have demanded that this information be released. With this settlement the need is even greater for this information to be made public."

Are you stoked about the Leafs this year?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Jenny

3rd Year Political Science,
"Yes! Go Leafs go!"



Neno

4th Year Electrical Engineering,
"It almost seemed too good to be true when I saw Toronto on the verge of their 5th straight win. I guess this time of year all the Leafs begin to fall."



Mike

3rd Year Cell and Molecular Biology,
"Hell yes!"



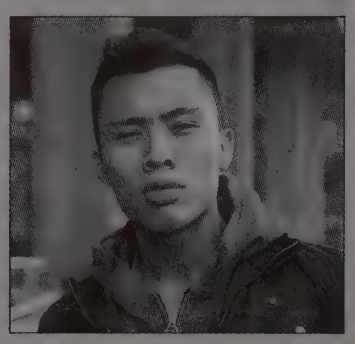
Jake

4th Year Engineering,
"I bleed blue."



Anna

2nd Year Nutritional Sciences and Human Biology,
"I'll always be a be*leafer*."



JJ

2nd Year Zoology,
"It might be autumn, but I don't see the Leafs fallin'."



Christina

2nd Year Nutritional Science,
"No, not a big fan. Also, they don't have a reputation of being a winning team."



Zach

4th Year Geology and Zoology,
"I was before their first loss."

NSERC

U of T continues to be top recipient of NSERC funding

University receives close to $6 million in grants

Kent Kuran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto continues to be the market share leader in Natural Science and Engineering Research Council Discovery Grants. Of the 207 applications for funding U of T submitted, they acheived a 71 per cent success rate and received 147 grants. The national average is 58 per cent. U of T received almost $6 million.

"What's phenomenal about the Discovery Grants program is it doesn't restrict our scholars. They're allowed to explore new research interests over the term of the grant. The grant truly offers a window to knowledge creation and innovation," said Paul Young, vice president of research at U of T.

"It is our hope to continually contribute to a world of changing ideas by advancing research and innovation," said Young. "Support, such as NSERC's Discovery Grants, gives our researchers the tools they need to succeed and educate the next generation of researchers."

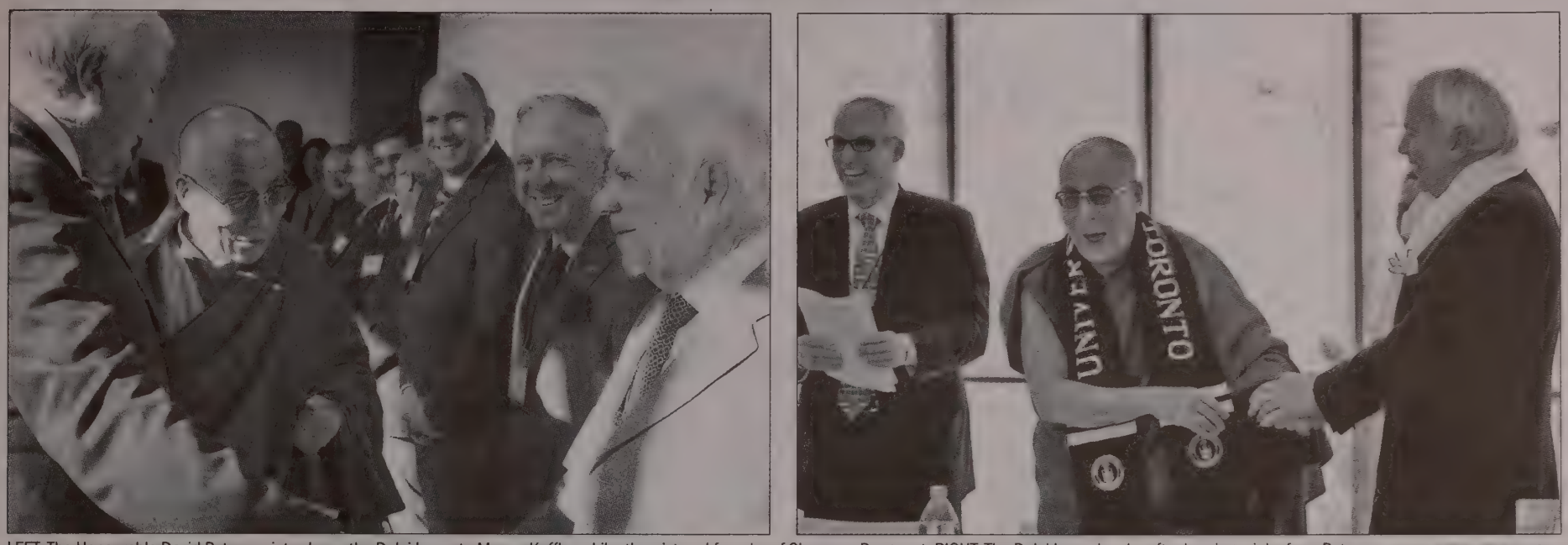
NSERC Discovery Grants provide funding for regular research projects, composing the bulk of NSERC's one billion dollar budget. Funding is allocated through a system of peer review committees, called grant selection groups, which include field experts who meet to discuss the merits of each project. This year nearly 12,000 researchers and 27,000 graduate students received NSERC funding. U of T has systematically managed to maintain its position as the largest grant receiver, having received 764 Discovery Grants in total.

Javad Mostaghimi, a researcher who has received multiple NSERC grants is utilizing his funding to pursue thermal spray applications, a technology used to provide protective coatings on engines, landing gears, and related components. "[Thermal spraying] was identified by Industry Canada as a key enabling technology for the aerospace industry. Spray forming is a revolutionary new technology in which the spray nozzle and substrate are both manipulated by robots to deposit thick layers and form a near-net shape part that requires little or no machining."

Shana Kelley, a researcher with the Department of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Medicine received funding to continue here work on disease diagnosis technologies for developing countries. "We are working on creating devices that can read out minute quantities of diseased cells using simple, inexpensive testing units."

Milica Radisic, a researcher in the Department of Chemical Engineering, is using her grant to grow her laboratory. She will be hiring more assistants to further investigate models of suboptimal myocardium. "Availability of such models is important in accelerating the development of new therapies for heart disease."

HIS HOLINESS ON CAMPUS



LEFT: The Honourable David Peterson introduces the Dalai Lama to Murray Koffler, philanthropist and founder of Shoppers Drugmart. RIGHT: The Dalai Lama laughs after hearing a joke from Peterson. ANDREW RUSK / THE VARSITY

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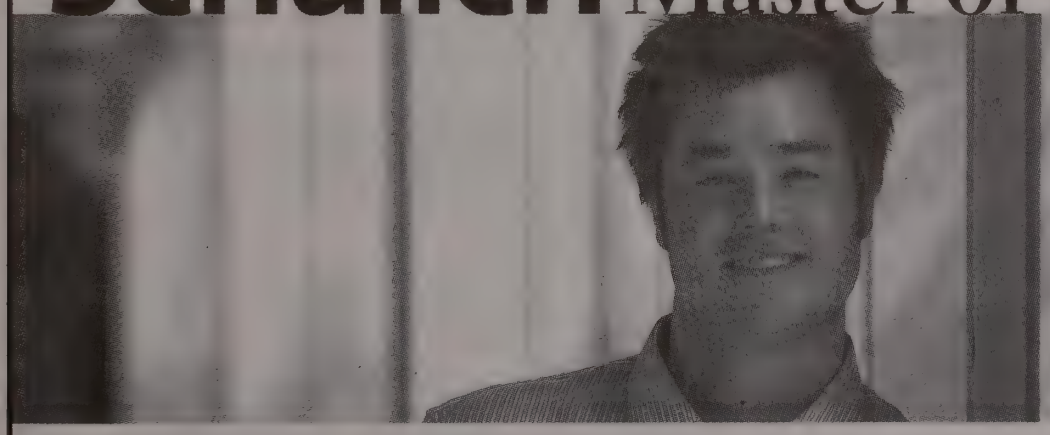
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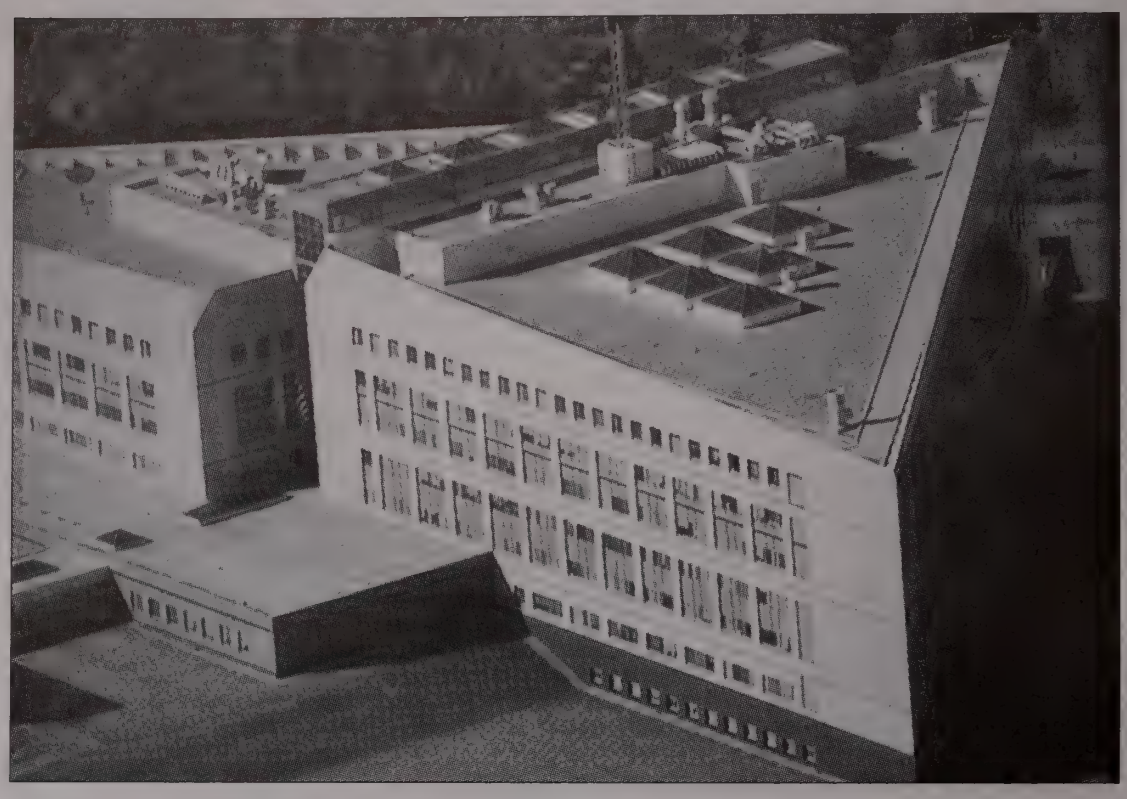
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Shifting priorities

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service still struggles to define itself

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



CSIS National Headquarters. Not only did Afghanistan change the priorities of the Canadian forces, but also those of Canada's primary intelligence agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The Canadian government is making its final preparations to bring the last of our combat troops home from Afghanistan in July. Canadians are beginning to reflect on the decade Canada has spent at war and consider what Canada's future holds in terms of foreign policy and the role of the Canadian Forces. They should not ignore the consequences Canada's participation in the war has had beyond the military. Not only did the war change the priorities of the Canadian forces, but also those of Canada's primary intelligence agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Prior to the September 11th attacks and the subsequent war in Afghanistan, CSIS carried out few operations abroad. Its enabling legislation limited its international mandate to gathering intelligence about specific threats to Canada, rather than emerging or potential threats. Since 2001, however, the agency's foreign operations have been significantly expanded. CSIS officers have been especially active in Afghanistan, where they allegedly participated in the interrogation of potential insurgents detained by Canadian troops before they were handed over to Afghan authorities. They have also interrogated Canadians suspected of ties to terrorist organizations throughout the region, including Abousfian Abdelrazik, who was detained and questioned at Canada's embassy in Sudan.

The expansion of CSIS' international activities has taken place largely without public debate. This is despite the fact that the question of whether Canada should have a foreign intelligence agency has been periodically discussed since the end of the Second World War, when Canadian officials chose not to follow the American and British model of having a civilian foreign intelligence agency. The incoming Harper government had suggested in 2006 that it would create such an agency, but quickly abandoned the idea when intelligence officials suggested that doing so would be costly and difficult. As a result, the issue has remained largely under the radar of opposition politicians, except in connection to specific cases like Abeldrazik's.

Canada has increasingly little choice about whether it should gather foreign intelligence. Foreign threats to Canada's safety are mounting, especially as terrorist groups abroad ally themselves with "homegrown" groups in Canada. Intelligence from friendly countries, such as Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States is plentiful, but limited in that it is not Canada-specific and can suffer from substantial flaws. Instead, the choice that Canadians face is about how Canada will fulfill its foreign intelligence needs. This question is as central to defining Canada's position in the world after the war in Afghanistan as is the future of the military.

The Harper government's approach to this question is a hodgepodge of ideas. While CSIS is expanding its own operations abroad (and shows no intention of halting the expansion after Canadian troops leave Afghanistan), it is also cultivating new intelligence-sharing relationships beyond Canada's traditional allies. The publication of a photo of CSIS director Richard Fadden meeting with the King of Saudi Arabia and the head of his intelligence agency last month underscores the government's commitment to this approach. Unfortunately, it provides too little assurance about the nature and constraints of CSIS's operations abroad.

Specifically, it provides no assurances about standards of treatment for Canadians (who are theoretically entitled to consular assistance, but whom the government has hinted might be treated differently if they are suspected terrorists) and non-Canadians abroad. Nor does it provide for any limits on the kinds of intelligence that CSIS might obtain from and share with foreign intelligence agencies, especially those that are known to use torture as an interrogation technique. It also does not clearly define the relationship between CSIS and other parts of the Canadian government, especially the Canadian Forces.

If and when this question is raised for public debate, some will propose revisiting the original proposal of the Harper Government for creating a civilian foreign intelligence agency. Such an agency, modeled on the equivalent Australian and British agencies, is the best solution to the problem because the parameters of its operations and their oversight could be clearly defined in legislation (as are CSIS's for domestic matters). However, it would be costly to create such an agency and it could not be done quickly. The current federal political climate is likely too unstable for such a proposal to move forward, unless an early consensus could be reached by the Conservatives and the Liberals.

The government should nevertheless work toward creating a foreign intelligence agency. However, in the meantime, it should move quickly to rein in CSIS and ensure that appropriate controls exist for its foreign intelligence operations. It should achieve this by rewriting the sections of the CSIS Act which deal with foreign activities to make them more closely reflect CSIS's current operations and impose clearer constraints on them. It should also improve the investigative capacity of CSIS's external oversight body and modify its mandate to ensure that it can effectively review CSIS' operations overseas.

The president writes back

In this op-ed piece, U of T's president addresses concerns raised by students over the A & S restructuring proposal and the state of the humanities at U of T

David Naylor
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Various theories and ideas seem to be making the rounds in response to the Faculty of Arts and Science restructuring plan.

One bizarre notion is that "Simcoe Hall" somehow ordered all these changes. In reality, the final shape of the proposals is still in obvious flux, and no specific plans have come to the central administration for formal approval and submission to university-wide governance. Another odd theory is that the A&S plans were hatched at the behest of evil right-wing benefactors. I understand the timeless appeal of conspiracy theories. However, the simple fact is that the proposals were worked up by a committee involving a number of independent-minded colleagues from A&S itself.

This leads me to the more interesting theory, advanced in last week's Varsity by Alex Griffith ("What's happening to the liberal arts?", Oct. 11, p7). Mr Griffith portrays the A&S plan as reflecting current trends arising from globalization and increased competition. Certainly some political leaders and public commentators have championed differential investments in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines. Their views have helped to raise concerns that a general devaluation of the humanities is afoot in society and universities world-wide. I've shared this unease sufficiently to push back publicly on a number of occasions both against overly-narrow definitions of innovation and in support of the role of the humanities in successful societies. Given enrolment data, performance indicators, and recent benefactions, I am also glad to say that the humanities remain very strong at U of T. Regarding Mr Griffith's concerns about the declining relevance of the "liberal arts" in an era of globalization, I believe the exact opposite is true. It is precisely because we live in a comparatively borderless world that, more than ever, we need the humanities and social sciences to thrive. We can argue strenuously (as seems to be the current case locally) about how best to organize them, but I have not heard anyone advocating some grand downsizing of the humanities at U of T.

The same issue of the Varsity presents another interesting commentary, this one by Maria Cichosz, arguing in favour of small interdisciplinary programs ("A necessary piece of the university puzzle" Oct. 11, p7). I was surprised, however, that Ms Cichosz opened with this statement: "When the University of Toronto introduced its Towards 2030 academic restructuring plan in 2007, it became apparent that a major part of the project involved cutting funding to and reducing the size of small interdisciplinary departments." It did? That's news to me, and I'm the aging academic bureaucrat who spent the better part of a summer writing up the Towards 2030 Synthesis Report.

The material in Towards 2030 on tri-campus differentiation of undergraduate programming notes that the east and west campuses might well decide to organize more of their programs on a multi-disciplinary basis. I urged that "long-standing debates about the merits of discipline-based versus multidisciplinary approaches to defining undergraduate degree programs...require not a priori resolutions but dialogues among colleagues..." The report also noted that, on the St. George campus, the colleges had been valuable "incubators for student-centred innovations as well as new multi-disciplinary programming and related academic units." In brief, I can find no evidence that the Towards 2030 Synthesis Report takes any adverse view of multi-disciplinary units or programs. Nor does it take any position on issues such as how to organize area studies or language instruction.

On those latter fronts, the consultation ongoing in A&S is part of a wider debate at universities that has been bubbling for decades. It stems from a big and important question: what's the best way for a faculty to organize itself into efficient and effective units that facilitate teaching, research and creative professional activity? The answer seems to be: it depends. It depends on, among other things, the discipline at issue – whether traditional or integrative; the trade-offs arising from budgetary constraints; the extant number of appointees with backgrounds in the relevant discipline(s); and — obviously — student demand and the implications for pedagogy and the student experience.

The Provost and I will therefore wait with interest to see the revised recommendations arising from the A&S consultative process.

Your City, Your Vote

Why your participation today matters

EDITORIAL

Today marks the end of what has been a long and gruelling election campaign for Canada's largest city. Unlike Americans, who enjoy elections so much that they carve them in stone on their national calendar, we Canadians like our campaigns to be spontaneous: short, fierce, and sweet. Unfortunately, municipal races – with their endless entrees and exits, minor scandals, and image politics – leave citizens almost exhausted as the candidates themselves. After a long and gruelling campaign that now has an impressive tally of casualties (Adam Giambrone, Giorgio Mammoliti, Sarah Thompson, Rocco Rossi) and several more nearly-rans (John Tory, David Miller), Torontonians are set to go to the ballot box to elect a new mayor, city council, and a group of school trustees.

In addition to its exhausting length, the present campaign has been marked by a cynical negativity which has left voters confused and frustrated with the process. Recent commentary has focused with near total uniformity on the mayoral race and the issue of strategic voting, to the detriment of a broader discussion about the future of our city.

To paraphrase Benjamin Disraeli, there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and poll numbers. Toronto's news media have conferred upon themselves a perplexing form of temporary omniscience: the ability to determine just what percentage of voters will vote for which candidates later today. Though polling is undoubtedly an important component of election coverage, it should not be the primary basis upon which citizens found their decision at the ballot box. In a representative democracy such as ours, voting is the most direct participation in the civic process most of us will take part in. What is more, our mayor and city councillors are the democratic representatives closest to us and, regrettably, the ones who receive the least attention both during and after elections. When Toronto last went to the polls just over four years ago, only 39 per cent of its 1.5 million voters decided to cast a ballot; the voter turnout among students was, depressingly, even lower.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

This is why it is important for you, the student voter, to resist the cynicism of unscrupulous popular commentators and vote in a way that is meaningful to you. Toronto is the country's largest city: with a 45-seat council and an elected mayor for whom more citizens cast their ballots than for any other elected position in Canada. This vote is not just about electing a mayor but also a new slate of councillors and school trustees, all of whom will have a significant impact on the city's future. This is why The Varsity asks you to participate today in the democratic process in the fullest way possible.

Having a respectful and equitable Halloween

Before you head out this October 31 think about what you're wearing

Maria Cichosz
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR



ROGELIO BRISEÑO/THE VARSITY

Halloween is a holiday during which we are encouraged to let go of social conventions, masquerade, and have fun. At the same time, an uncritical approach to choosing a costume can lead to intensely inequitable situations, as was clear from last year's contentious blackface incident during which five students at the University of Toronto dressed up as the Jamaican bobsled team from the 1993 film *Cool Runnings*. Following this incident, several responses from the student community alleged that because the individuals involved did not intend to offend anyone and did not realize that their costumes had highly racist implications, condemning these costumes was simply a misled and irrelevant attempt to be "politically correct." How can "political correctness," a term often associated with qualities of being uptight and unable to have fun, fit in with the uninhibited raucousness of Halloween? Choosing an equitable Halloween costume is not really about political correctness at all, but about challenging ourselves to see how broad systems of oppression operate and sustain themselves in seemingly innocuous ways.

It is important to think about why one's chosen costume is funny or edgy. What does it represent? Does the costume have any kind of historical or cultural implications one might not immediately be aware of? While some costumes may seem humorous or harmless at first glance, they can in fact be associated with images and histories of oppression that become perpetuated and are trivialized when they are worn as a Halloween costume. Anisha Thomas, president of the Equity Studies Student Union, highlights the fact that "costumes of Pocahontas and the like seriously trivialize colonial history and further erase the importance of aboriginal culture by replacing an entire entity with a racist caricature of itself." Similarly, costumes that involve blackface, any manifestation of sexism, or "fatsuits" have the potential to evoke histories of subjugation that are still very real in the lives of individuals from oppressed groups. While such a costume may be seen as humorous by the individual wearing it, it is important to remember that when Halloween is over, this person can simply take off the costume and move on with their day-to-day life. There is no way for members of a stigmatized group to step out of their bodies or remove their skin when wearing it becomes inconvenient.

But what if the individual wearing the costume does not intend for it to be offensive or discriminatory? Having good intentions does not erase the fact that a costume itself is still tied to a specific history and perpetuates oppressive images when it is worn. The costume wearer's intentions cannot nullify the pain felt by members of oppressed groups upon seeing this costume, or the fact that the costume remains a manifestation of the discrimination that structures the reality of many individuals' lives. Furthermore, focusing only on the intent of the costumed individual is a way in which the interests of dominant groups are furthered over the voices and perspectives of non-dominant groups. The fact that a person wearing a costume is not even aware of its implications is indicative of a larger problem of privilege, in which this individual has been so distanced from oppression that they cannot even begin to conceive of why their actions might be offensive to another.

Many Halloween costumes rely upon humour and puns. Because our society is no longer explicitly racist or exclusionary, humour often serves as a major vehicle for perpetuating and naturalizing oppressive images. An offensive Halloween costume can easily be passed off as "no big deal" when it is perceived as humorous. Humour also creates the conditions for discrediting those who voice their concern about offensive costumes by casting these dissenters as uptight, missing the point, or overly invested in political correctness. Marissa Campbell from the Women and Gender Studies Student Union notes that living in what is commonly perceived as a "post-racist society makes it seem that we are an educated population [and] therefore these images are unproblematic, yet they are more problematic because they become subverted." Discrimination and oppression are as real, if far more subtle, than ever, making it important to ensure that one's costume does not inadvertently support these large and powerful systems.

Ultimately, if Halloween is about humour, fun, and subversion, wearing a costume that reiterates overused discriminatory stereotypes is in no way true to the spirit of the holiday. There is nothing new or funny about oppression. This Halloween, students should challenge themselves to make sure that their costume and their fun are in no way based, no matter how unintentionally or indirectly, on another group's subjugation.

Playing the blame game

The Harper government is distracting Canadians from the real issues surrounding the UN Security Council

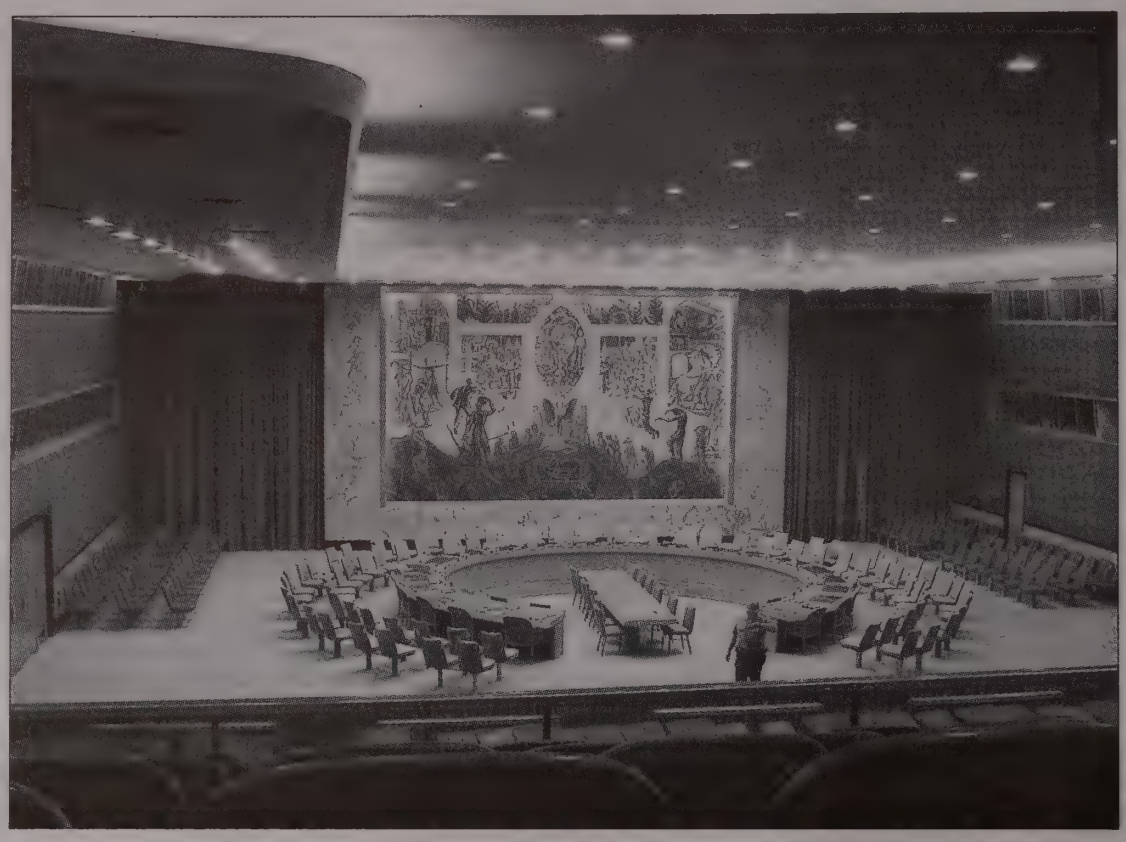
Banafsheh Beizaei
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Canada's loss to Portugal in its bid for a seat on the UN Security Council caused quite an uproar in the Canadian media. Some deemed it a historical defeat for Canada, recalling that since the founding of the Security Council in 1945, this is the first time Canada has lost its bid for a seat amongst the non-permanent members. Speculations and arguments were thrown around as to explain the decisive reason behind the loss, and the *Toronto Star* even published a top 10 list of possible explanations for the rebuff.

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon laid the blame for Canada's defeat on Liberal Party Leader Michael Ignatieff, who had previously questioned whether Canada deserved the seat considering the Conservative government's international policies throughout the past four years. The Prime Minister's Office has offered similar reasoning. According to this account, Ignatieff had presented a disunited view of Canada, therefore undermining the credibility of its bid and its chances to be elected.

This reasoning, not surprisingly, implies that Canada does indeed deserve a seat on the UN Security Council. If it were not for the untimely and imprudent remarks made by the Liberal Leader, we would have been spared the international embarrassment of losing to Portugal.

The attempt to reduce the issue to a matter of treachery on Ignatieff's part is a deliberate strategy to shift the focus away from a debate on whether or not Canada truly deserves to be called a model democracy and a peace-loving country at all. Regardless of whether or not Ignatieff's comments had the damaging effects that Harper's government would have us believe, there are innumerable reasons to suggest Canada did not deserve a seat on the Council. Canada's general foreign policy, including a rigidly pro-Israel stance in the Middle East, involvement in the mission in Afghanistan, and its cuts to foreign aid to Africa are a few of such reasons. Canada's position on climate change and its complete disregard for aboriginal rights should also be mentioned. And while we're at it, let us not forget the G20 and the attack on civil rights and democracy that occurred this summer.



UN Security Council Chamber in New York. The Security Council has five permanent members: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China.

But before worrying about whether or not Canada deserved a seat on the UN Security Council, we need to ask ourselves: is the UN Security Council really the justice-loving and peace-spreading body that it is represented as? Furthermore, are the member countries truly chosen on the basis of their contribution to and genuine desire to bring about world peace and justice?

The UN Security Council was founded in 1945, after the end of World War II, to maintain "international security and peace." There are five permanent members (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) and 10 non-permanent members on the Council with two year terms. Who elected the permanent members? you might ask. No one, really. Being the superpowers they were (and still are), they sort of elected themselves.

The permanent members, who are all nuclear powers, possess the notorious and exclusive veto power, which enables any of them to prevent the adoption of any substantive draft council resolution by casting a negative vote. What this means is that any one of them has the power of preventing any major decisions in the Council from being made. To put it more bluntly, no major resolution can pass unless all five members are for it.

To top off the mockery of democracy that this veto power makes of the whole decision-making process in the Council, we need only to remember a few well-known instances of the its intervention — or, in most cases, non-intervention — in international affairs for our remaining illusions about its humanitarian nature to shatter.

In 1994, when Rwanda was in desperate need of help amidst the genocide that resulted in the death of close to a million civilians, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 912, by which it reduced the number of assistance forces to Rwanda from 2,000 to 270 before reluctantly increasing it again just before the genocide ended. Oil-rich Kuwait, on the other hand, was protected following the Iraqi occupation. The United States is quick to veto any resolutions critical of Israel, and has done so 32 times in the past 20 years. The list goes on.

Canada didn't get a seat on the UN Security Council, whether for Ignatieff's comments or its government's hardly concealed disregard for international welfare and democracy. But even if it had received a seat, this by itself wouldn't have redeemed Canada's reputation as a peace-loving nation. This would not have meant that Canada would be involved in promoting justice and eliminating discrimination throughout the world (which, let's face it, is not the Harper government's number one concern at the moment). It would only have made Canada another member of a largely undemocratic decision-making body which is, for the most part, controlled by the five biggest arms-dealing countries in the world, and which has frequently made decisions based on purely strategic — and not humanitarian-interests. So let us not shed any tears over Canada's humiliated pride. We have bigger things to worry about.

Re: The Varsity Mayoral Debate, October 18

It is often said by Americans that Canada produces great comedians — names such as Mike Myers, Jim Carrey, and Russell Peters are invariably mentioned. I humbly submit that we have in our midst a great comedian that has been hitherto overlooked: Mr. Arash Azizi.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Azizi is simply pulling our legs and does not actually believe any of the drivel that he commits to paper. If he is actually serious, then he is an excellent example of why the NDP will never be more than an afterthought in federal politics.

Today we enjoy a balance of personal freedom, social equality, and economic prosperity that is the envy of the world. We are not perfect and never will be — indeed, throughout our history we have perpetrated many severe injustices upon our own citizens. But our democratic system has also permitted the eventual redress of those injustices and our society has continually evolved into the great nation that we are proud to live in today.

LETTERS

Of course, there is a cost to all of this. Most Canadians feel a swell of affection for our nation — the greatest in the world. A fair and just system does good by most, but not all. People like Mr. Azizi, who have no tolerance for the opinions of others, who reject the idea of natural human rights, who wish to enforce a failed ideology that benefits only them upon us by violence, cannot succeed in a democracy. Their ideas are unsellable because we are not disgruntled peasants, we are educated people who know that socialism is the greatest and bloodiest failure in human history.

So they attack the democratic process, not on merit but merely out of bitterness that the good old days when you could foment a socialist revolution before lunch are gone. I like to say that any argument that cannot be rephrased is rubbish. It's a test of how many meaningless buzzwords you're using — and Mr. Azizi fails miserably. Putting "progressive" in front of a stupid idea doesn't make it any less stupid. All it says is that you think you're better than me, a truly circular argument. I don't think rehashing philosophies that were outdated the day that Leibniz proved the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus is progressive, but that's probably because I've had the benefit of an IQ over 100.

Hold on while I put my finger on the pulse of Toronto for a second. Newsflash: nobody cares about the "labour movement." There is no labour movement.

Want proof? Check any poll in any election ever held in this country. What's that? Candidates who aren't backed by socialist clowns are trashing Pantalone? Sorry, they voted, and they voted for the side of economics over socialist dreams, for calculus over rhetoric, for a system where they get to have an opinion.

RISHI MAHARAJ

Re: The Varsity Mayoral Debate, October 18

Dear Rishi,

Thanks for your comments. I enjoy the fact that my socialist ideas provoke you enough to dedicate some part of your time to write about them in a passionate manner and among other things, request my removal from Canada. I am happy that my articles result in more debates in The Varsity. And as much as I actually love Cuba — despite my opposition to the bureaucratic rulers of that Island — I am quite happy with my current place of residence.

It is needles to say that these attacks will but entrench me and my fellow NDPers in our ideas and strengthen our quest for a socialist Canada. The majority of Canadians on our side. If that wasn't the case why would a socialist like Tommy Douglas be one of the most revered Canadian ever?

And last but not least, thank you for putting my name next to those like Jim Carrey and others. I adore those comedians and tried my hand at being a comedian in the UK a million years ago. Seems that I am having newly found success here, so even better!

Thanks for reading my articles again.

ARASH AZIZI

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

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Opinions submissions are also welcome.

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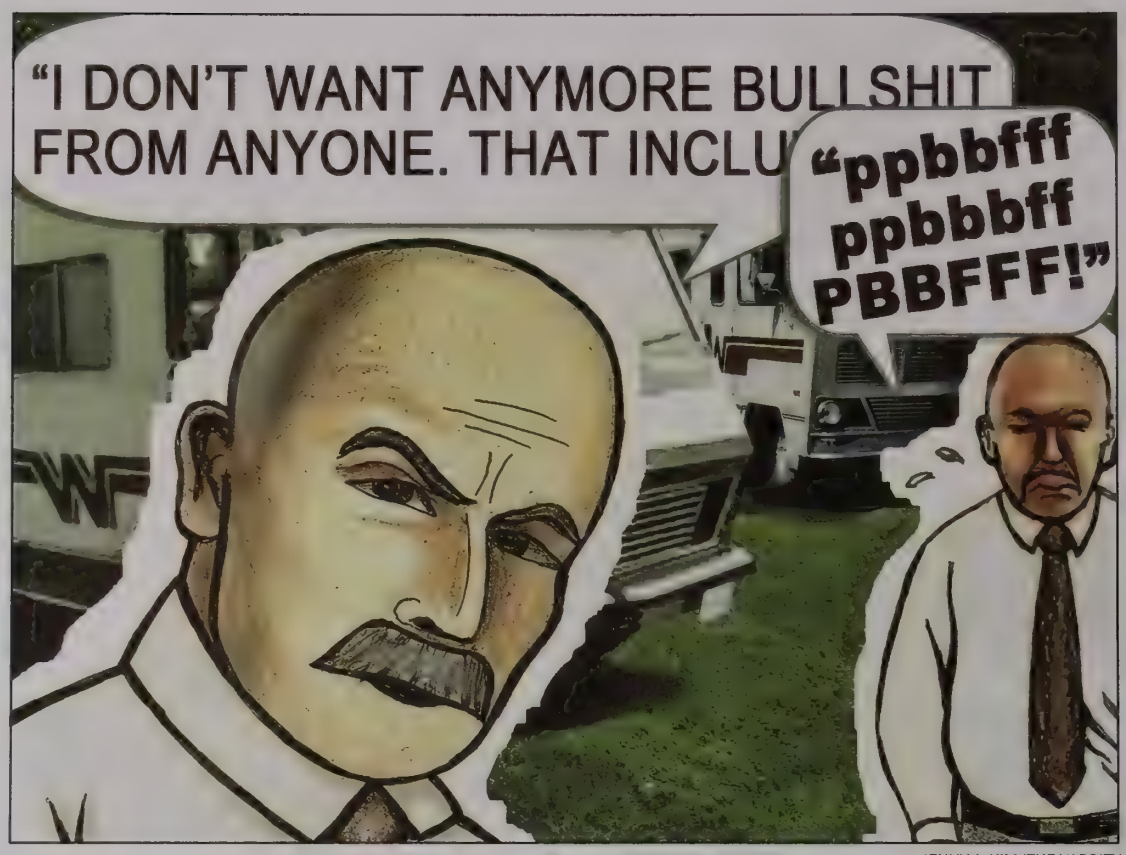
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Found Footage



JENNY J. KIM/THE VARSITY

Thoughts on the Winnebago Man and a certain type of YouTube celebrity

Will Sloan
VARSITY STAFF

A man in a white-collared shirt and tie rises from the driver's seat of a Winnebago. He is tall and imposing, with a thick moustache and deep newsreader's voice. He walks through the Winnebago's living room set, faces the camera, and addresses the audience.

"The Winnebago engineering departments have developed a multifunctional bathroom, privacy I don't even know what the fuck I'm reading."

Cut to the man with his head in his hands, crouching next to the Winnebago's baggage compartment. "I wonder what the FUCK the real dialogue is?!"

Cut to the man walking away from the Winnebago, his hands in the air. "I don't even know what the FUCK I'm SAYING!"

Cut to the man in the driver's seat, talking to an assistant. "Tony, will you do me a favour, please? Will you do me a kindness? […] Don't slam the fuckin' door!"

Cut to a long shot of the Winnebago. "Get out of here, you fuckin' flies!"

Cut to the man in the driver's seat. "Fuck!"

Cut to the man next to the Winnebago. "Fuck!"

Cut to the man next to the baggage compartment. "Oh, FUCK!"

Cut to a close-up of the man inside the Winnebago, looking at the ground. "Fuck. It's not even funny anymore."

***

"Tonight's lineup features promotional videos, public access videos, home movies, instructional videos, and just a bunch of other videos that can only be described as crap-tastic."

Tonight at the Found Footage Festival, a traveling show of unearthed "so-bad-they're-good" VHS oddities, Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher are introducing one of their best finds.

"This one came from right here in Minnesota," says Prueher. "This is from a local crewmember who was working down in Iowa on a promotional shoot for the Winnebago brand of RVs." Much applause.

"On the first day of the shoot, the crew realized that the host of this video had a bit of a temper, and they decided to let the camera roll between tapes and subsequently captured this man's many angry tirades. We've edited the best of those moments together into a segment we call 'Jack Rebney — the World's Angriest RV Salesman.'"

The tape plays, to the usual reaction. "Well, that settles it," says Pickett. "He's batshit insane."

"Oh yeah, no doubt about it."

***

"It's funny, tomorrow I'm doing an interview with… okay, have you ever seen this clip on YouTube where it's, like, bloopers from a Winnebago corporate infomercial, and the host keeps getting really angry and swearing a lot?"

"Oh yeah, I've seen that. You're interviewing that guy?"

"Yeah. I can't believe it. There are some offers you just can't turn down, y'know?"

"That's really random."

"Well, he's the subject of a documentary that's coming out, where a director tracks him down and finds out about his life, and what he's been doing since."

"Huh. So, what's he like?"

"He's turned into kind of an old hermit, but what's amazing is, it turns out in real life he's exactly like he is in the video. He's always swearing, and since that video was twenty years ago, now he's become an ornery old man."

"Well, I hope he gets mad at you and walks out."

"I kinda hope so too. He smack-talks Dick Cheney a lot. I feel like I won't be getting the full experience unless he calls me a fucking jackass, or something."

***

An obese teenager holds a golf ball retriever. He twirls it through the air, dodging and killing imaginary enemies. He punctuates the action with his own sound effects — "Pa-pa-pa-pow! Chew cheeeyeeuw!" When he spins around, he sometimes raises a leg to keep from falling. This is the Star Wars Kid. He is a YouTube phenomenon.

Look at his face. He's into it. In his mind, he's a Jedi. I know better. Stephen Colbert, Michael Cera, *Family Guy*, *South Park*, and everyone else who has spoofed it know better. We all know he's just a fat kid with a golf ball retriever. We know he's delusional.

From *Winnebago Man*, the new documentary about Jack Rebney, I learn that the clip was posted online by a fellow student, and it spread quickly around the school, then the world. The Star Wars Kid was so traumatized by the experience that he had to undergo psychiatric treatment. He could no longer walk through the hallways at school. I don't like hearing this. Then I go home and watch the video again.

***

"Jack, my first question isn't specifically related to the film, but in the film you talk a lot about your political views, particularly how angry you are at Dick Cheney, and I was curious about your thoughts on the current political landscape."

"Uh… I'll try to be as succinct as possible," says Jack Rebney on the other end of the phone line.

"Now, remember we only have fifteen minutes," says Ben Steinbauer, the director of *Winnebago Man*.

"Shut up, Ben. Obama has inherited not just eight, but about forty years of a misappropriation of an American dream that has become so disastrous as to be incurable. We — that is to say, the United States — we are a comatose nation. We are within a hair's breadth of a total collapse, and the archetypal fat-bellied, hamburger-eating American doesn't have any idea how bad it is. We're 15, 17 trillion dollars in debt. We have a Federal Reserve policy that is madness — total, absolute insanity — and has been for decades. And this guy, who's a very bright guy — anticipation of his coming in was that he could wave some type of magic wand because he graduated first in his class at Harvard Law School. Bullshit! His credentials are exclusively that he grew up in one of the worst hit and bang and crash political systems in the United States, and that's Chicago. That's his credential. What he doesn't clearly understand, and his advisers clearly didn't understand, was that it wasn't a matter of healthcare for the American public, it was a matter of jobs. And apparently they just simply forgot about that […] Well, it was a bloody horrible, stupid mistake, and they blew a year and a half, and they'll pay for it at these coming elections. And, uh… [laughs] that's my reaction."

***

"Before *Star Search*," says Nick Prueher, "and long before *American Idol*, there was a show on Manhattan public access called *Stairway to Stardom* […] and each week they would welcome a variety of singers, dancers, actresses… there are some bad comedians in there…"

"It's kinda like *The Gong Show*, but without the gonging part," says Pickett.

"That's right, that's a good way to describe it, and I think it's no exaggeration to say that *Stairway to Stardom* was one of the most entertaining shows in the history of television. Easily."

The theme song plays: "On Stairway to Staaaardom… you'll see tomorrow's stars today! On Stairway to Staaaardom… we're here to brighten up your day!" The clips play. Terrible singers. Terrible dancers. Terrible actresses. A comedian who laughs at his own jokes. Pure failure.

"*Stairway to Stardom*! Say what you will, they gave it their all," says Pickett. "And of course, they all went on to become stars."

***

An obese teenager holds a golf ball retriever. He twirls it through the air, dodging and killing imaginary enemies. He punctuates the action with his own sound effects — "Pa-pa-pa-pow! Chew cheeeyeeuw!"

Wake up. Get up. Shave, shower, get dressed. I need new clothes. Need to look sharper. Should I stay home? No, gotta get moving. There's a world out there to conquer.

Leave my home, enter the marketplace. What do I have to offer? I am smart, and funny, and talented, and interesting. I am a good person. In return, I want attention, and respect, and success, and love, and sex, and happiness. I deserve these things. I believe I deserve these things. I have to believe. I am still young, and fulfillment is coming. I just have to keep going.

Shouldn't I be more successful by now? Shouldn't I be an up-and-comer? Why aren't I being noticed? No, can't think like that. Notice is coming, just keep going. Job won't hire me. Girl won't date me. Why wasn't I invited to that party? Never mind. It's their loss. I have to believe it's their loss. I have to keep going.

God, why did I used to wear my hair like that? Didn't I have a mirror? God… well, I know better now.

God, some of the things I used to believe. How could I have thought that way? Well, I know better now. God, what was I thinking with that girl last year? Maybe I was delusional. Yes, I was delusional. Why didn't someone tell me? Maybe I'm still delusional. No, can't think like that. I'm not delusional. Fulfillment is coming. I have to keep going.

***

THE VARSITY: *"If I can talk briefly about the Winnebago commercial, Ben mentions in the narration that he sympathizes with you, because you worked at CBS, were a very serious journalist, and by this juncture in your career you were, y'know, doing a Winnebago commercial, and that seems like… y'know, anger fuel? I was wondering if you agree with that perspective."*

JACK REBNEY: "No."

TV: *"Okay. By the way, Ben, am I being accurate? I don't want to put words in your mouth."*

BEN STEINBAUER: "Um…yes, in the voiceover I say I'm viewing the images differently, and that Jack is a serious journalist, and he was stuck in this horrible shoot in Iowa."

JR: "Well that, yes, all of that is true, and the issue from my perspective clearly, then would be — yes, you learn your trade, you learn your business, and if you learn it under the gun, as I did as a youngster in the early '50s, you'd better do it correctly or you're gone. That's all there was to it. There was never a second chance; nobody ever said, 'Well, you'll learn, little fella! You'll learn, and don't worry about it.' You're reaching 35 million people, and you're not going to bloody well make a mistake on anybody's time. And that stuck with me always, all during my life.

"So it didn't, but the critical element here is that it didn't make any difference if I happened to be writing or producing or directing or whatever it might be for a network, or a local station, or for Winnebago. I've always been driven by the idea that if somebody hires me, if somebody comes to me and says, 'Will you do this for me? Will you fix our news department? Will you fix this commercial for me? Will you do whatever it may be?' I'm gonna bust my ass to do that absolutely as well as I can. And if somebody stands in the way, I'm gonna knock 'em down. 'Get out!' Period. End of report. That's always been my modus operandi, because I always felt there was a certain dignity to what you are doing, whether it was a little tiny hamburger commercial, or the Winnebago shoot, or you were reaching a CBS audience."

***

"Alright, well Jack, let's just jump off the phone then, I think he wants to continue with questions for me for about ten minutes, and then I'll call you back a little bit later. Is that alright?"

"There's no need to call me back, Ben. I don't need to talk to you."

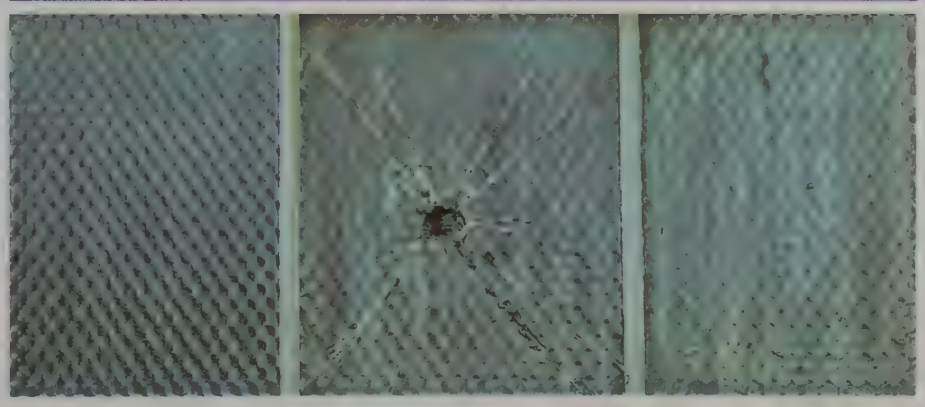
"[Laughs] Hey, come on now — now you're just showing off."

Jack Rebney and Ben Steinbauer will introduce a screening of Winnebago Man *at TIFF Bell Lightbox on October 28.*

THE HAUNTING OF ONE SPADINA CRESCENT



ALEX ROSS and ILEEA LARENTE investigated some of St. George's haunted places, culminating in a tour of the creepy building at One Spadina Crescent





PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE

9:08 p.m.: The evening begins with me frightening Ileea, my friend and my companion for this evening of ghoulish searching at U of T, when I tap on one of the glass windows of the *Gargoyle*'s basement office. She cries out and jumps from her chair at the sound and then lets out a palpable sigh of relief when she realizes it's just me at the window.

9:28 p.m.: We begin our journey. Since we are not going to be getting into One Spadina Crescent until 11:00 p.m. we will first take our own personal ghost tour through some of U of T's premiere ghost spots.

9:36 p.m.: We step into Trinity College, which is strangely quiet despite the book sale that was happening just a few minutes ago. We walk through the main hallway and into the Trinity College quad, which is ominously quiet except for a small group gathered in the right-hand corner. We look at the imposing bust of Trinity's founder, John Strachan. Unwary students studying late at night have reported seeing the ghost of Strachan stalking the grounds of the college. Ileea says of the bust: "I feel like he's watching me."

9:40 p.m.: Our next Trinity location is St. Thomas Anglican church, where people have reported seeing a distraught woman who heads into the west-side chapel and disappears into a room where there is no exit. The whole chapel is completely dark except for one small light on the right wall and three red candles. We cautiously walk by the pews wondering if the woman will come to us from the shadows. Ileea bravely enters the west-side chapel and says: "Hello?" while I hang back.

9:51 p.m.: We head out of Trinity College and walk toward Soldiers' Tower. In the 1930s a worker cleaning the bells allegedly fell to his death. An apparition of a falling man has been seen at the tower. Ileea begins yelling "Jump!" at the tower. We wait but see nothing.

10:02 p.m.: Regis College, formerly the Christie Manor, where Robert Christie's mistress hanged herself with a bedsheet in her secret prison, is completely closed. We peer in the windows of the baroque building.

10:12 p.m.: We head to University College where we run into a ghost tour. The tour leader is dramatically recalling the tragic story of Ivan Reznikoff and Paul Diabolos. Reznikoff tried to kill fellow stone-mason Diabolos with an axe after he found out that he was having an affair with his betrothed, Susan. Reznikoff came out the worst when he was stabbed by Diabolos, who buried the body in a shaft. We walk up to the axe mark that can still be seen at the Croft Chapter House. We both touch the splintered wood, wondering if Reznikoff's black-clad form will appear.

10:30-11:40 p.m.: Our tour finishes earlier than expected and our One Spadina guide is detained so there will be a delay to us getting into the building. When we finally come upon One Spadina it is wrapped in the light of a full moon. If H. P. Lovecraft had ever come to the St. George campus this is what he would have written about One Spadina: "Seekers after morbidity will have to look no further in U of T than the building that sits a-top One Spadina Crescent. Its overhanging ivy and grinning gargoyles shew its true character. Its 115-foot spire reaching to the sky, cutting through the pale lanthorn light of the moon, suggests things both terrible & cosmic."

11:45 p.m.: Our guide for the evening is Helene Goderis of the *Newspaper*, who quickly hints at things both bizarre and terrible. We enter One Spadina and are instantly hit with its noxious, musty smell. The wooden staircase leading to the second floor is gigantic. I remark glibly that it has the same atmosphere as the Overlook Hotel. Ugly, fluorescent lights illuminate the building, which is half-renovated and half in a state of decay.

12:13 a.m.: We start our tour of One Spadina. It's oppressively hot throughout the building. We walk up to what we believe is the third floor, but I can't be sure. One Spadina is like a labyrinth with each layer of its shifting priorities stacked on top of it. It's alternatively been Knox College, a hospital for influenza patients, the insulin lab for Connaught Laboratories, an eye donation bank, art studios, and now houses the Department of Architecture.

12:15 a.m.: We enter what Helene terms a "meat locker." She opens a large metallic door and are hit with another pungent and terrible odour. This may have a been a freezer where Connaught Laboratories kept pig pancreases to manufacture insulin. Helene also points out a dead, decaying rat that is above in a wire mesh vent not too far from the meat locker. It looks like it's been there forever.

12:19 a.m.: We head to a couple of small windows that have iron bars placed over them to prevent access to the roof. This is due to the tragedy that occurred last September when a woman fell to her death from the third floor while trying to jump from one roof to another. They still have not repaired the chicken-wire mesh she fell through.

12:22 a.m.: Helene has us enter a really large, rickety elevator. Ileea and I both find the experience weird as the elevator slowly makes its way down to the basement. However, I am affected the most and become light-headed and dizzy. I am initially relieved when we step out, but then realize that the basement is not much better.

12:30 a.m.: The walls are painted in strange colours (orange, seriously?) and there are plenty of empty rooms, most of which are locked. Helene tests a number of the doors though we can't find one to open. We eventually enter one of the freezers used for eyes in the eye bank. Ileea expresses her disappointment that the eyes have been moved. A large cockroach scuttles across the floor.

12:33 a.m.: We reach room 24. Apparently this room was frightening, but you can no longer enter it. It had a metal chair with straps and the walls were caving in. It would have been a cool sight.

12:40 a.m.: We enter a completely empty basement room that is used to store art supplies. It's dank, mouldy, and dark. We enter a room that has a metal staircase that leads inexplicably to nowhere. We find some beakers and photographs of famous past employees at One Spadina including Amelia Earhart.

12:52 a.m.: After taking the stairs up to the second floor (although I can't be sure) we enter a dark hallway with a strange-looking studio that was the site of Professor David Buller's murder in 2001. The murder remains unsolved. Shadows play around in the moonlight and we then look at a gutted staircase that leads to nowhere. U of T renovated the space a week after Buller's murder. We feel as though we are staring into an infinite abyss.

1:00 a.m.: We end up in a dark hallway that looks like it belongs in a horror movie. It's pitch black except for another light right at the end. Helene suggests I spend the night at One Spadina alone. I've seen and heard enough to definitely not want to.

1:15 a.m.: We re-enter the *Newspaper* office, much to our relief. The rest of the building is so strange and creepy that the *Newspaper* seems to be the one bastion of normalcy in the place.

2:00 a.m.: We all say our goodbyes and I decide to head back to The Varsity office. I will probably be spending the night there and not at One Spadina Crescent.

2:52 a.m.: The strangest moment of the evening. I lose complete track of time as I walk back to the office and see that it's almost 3 a.m., however, it doesn't take that long to get there. I'm probably just tired.

3:30 a.m.: I decide to do another walk around by myself of some of the haunted sites visited earlier. 3 a.m. is usually considered the "witching hour," at which strange things are supposed to happen. However, instead of the pervasive dread I was expecting at Trinity, Soldiers' Tower, and University College, everything seems peaceful and tranquil. However, when I am walking through the Sir Dan's quad on my way back to the Varsity office I think I catch out of the corner of my eye someone walking by in black. I stop and look around a bit, but see no one. I decide I am probably just tired again. It's time to turn in for the night and I am grateful that it's not at One Spadina Crescent.

Neural networking

JORDAN RIVERA *sits down with computer science wiz Ilya Sutskever to talk neural networks, robots, and the trouble with artificial intelligence*

Ilya Sutskever is not a computer geek. He doesn't spend endless hours in front of a computer, and his desktop background is a picture of a sunflower — not an atom. He also isn't as wired as one would initially expect: as a matter of fact, he is one of the few students without a smart phone.

Nevertheless, Sutskever is nothing short of a computer wiz. As a graduate student at the University of Toronto's Department of Computer Science, he is the only Canadian winner of the Google Fellowship, an international prize awarded to graduate students doing exceptional work in computer science and related disciplines.

Walking into Sutskever's office, I find him drawing up a network of connected squares and circles. The meaning of the illustration is simple: the circles represent neurons linked up in a network of inputs and outputs.

Sutskever's area of interest is neural networks, which often involves tasks that humans are not good at, but that computers could potentially excel at. He is quick to point out my naiveté in thinking that neural networks model the human brain: they only are inspired by it, but do not attempt to replicate it.

Sutskever's specific projects have focused on training neural networks and applying them to new settings. Similar to connectionism — a paradigm commonly used to describe human cognition — neural networks use models representing interconnected networks of units. Sutskever's work involves changing the strength of connections between units, which most commonly represent neurons, to achieve a desired performance. The program network is then allowed to run and is examined for any errors. The connections are re-weighed for an input to result in a desired output.

An example Sutskever gives is that of driving: "You can change the strength of the connections slightly, so as to change the direction of the car." More recently, Sutskever has focused on speech from text programs. "You can adjust the weights to better represent the correct speech from the text. We want the program to be able to extract semantic info from sentences, such as who did what, to whom."

I ask if the topic of Sutskever's work can be described as machine learning. "It is not machine learning, but machine performance," he replies unequivocally. The statement underscores a clear and imperative position: his work is not to do with artificial intelligence — at least not yet.

Neural networks at the present time are highly operational in their functionality and narrow focus — whereas AI, by the very nature of its title, has encountered a number of setbacks over the course of its development.



KATRINA PIDEK/THE VARSITY

"The problem with intelligence is that it's slippery, very difficult to define. It's unclear how to proceed, we don't know how to build intelligent machines," says Sutskever. He adds, "No researcher has the explicit goal of achieving artificial intelligence. Instead they focus on tasks involving computer vision, speech, object recognition, planning, and decision-making. Researchers must focus on tractable problems." He mentions, however, that he hopes that "neural networks will eventually lead to smart robots."

What's stopping AI from being achieved sooner? It's not a lack of funding, he assures me, but a "lack of ideas."

"What we need are bigger computers that can handle more data and can train larger neural networks with better training algorithms," says Sutskever. Advancements in robotic intelligence take place sporadically. He describes a recent advancement of note in which "researchers at Stanford University trained a robot to accurately fold napkins," a task involving complex and hierarchical planning.

As a graduate student, Sutskever is himself involved in advanced and innovative research. His current work involves a program that, once fed a set of characters (letters and numbers), can accurately predict subsequent characters. He achieved this by first inputting all of Wikipedia's 16 million articles into the program. The program was then able to extract regularities and other vital information, and update its brain state. The result: the program could predict foreign names as well as invent plausible-sounding foreign names.

Sutskever, originally from the Open University of Israel, completed his B.Sc in mathematics at U of T, and is currently completing his PhD in computer science. His supervisor is Geoffrey Hinton, a world-renowned computer scientist known for his revolutionary work in information theory.

The Google Fellowship includes tuition and fees, a $25,000 yearly stipend, $5,000 toward a personal computer, invitation to Google Fellowship Forum, a new Android phone, and a Google Research Mentor.

As to when the next big advancement in machine intelligence is to take place, Sutskever candidly replies, "Check back with me in six months."

Identity crisis: the case of stegosaurus

Stegosaurus may face changes in nomenclature based on fossil record

Wilson Kwong
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



JING PENG/THE VARSITY

Thanks to fossil discoveries from as early as the mid 1800s, over a thousand dinosaur species have been identified to date. But of all the extinct reptiles documented, most people are probably only familiar with those found in popular culture — including the tyrannosaurus, brontosaurus, stegosaurus, and triceratops.

It may therefore come as a surprise to many that the brontosaurus was actually revoked of its name in 1903. The re-designation occurred when scientists realized that the species had been previously documented under a different name, apatosaurus, at an earlier point in time.

Recently, researchers have suggested that stegosaurus may face a similar fate. In an article published in the *Swiss Journal of Geosciences*, Peter Galton of Yale University indicated a potential discrepancy between the designation of "stegosaurus" and the species of dinosaurs they represent.

But while news sources have been abuzz with talk of stegosaurus's demise in the nomenclature system, the reality is far less substantial. In his original article, Professor Galton proposes that the "type species" of the stegosaurus — which is currently based on the *Stegosaurus stenops* model — should be delegated to a more complete version of another existing fossil, the *Stegosaurus armatus*. This means that the stegosaurus name will not be removed, but rather, that the term be re-designated to a more accurate model of the fossilized creature.

Dr. David Evans, the associate curator for the Royal Ontario Museum and an assistant professor at the University of Toronto, compares this change in nomenclature to our original designation for birds as being creatures with feathers. This designation was later redefined when reptiles — namely dinosaurs — were also found to have sported feathers.

"Many new species are initially defined by fragmented [incomplete] fossils, but over time, it can be shown that these original defining features may actually be much more widely distributed among a broader class of species," says Evans.

The classification of species, known as taxonomy, is often an overly detailed examination of morphological and genetic characteristics and a re-designation such as this is not entirely uncommon.

Professor Galton states that he plans to approach the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature — the agency that regulates the naming of animals — to rectify the designation of stegosaurus with the Stegosaurus armatus type species.

The stegosaurus situation contrasts with that of the brontosaurus, in which the ICZN was forced to rename the entire species based on previous fossilization records. But regardless of the ICZN's final conclusions, the name "brontosaurus" has survived the test of time and continues to be used regularly in everything from children's books to newspapers.

So even if stegosaurus had met the same fate as its troubled cousin, would this change really travel outside of the academic community, where these fine details seem to matter most? Not very likely.



WONDERLAND in space

Aboard the airborne observatory

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



Ever wonder how astronomers account for the strange effects our beloved atmosphere has on their astronomical calculations? If so, climb aboard the Kuiper Airborne Observatory, or KAO, which gained its name no less than 35 years ago. The KAO may resemble an ordinary Lockheed military plane, but with its 36-inch telescope, it is capable of conducting in-depth astronomical analyses.

Unlike earth-bound telescopes, the KAO is capable of reaching altitudes above 98 per cent of the Earth's water vapour. This allows it to conduct analysis on the infrared spectrum, which is typically absorbed by the water vapour in the lower level of our atmosphere.

While budding young astrophysicists may point out that balloon-borne telescopes can readily reach the stratosphere and survey large areas of the sky, the KAO has its advantages. Primarily, the KAO allows for detailed observations using the particular wavelength brightness of young stars. What's more, its eight-hour mission time allows it to travel around the world to capture time-sensitive solar system observations. Most importantly, the scientists are able to fly aboard the KAO, and can therefore avoid mission abortion if the equipment should malfunction.

Among its many scientific discoveries, the KAO assisted in the discovery of Uranus' nine slender rings in 1977 while flying over the Indian Ocean en route from Australia. Its aerial observations also detected water in the thick Jupiterian atmosphere, and the definitive presence of atmosphere around the recently relegated dwarf planet, Pluto.

In terms of elementary discoveries, the KAO was used to analyze the origin and scattering of organic and water molecules between stars, as well as observing the creation of heavy elements such as iron, nickel, and cobalt in the fusion reactions of Supernova 1987A.

The most important of its contributions stem around infrared galactic and star birth analysis, which were virtually unknown prior to the KAO's existence due to the limited access to infrared investigations. In particular, KAO's discovery of the existence and importance of dust in the development of embryonic stars, and subsequent formation of their planetary systems, gave way to planetary formation hypotheses. The KAO was also able to study great infrared emissions not only at the centre of our galaxy, but also those surrounding ours. What's more, while it was never empirically proven, the KAO found evidence of a massive black hole at the center of the Milky Way.

In addition to being of great assistance in conducting scientific discoveries, the KAO's airborne qualities have allowed NASA to conduct gravity-free simulations. By flying at an inclined level, KAO is able to mimic the lack of gravitational force astronauts experience in space.

Over its 20 years of service under the leadership of Carl Gillespie and Jim McClenahan, the KAO completed 1,417 flights, the bulk of them from NASA's Ames Research Center. The KAO was decommissioned in 1995, no longer being deemed flight-worthy. While the KAO's near future most certainly lies in being displayed at Smithsonian Museums, its successor, the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA, recently completed its Open-Door Flight Tests this past August. The installation and testing of the remaining research system will be completed by the end of the year. Once the observatory begins flying infrared science missions, it will fly three to four nights per week, reaching approximately 960 research hours per year.

Continuing on KAO's accomplishments, next week we will immerse ourselves in the wonders of a comet the KAO observed during specialized research projects in 1995. Until then, the night sky awaits your adventures.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Placebo effect increases women's sexual satisfaction

A new study has reported that women with low sex drives obtain greater sexual satisfaction after taking a placebo. The research was conducted by Cindy Meston, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, and Andrea Bradford of the Baylor College of Medicine.

In the study, 200 women aged 35-55 participated in a 12-week clinical trial to test a drug treatment for low sexual arousal. Fifty of these women were given a placebo, and one in three women who took the placebo showed an overall improvement. To measure the effect of the treatment, women were asked to talk to a health provider about their difficulties. They also rated their symptoms of sexual dysfunction, including low sexual desire, low sexual arousal, and problems with orgasm. None of their partners were given any special instructions, and most improvement seemed to happen during the first four weeks.

Participating in the study seemed to make couples feel closer, communicate more, and even act differently towards each other during sexual encounters. Actively trying to find a solution to a sexual problem seems to be part of the solution itself. — ***KIM TRAN***
Source: University of Texas at Austin

Astronomers identify nearby habitable planet

After 11 years of observations, University of California researchers have identified a nearby planet suitable for habitation. The planet orbits the red dwarf star Gliese 581, located 20 light years away from earth. The planet has received the temporary designation "Gliese 581g." While similar planets were found orbiting the star, it is hypothesized that they are on the outskirts of Gliese 581's habitable zone, and would be too hot or too cold to maintain a liquid supply of water, and life formation.

Although possessing liquid water and an atmosphere are important characteristics of a habitable planet, it is not believed to be a place humans would enjoy living in. In contrast to our Earth, 581g is tidally locked to its star, which it orbits in a mere 37 days. This results in one side having perpetual daylight, while the other is in permanent darkness. This peculiar characteristic would make the line between the light and dark side the planet's most habitable zone.

Although it took more than 200 observations to detect, the planet was found relatively quickly. It is also close to our own solar system, suggesting that the number of systems with habitable planets could be larger than initially estimated.
— ***ALEXANDRA I. EREMIA***
Source: World Science

Researchers use epigenome to find 13 genes linked to body mass

Epigenetics is one of the most popular fields in science today. Recently, scientists from Johns Hopkins University have searched epigenomes instead of simply DNA sequences, and have found thirteen genes linked to human body mass.

The epigenome involves key features of DNA, although it is separate from the organism's genetic code. Cells remember epigenetic information, commonly in the form of patterns of DNA methylation — a chemical change in the DNA involving the addition of a methyl group of one carbon and three hydrogen atoms. Methylation patterns can regulate genes insofar as they can decide when genes are to be turned on or off.

Researchers used DNA samples from Icelanders' white blood cells to search for methyl groups. They found 13 regions associated with methylation as well as body mass. A high body mass index can result in conditions like heart disease and obesity. Thus, while this epigenetic strategy is an unconventional one in terms of identifying people who are at risk for disease, it appears promising. — ***CRISTINA OLTEANU***
Source: Johns Hopkins Medicine

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

High fructose corn syrup!

High fructose corn syrup, also referred to as isoglucose, maize syrup, or glucose-fructose, is found throughout our food system. Whether it is in cereals or yogurt, lunch meat or condiments, you're bound to consume HFCS on a daily basis.

HFCS was invented by a French chemist in 1811, in response to Napoleon's 100,000 franc reward for anyone who could produce sugar locally. The imperial decree resulted from a blockade that prevented French traders from accessing the West Indian sugarcane, along with France's unwillingness to patronize the British sugar companies. The crippling economic toll that this had on the West Indies is still felt today.

A century and a half after its invention, HFCS came to dominate the North American food system for similar reasons. High tariffs on imported sugar in the 1970s prompted corn subsidies, which enabled HFCS to be an economical alternative.

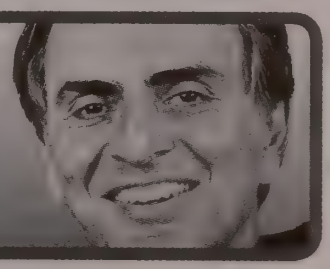
Soft drinks, which have contained HFCS since the 1980s, have come a long way since their origin in the 1700s, when they were made with honey. Interestingly, not all countries worldwide use HFCS in their soft drinks. For this reason, Mexican Coca-Cola is a rare treat sought after by enthusiasts who prefer the taste of sucrose, which is derived from cane sugar.

HFCS is often discussed in the media, and there is much speculation regarding potentially adverse health effects. Considering that HFCS resembles sugar from a chemical standpoint, it is understandable that it is not healthy for you. Like sugar, its consumption should also be kept to a minimum.

A considerable amount of research has been dedicated to investigating whether HFCS is less healthy than sugar. With regards to their negative effects on obesity and blood-glucose levels, HFCS and sugar are nearly identical. However, HFCS is metabolized differently from sugar, and can promote abnormal lipid patterns. Studies have shown that unlike regular sugar, it may increase low-density lipoproteins, or bad cholesterol. It also produces the byproduct uric acid, which indirectly increases blood pressure and affects the functioning of the blood vessel wall.

Nevertheless, while the 10 teaspoons of HFCS in every can of pop are potentially a point of concern, the "diet" alternatives are not necessarily better. Next week, we'll look at the story behind artificial sweeteners. Until then, bon appétit!

Carl Sagan says: If you want to bake a pie from scratch, you must first write for Science at The Varsity.
science@thevarsity.ca



arts' arts

spooky edition

The Walls of Christie Mansion

Emily Kellogg

She strikes me with a closed, trembling fist — pounding at unforgiving wood — and finally recoils into my corner. I embrace her with solid wood panels. She closes her eyes and whispers to him, muttering his name, as though it were an incantation invoked by her tears. He built me to house her and to keep her. I was built for that purpose, and for that purpose I will remain. She nestles against me, her ear pressed hard against the coolness of my structure and listens for the faintest murmurings of him. She listens, frantic for the smallest of signs that she has not been forgotten, sequestered as she is; the neglected lover trapped in the bowels of a mansion.

"Well Laura, I should warn you, this place has..." Erica breaks off. "Well, it has character." Erica has eyes so large I feel like I could lose myself in them. Her head of long, pale hair is silhouetted by the mansion of brick and stone that is to be my new home.

Erica is the don of my new residence. She is beautiful, but her movements are awkwardly staggered. Bent over herself, she walks with a limp that sends tendrils of her cape-like cardigan and flowing white scarf billowing around lean and stockinged legs. She grins at me almost manically, and cuts through the still air with an exaggerated gesture of welcome. For a moment, she looks as though she is choking on air.

I hesitate. The awe of such a building overwhelms me. The brick-laid mansion is somehow dark, even in the glaring early-September sunlight. The light of midday seems to refract off of the stately porte-cochere and crow-stepped parapet gables, driving searing light straight into the pale blue of my irises. I stumble after Erica, unsure if the dread gnawing at the bottom of my stomach is from nerves; unsure if the blurriness in my vision is the result of midday sunlight or the unwillingness of the mind to comprehend the first sight of something which is to engulf you.

"We're putting you in room twenty," she calls, her voice scratching out, stale, through her lungs. And as I catch up to her, lingering in front of a solid oak door, she winks at me conspiratorially and says, "Everyone is so excited that you're here. And, well," she grins an awkward unpracticed grin that threatens to split her doe-like face in two, "don't worry if you hear noises in the night. It's an old house. Robert Christie built it in 1900, he was quite... affluent then, you know. It's had its fair share of scandal, these walls," she pauses at the doorway and pounds her hand firmly on brick, "but the only ghosts here now are memories."

She leads me through the entrance, and up a spiralling staircase. Light streams in through an arced glass dome, and though I have the fleeting sensation of ascending to heaven, I am inexplicably cold. We walk down a grandiose hall, packed with gleaming portraits and wood. I find, to my surprise, that I am shivering.

Erica leaves me at the threshold of my room.

"Well, settle in. Dinner is at seven in the dining room. You can meet the other girls then."

I heave a sigh and I slam the door. I pause for a moment — I can just make out the sound of knocking from somewhere down the hall. Instead of investigating, I just shake my head.

She is asleep, curled up on the edge of a red Persian rug. The candles scattered about the room flicker, casting shadows across her face. She twitches and the soft touch of her arm flickers across my surface, in and out of contact. Her touch is as light as dust.

And the floorboards tremble, reverberating through my foundation. He is coming. He is coming for her.



"I had the dream again." The words stutter through clenched teeth. I'm focusing on the simple act of drinking coffee out of a white porcelain mug.

"Did you now?" Erica laughs unexpectedly. The sound is hysterically high-pitched in the empty dining room. I can't bear to look at her face and so I fix my gaze out the window and into the park across the way. Things seem so much brighter out there, but everyday, as the leaves change from green to gold, I find it harder and harder to venture out of doors.

I force myself to swallow. "Yes. But this time, there was a door. It was open, somehow. There was never a door before. It was always windowless. Doorless. As though nothing existed outside of its walls.

"-a-and I could have left. I could have left the room behind — but I didn't. I was trapped, even with the exit right there in front of me. Because, it was as if... it was as if there was something that I couldn't leave behind. As if, something had this hold on me, and I just knew, I knew that if I left — things outside of that room would be unbearable. I would fall apart; cease to exist. And then I woke to this pounding, this incessant pounding from down the hall. Only, as soon as I left my room, it wasn't there."

Erica looks at me intently, and only then do I notice that her eyes are precisely the color of frozen mud.

"Was there anyone else in the room with you?"

I'm taken aback by the sharpness in her voice.

"Well, no. I'm alone. In the dream, I've always been alone." And even I can hear that my voice is trembling.

Her face changes as I look at her, recomposing itself, one muscle at a time, into a façade of ease. "You know, Laura, I wouldn't worry about such things. Look outside, it's a wonderful day. Why don't you tell me about that boy you mentioned? That dashing boy from the party?"

I blush. "Oh. Well, his name is Robert."

"Robert, did you say?" Her voice is decidedly gay.

He slides open the door hidden in my paneling. She wakes, as she does at the slightest hint of a sound and quickly rises to greet him, unwinding her wiry collection of limbs and bones and launching herself at him. He pushes her against me, and she murmurs, "Robert, Robert, where have you been?" He doesn't answer, and every edge of her vertebrae presses into me. His eyes flicker from beneath a jagged edge of brow bone. He is looking past me, out of this room.

He pushes away from her and she tries to follow, prowling around the room; a cat, ready to pounce, ready to claw, ready to take.

"I don't want you here anymore," he finally says; the rumblings of his voice echo from my corners. "You need to leave,"

And she shrieks, and the shrieks hit me like an axe.

"But you wanted me — you ordered me — you wanted no other eyes to touch me. Is it her? Is it your wife? I haven't seen you, anyone, in weeks."

He's already on his way out of my room, her prison. I was constructed with the house; a secret room, to hide his mistress. He looks over his shoulder: "I expect you gone in the morning."

"Did you hear that? Did you hear the screaming?" I'm shaking Robert awake.

He wakes with a start, and in the moment he sits up, and, upon seeing my panicked face, embraces me, I know that I have never loved anything before, and I will never love anything more. For a singular moment, I lament that I haven't left him sleeping. I could spend my life watching the perfect heaving of his chest, studying the lines of his angular face. But then, on comes the dread, and it's pulsing in the pit of my stomach.

"Laura, it's alright, nobody is screaming," he says evenly, and moonlight washes over his face. I look away from him into the pallid blackness outside washing over the snow on the ground. He's still talking, but I can't hear him. Instead, I listen to the mansion, but all I hear are echoes. They are in the shadows. They are in the walls. I wonder if I'm still dreaming, but I can hear my pulse roaring in my ears. And beneath the pounding of my heart are the whispers and echoes in the shadows, they are demanding, and I know that I can't stay here; this room was not built for me.

I get up without speaking, slipping from between the sheets of our bed. I walk into the hallway, and my feet make no noise. I am become as light and inconsequential as dust. And there is only this hallway. There has never been anything more or anything less. There is only this hallway leading to this room, the long shadows cast by candlelight spilling out of an open patch of wall, and the phantom screams of something that sounds like it's coming from across an impenetrable distance with the wind.

I am in the room, and the walls are crawling with a face. The shrieking is unbearable. It hacks at me like an axe, and I crumble, sinking to the floor. The walls shriek with the pain of isolation; of something so intensely wanted but never had. The shrieks of a girl turned into a woman, turned into sheer unconsummated passion.

I am on the floor, my knees digging into a dusty, red Persian rug. I look up, and there she is, there is Erica, swinging from a bedpost. In this dim, candlelit room, the bed-sheet noose tied around her neck looks like a flowing, white scarf. The tendrils of her nightgown swirl around skinny ankles. She hangs, weightless, and suddenly she turns, her face blank and docile, her eyes so large that I could lose myself in them. She opens her pale mouth, and the shrieking of the walls stops as she speaks:

I am the mistress banished to a bed. He imprisoned me here, forever, the night he whispered that he loved me. When he told me I was his. He said he couldn't leave his wife, but he wanted me where he could always have me. But he could always have me; he never had me. I spent two years of my life waiting for him to come back to our bed.

The door slams shut behind me. I turn, and there is Robert. Pieces of him are changing, and the youth becomes the long dead. He doesn't seem to see the corpse; he is staring at me instead. His eyes are cast in shadow, and he advances towards me as he says:

Stay here. Stay here for me. I will love you until the end.

I look back at the corpse for a moment. Her contorted face looks almost blissful in the candlelight as she goes silent once again.

"Alright, Robert," I whisper. "Alright, Robert, I'm yours."

The butler returns in the morning to clean out the remnants of the room. He finds Erica swinging, and the look of surprise on his face is gone too soon. By early afternoon her body is gone, but my job — it does not end.

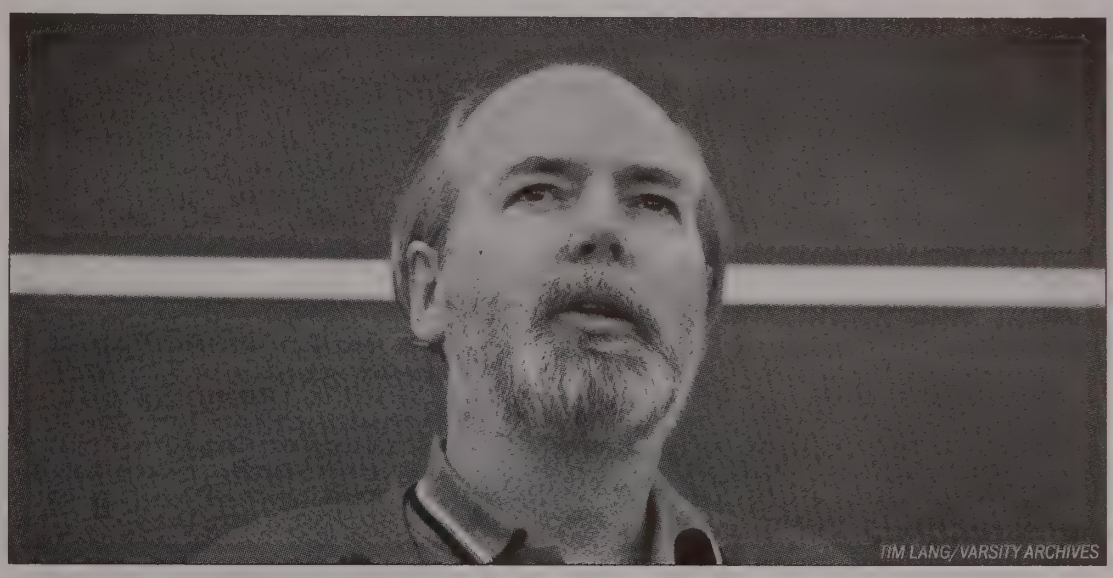
I was built to contain her. Four walls, to always keep her in; for her, for her, and for him.

photograph by Laura Kathleen Maize

Q&A with Douglas Coupland

What happens when the Generation X icon does an e-mail interview? Spoiler: smiley face emoticons will ensue.

Brigit Katz
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR


TIM LANG/VARSITY ARCHIVES

THE VARSITY: *I'm sure you're sick of being asked questions about* Generation X. *But if you'll indulge me, I'll get this one out of the way. Your novel defined Generation X, your own generation, as one plagued by boredom and disaffection.*

DOUGLAS COUPLAND: Not the generation, just the characters in the book. And the characters were never bored, in fact they enjoyed being alive. But they were indeed disaffected.

TV: *Do you still feel that way about your generation, or do you think it has evolved over the years?*

DC: I don't feel as if I belong or belonged to any generation. Really truly. So I don't think the question is answerable coming from me.

TV: *Many of your novels emphasize the importance of storytelling in an increasingly digital world.*

DC: It's been a theme that has emerged, partially unwittingly, over the past two decades. It became blazingly clear with *Generation A*.

TV: *Is this why you chose to write your Massey Lectures in the form of a novel?*

DC: No.

TV: *Why did you decide to present your lectures in this way?*

DC: I originally wanted to present a "Dictionary of Doug"... some of my more enthusiastic readers (listed at the start of the book) helped out. They each took one book and culled it for anything aphoristic or crystalline. They then got together and arranged it all by subject. It was 425 pages. And once I read it, I knew there was no way I could do something purely indexical. And so I decided to exploit the subversive capacity of fiction to pull readers through what is actually a huge list of ideas and notions that, in the end, create a condensed version of two decades of my thinking, much of which, while slightly apocalyptic in nature, seems to be playing itself out in the culture right now.

TV: *Did you approach the writing of* Player One *differently because you intended it to be presented in a lecture format?*

DC: I went to art school, and I'm not joking when I say I've never been to a lecture before. I went to Wade [Davis'] Massey last year and it was awesome. But it's not what I do. Also, don't forget that the lectures are also a performance of sorts. It's not just me or whoever up there reading. There's an intimacy that develops that you don't find in a 300 level lit. class.

TV: Player One *is set during a kind of apocalypse, which is a topic that you explore in many of your novels. Do you think that as a culture, we're fascinated by the possibility of our own extinction?*

DC: We always have been, but it's also emotionally draining and hard work to do so — which means it's a semi-taboo.

TV: *In your op-ed "A Dictionary for the Near Future," you discuss what you call "Airport Induced Sensitivity Dysphoria." Did this loss of identity that one experiences in an airport influence your decision to write* Player One *from the perspective of four people trapped in an airport lounge?*

DC: Both loss of identity coupled with disinhibition. People will tell you the most amazingly intimate things in an airport lounge precisely because they know they'll never see you again and because airports really do remove you from yourself. It's why cults and religions target airports; travelers are vulnerable and they don't even know it.

TV: *The full title of your novel is* Player One: What is to Become of us. *"What is to become of Us" — it's not a question. Do you believe that we're heading towards a global crisis?*

DC: Absolutely. Not even if — when. You most likely weren't around for the 1973 Oil Shock. The world stopped. The economy stopped. Time stopped. It was terrifying. And if it happened back then, it'll certainly happen again. And it doesn't even have to be oil. Look what one dinky volcano did to European travel. Or look what happened on 9/11.

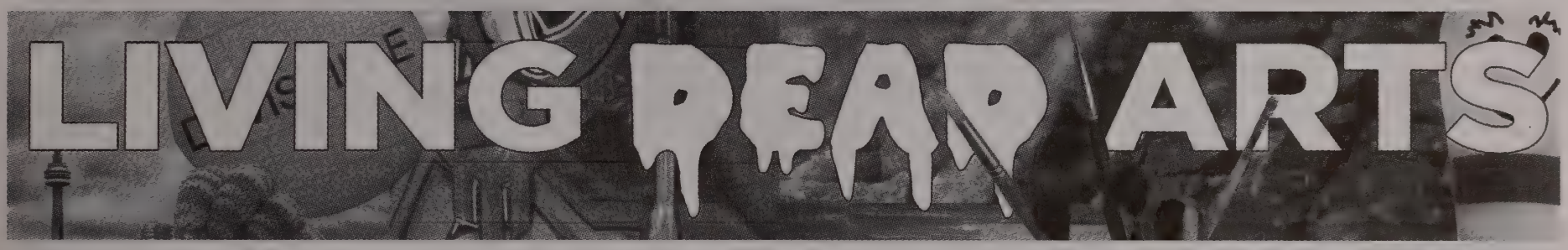
TV: *I asked that question because so many of the predictions that you have made in your novels about contemporary society have come true. Do you ever intentionally try to predict our socio-cultural direction?*

DC: No. I think if you do that as a conscious act, you won't end up with anything new. My goal is always to look at things that are so obvious as to be tacitly considered not worth investigating. Time. Disposable Culture. Pop Culture.

TV: *I thought I would end the interview with something a little more lighthearted.*

DC: No! Depress the shit out of everyone! Aren't you sick of everyone being nicey-nicey all the time? **:)** (note the happy face emoticon which renders the statement preceding it possibly ironic.)

The 2010 Massey Lecture: Douglas Coupland will take place at Massey Hall, October 25 at 8 p.m.



When's the last time you tried something new? **ALEX NURSALL** *marches with the legions of the living dead — and manages to take herself seriously as she screams for "BRAINS!!!"*

I am standing in my kitchen, covered in a thin layer of latex and blood, sautéing chicken hearts in a pan. I have this niggling feeling that this is not a normal way to spend a Saturday afternoon, but I'm trying to get myself into character for my attempt to brave the Toronto Zombie Walk.

I'll admit this now: I'm not a zombie fan. Hell, I'm not even that good with horror movies. The scariest thing I can handle is *Friday the 13th VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan*, and even then I find myself peeking out between my fingers at scenes where the make-up guy's hand can be seen darting in to reapply ketchup to a screaming extra. Nonetheless, I've never been terribly interested in smearing myself in Karo Syrup and wandering around downtown, screaming at passers-by, or at least, not while sober.

But here I am, biking down Dundas with a face covered in fake latex and sticky blood. 'Huh,' I can't help but think, 'this must be what a condom feels like.' I pass by a car where a zombie bride and groom are exiting. They look at me. Wait, how do zombies greet each other? I wave at them. "Brains!" I yell cheerfully. "Uh... brains?" They smile. Success! I'm slowly being accepted. This is so much easier than high school.


ALEX NURSALL/ THE VARSITY

A few days beforehand, I get the chance to speak to Thea Munster, the creator of the zombie walk. In 2003, she threw up some posters around the city hoping to get some people in on a zombie walk, which ended up bringing in a whopping total of six people. Somehow, I feel like seeing only seven zombies would be mildly terrifying, just because no one had tried to stop them yet. She confirms this thought: "The first walk was on a grey and gloomy day a week before Halloween. The streets were dead, literally. For a small handful of zombies we made a lot of noise. People out for a Sunday stroll would hear the moaning and dragging of limbs, turn around and then quickly take off. I think it was a pretty scary experience for some unsuspecting passers by."

The walk grew in size each year, with her expecting almost 8,000 people to come out this Saturday.

"So uh, why zombies? Is it because *Twilight* ruined vampires, or because mummies have yet to be cool again?"

Thea responds in an email, "I like all monsters, but for me zombies are social creatures. Alone, they are powerless. But when a zombie is in a horde, it's powerful. I like the idea of individually styled monsters who works together in groups for a common goal: to devour the flesh of the living. [Also], a lot of horror fans may be upset with me, but I would argue that mummies fit under the zombie umbrella."

On the day of the walk, coming over the ridge at Trinity Bellwoods with a toe tag pinned jauntily to my backpack, and I am suddenly faced by a horde of zombies. Thousands of people are crushed together in the grassy bowl, and as I weave my way through the crowd, I am soon covered in a fine mist of red goo and Spirit Gum. People have really gone all out for this, and my costume pales in comparison. A little fake skin here, a little neck gash there, and bam, I'm a zombie with an expensive camera around my neck. I have no theme or catch, so in comparison to some of the more detail-oriented zombies, I look like somewhat of a novice. I'll probably get the last serving of brains and not get picked to go do the team slaughter of innocents or something. A guy with a whisk sticking out of his short walks by me and growls.

SEE **'ZOMBIE WALK'** – PG 20

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / NICOLE KRAUSS



The Varsity's **EMILY KELLOGG** *sits down with best-selling author of* The History of Love, *Nicole Krauss, to talk the craft of writing, professional pressure, and her latest novel,* Great House

After Nicole Krauss published an excerpt of her 2005 novel, *The History of Love*, in *The New Yorker* in 2004, she almost instantly found publishers locked in a bidding war for the right to publish her completed work. A sophomore novelist at the time, Krauss has since wracked up an auspicious resume of awards, including being shortlisted for the Orange Prize in 2006. Her latest novel, *Great House*, was released on October 12, and was named a finalist for National Book Award in fiction the next day.

Sitting down with Krauss at a coffee shop patio next to Queen's Quay, the 36-year old mother is surprisingly soft-spoken for an author with such an impressive resume.

THE VARSITY: *I wanted to start out by talking about your most recent novel,* Great House. *In wake of the success of* The History of Love, *was it difficult to write? Did you ever feel like you had to live up to the hype?*

NICOLE KRAUSS: No, I didn't actually feel too much pressure because of the success of the last book. But, I suppose that I have enough of my own internal pressures, that I hardly need anyone else's to add to that. the scope of the audience of *The History of Love* came as a real surprise to me, and its something that I am still amazed by and feel deeply grateful for. But, at the end of the day, it hasn't changed my ambitions as a writer.

TV: *What are your ambitions as a writer?*

NK: To remain true to my own instincts and intuitions, and to write the book that I'm meant to write, whether or not it will find as many readers as *The History of Love*.

TV: *It seems to me that a theme running throughout your three novels is that of immigration. What drew you to this subject?*

NK: I don't actually think that I write about immigration, per say. I do feel that a consistent subject through all three of my novels has been the idea of our human response to catastrophic loss. In the case of my first novel, *Man Walks into a Room*, the protagonist loses most of his memories, and he only has his childhood memories left. From there, he still has to create a coherent sense of self. This question of how we re-imagine ourselves in face of large loss and trauma is really the coherent theme in my three novels.

TV: *Is this trauma universal? Is there a common thread of experience, even when your characters often come from diverse backgrounds?*

NK: I think that it's native to us as human beings to transcend our isolation and our solitude that we're all born into, to some degree. I think we all have a need to express oneself to another, and to feel that one is seen and understood by the other, it's really just a fundamental longing that we have as people. I do tend to gravitate towards writing characters whose isolation is somewhat pronounced, but none of the characters I've ever written have been satisfied with that condition. And I'm not interested, ultimately, in dwelling in solitude and its various discontents, I'm interested in the struggle to transcend that.

TV: *I noticed that you dedicated* The History of Love *to your grandparents. Was the novel colored by their experiences? Do they make an appearance in the novel?*

NK: No, not inspired by them, and they didn't appear in the book. *The History of Love* had a main character named Leo Gursky, he was an old man, and people often ask me if that man is my grandfather, but he's nothing like my grandfather. If anything, he's very much like myself. At the same time, my grandparents were all born in Europe, and all were forced to leave the places that they were born. They were all Jewish, of course, in the Second World War, so fled from the tremendously destructive things that came with it.

In many cases, my grandparents could never return to those places where they were born, because they didn't exist anymore. I think the sense of how one starts a second life and the idea of reinvention, through their experience and the way in which it was passed down to me has something to do with my interest in that.

TV: *You started your career as a writer in poetry. Why did you decide to write a novel?*

NK: In a way it was a kind of accident because I only started writing my first novel as an exercise to inform my poetry. I wanted to find the freedom in my work that I felt that I had lost. I was twenty-five at the time and I had been writing poetry since I was fifteen. Various things along the way various mentors along the way who had tremendous influence on me, and I think ultimately led me to a place where I felt somewhat trapped in my own work. I had no intention of becoming a novelist, but then I started to write.

TV: *And you were successful.* The History of Love *was first published as an excerpt in* The New Yorker, *and publishers actually started to bid on the book before you completed it. What was that like? Were you overwhelmed?*

NK: Until the moment it was published [in *The New Yorker*] almost no one had seen what I was working on. I had about two thirds of the novel completed. My agent, who was one of the very, very first people who read it I remember being so nervous about showing it to anyone and I was really emotional about it, because I had no conviction at all that this was going to be a book that was would find readers. I mean, it was the one that I wanted to write. But she had a very strong response to it, and she showed it to *The New Yorker* who also had a very strong response to it, very quickly it was in the pages of that magazine. But yes, in my head I had to filter out all of that [the positive responses] in order to finish the book to satisfy myself.

TV: *What is your process like as a novelist? Do you always know where your writing is going?*

NK: [laughs] Oh God, just the opposite. I don't map anything out. I have no plan. I take no notes. I have no idea, really no sense of the characters at first. In the case [of *Great House*], I wrote out four stories they were almost confessions or monologues and I wanted to write them all. I felt very sure though, I also felt deep anxiety that if I stayed with them long enough and stayed with my intuitions the novel would create itself. This uncertainty that I hold myself to, I do it not because I want to live in a constant state of anxiety, but because I find that it's a way for me to discover things I wouldn't ever otherwise discover, a way to find myself into unknown territory, to be thrown off balance and arrive at places I wouldn't have otherwise.

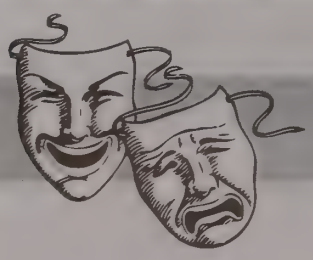
TV: *Your last two novels,* Great House *and* The History of Love *were written largely in first person, why do you prefer this point of view?*

NK: My first novel, *Man Walks into a Room*, had a prologue and epilogue that was first person, and the rest was third-person. But I guess I've written less and less of that. *Great House* had no third-person at all. I like writing close to the bone emotionally and I find that first-person allows me to do that in the way that there's no middle-man of the authoritative presence of third-person between the reader and the writer. I like all of my writing to have a sense of great exposure and intimacy.

TV: *We've been speaking a lot about the idea of identity, and your fascination of the idea of identity without place. How do you consider your own identity? Do you relate it to a place?*

NK: I don't really think about it in that direct of way. The fact that my family is from so many places my mom grew up in London, my dad grew up in Israel and the fact that I was born an American; I mean, I could have been born in so many other places. In this sense, the idea of home has always been a somewhat elusive idea for me, and I think in writing novels, I've made an effort to make my own sense of home in the world: here's a place where everything has meaning, in the novels that I write.

This longing for the creation of the abstract place that's mine is really at the heart of my work.



Campus Stage

Leonce and Lena

19th Century German classic? Robot Costumes? Trinity College Drama Society's latest production has it all

Ariel Lewis
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

"The play has not started yet," Leonce assures us when he walks on stage after some pre-show schmoozing with the audience. He checks behind the curtain to see how the actors are doing. "I decide when the play begins, and it hasn't."

This meta-satire is an appropriate beginning for the bizarre, sarcastic and goofy two hours that will soon unfold. When the play "officially begins" Leonce lies on a bench contemplating his boredom and dissatisfaction with life. He is soon greeted by a man named Tutor, who is inexplicably dressed in drag. After inflicting his woeful philosophy onto Tutor, Leonce decides to engage him in a spitting contest. With this surreal absurdity and silly-natured fun that distinguishes the night's production, the only warning that I'll give about the Trinity College Dramatic Society's of *Leonce and Lena* is, well — avoid sitting in the right front row.

The play tells the tale of a self-pitying prince, Leonce, soon to be wed to a princess he's never met, Lena. Joined by his insightful yet rarely sober friend Valerio, Leonce runs away to Italy to escape the tragic fate of loveless monogamy. Meanwhile the airy, idealistic princess Lena shares a similar pre-marital crisis and too decides to escape to Europe to have her own adventure, perhaps to find love in Italy? Oh, but how the irony potential is brimming.

In his directorial debut, Chris Pugh's *Leonce and Lena* is half classic, half student-written. Translated from the German play of the same name, the play was originally written by Georg Büchner as a parody of Shakespearean comedies. While much of the script is a direct translation from the German original, Pugh wrote in some modifications to accommodate for the abundance of German puns that don't quite translate into English. Skipping the German wordplay in favor of some dry sarcastic dialogue, Pugh's play is full of self-mocking wit and bite.

The only warning that I'll give about Leonce and Lena is, well — avoid sitting in the right front row.

The play requires sharpened tongues and quick witted banter to pull off the comedic timing of the satire, and the TCDS cast does not disappoint. The actors portray amiable characters and work together to create a playful, magnetic atmosphere. A significant portion of the play involves audience interaction and self-aware mockery, and the cast execute with impeccable timing.

Notable performances come from the two leads, Kashtin Fitzsimons (Leonce) and Holly Easton (Lena). Fitzsimons offers a charismatic performance that, while rich with comedic sensibilities, also offers a meaningful portrayal of a young man lost in the philosophical turmoil of youth. Easton's performance as the dreamy, somewhat hyper-active princess is executed with perfect joviality. Steven Conway's performance as Valerio, Leonce's drunken companion, also deserves mention, as his character was a constant source of slapstick hilarity throughout the show.

A truly shining performance of the evening was that of Duncan Derry, who plays the King and father of Leonce. The king is an eccentric character, often forgetful and absentminded — at one moment, even oblivious to wearing clothing. Melodramatic and nonsensical in his speech, Derry's excellent portrayal of the outlandish character supplies much of the absurdity that is so prominent in the evening's tone.

His eccentric character is appropriately dressed in flamboyant attire, much like the rest of the cast. The costumes are dazzling, from elegant wedding dresses to (appropriately) gaudy pieces for the King and his cross-dressing citizens, the outlandishness of the latter pieces nicely contrasting to the simplicity of the other set. Through the entire performance, nothing more extravagant than a bed is offered for a prop, and the backdrop mainly consists of two ivy covered walls. Pugh effectively intertwines the theme of a meta-narrative with his set changes to take the audience seamlessly through each scene.

Pugh's play is not only a diamond in the rough when it comes to student-interpreted plays, but brings to life a 19th-century German classic that may have since been largely forgotten. This production no doubt differs from its original debut, but Pugh's interpretations and alterations serve it well and the play is undoubtedly worth going to see. After all, who could resist a satirical love tale set in a fantastical land that features robot costumes?

"Auto-tune All Ships"

Despite critical disdain, Abandon All Ships has managed to carve out a musical niche for themselves with their particular variety of screamo-Guido hardcore rock. The Varsity investigates.

J.P. Kaczur
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Over the years, The Opera House has been a pit-stop for many bands like Nirvana and Alexisonfire, and the venue is on its way to graduating from the ranks of grimy all-ages clubs and into the legitimacy of theatre tours. It's raining hard on my way to the venue. As I arrive, I notice a line around the block of kids who are unfazed by the thought that the weather might ruin their stupid haircuts. The kids are here tonight to see Abandon All Ships, southern Ontario's latest contribution to the screamo canon.

The band claims to "hail from Toronto's club district," but their audience shares nothing with the GTL set. The band's music is a dichotomy of sound, blending standard metal riffs with Euro-style synths and T-Pain-style auto-tuning. The bizarre confluence of influences is no doubt shaped by their hometown, and their allegiance to their Italian heritage. With an Italian-Canadian population of almost 500,000 in the GTA, the Golden Horsheshoe scene that has produced some of screamo's most successful acts (most notably Alexisonfire and Silverstein), it's hard to imagine them coming from anywhere else.

As the band hits the stage, vocalist Angelo Aita is charismatic. The drinking section had to be reduced to make room for the under-19 market the band has cornered. As AAS (as they are known to their fans) hit the stage, the over-capacity crowd is fist-pumping in unison — without the slightest bit of irony — chanting the band's intro hook louder than the six guys on stage possibly could. I survey the crowd and there isn't a juicehead or a "Situation" anywhere. Nonetheless, the band has ingratiated themselves. Abandon All Ships are at the right place, at the right time.

* * *

I meet with Aita and the band's heartthrob, Martin Broda, at the Starbucks across from Muchmusic. Aita, the gruff screamer, raves about the new record and how "dark" it is while Broda, his melodic counterpart, gushes about his earliest memories of being inspired to be in a band (via Blink-182 videos on Much Music). Broda — whose last name means "beard" in Polish — has achieved heartthrob status, with Facebook groups popping up like "Broda Not Bieber Fever." Bieber is a fitting rival, since Broda seems to be able to grow approximately as much facial hair as his teen-idol counterpart.

The band has a strong relationship with MuchMusic from their time on the glorified gong show *Disband*. For most bands, their time on the show climaxes with the judges squashing their musical hopes forever, but AAS managed to parlay their appearance into a record deal with star making indie label Underground Operations as well as extra financial backing from the biggest label in Canada, Universal. Underground putting their resources behind a burgeoning metal band isn't newsworthy, but the band is certainly a bizarre choice for Universal. Traditionally, major labels in Canada have shied away from niche bands, but Dan Hand, assistant manager at Underground, notes that "the people at Universal 100 per cent support the band. In today's industry you have to focus on careers, and not just one-hit wonders." Hard to argue, considering the band's first full-length debuted at 27 on the Canadian Billboard

SEE 'ALL SHIPS' – PG 20



WITH 100+ GRADUATE PROGRAMS,
CARLETON HAS A PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

Carleton University offers more than 100 graduate programs for you to choose from:

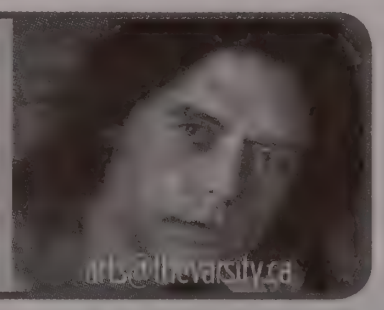
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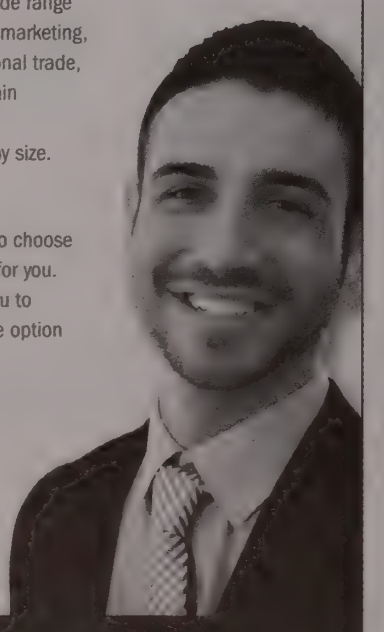
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'ZOMBIE WALK' – CONTINUED FROM PG 17

"Uh... uh... brains?" I stutter. "Yeah, uh... brains." He is unmoved. I turn around to see the lead singer from GWAR onstage with a t-shirt covering his giant fake penis. Wait, what? He tosses a head into the crowd and declares the parade open. Onward, zombie brethren! Let us destroy the bourgeois an — wait, that's communists.

Part of what intrigues me the most is the creativity of some of the costumes. There are a fair number of run-of-the-mill zombies, asking for brains and whatnot, but within the first ten minutes of being there I find a zombie cow, zombie Snooki, zombie baby Spiderman, zombie Sailor Mini Moon, and about fifteen zombie Lady Gagas, all of whom are in different costumes from various videos. Do these people call each other in advance and plan this out?

We start heading down Dundas as a slow, shuffling mass, and I can't help but feel... well, kind of stupid. I have yet to get into the mindset, and working my way around the crowd I realize that I can barely get a shot in edgewise thanks to the other 500 photographers lining the road. Suddenly, I have an idea. I edge back into the horde and turn my camera towards the mass of photographers.

"CHEESE," I growl at the crowd. "CHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESE." People seem amused by the zombie photographer. "Uh... FIIIIIIIIILM. SAAAAAY CHEEEEEEEEESE."

The giggling of the crowd helps me to get into it a little more, as I feel my body start to slip into a limp and my left leg starts to drag. Throwing inhibitions (and possibly my dignity) to the wind, I start to relish in my newfound zombie persona. "CHEEEEEEEESE," I moan. "CHEEEEEEEEEEESE... uh... BRAINS. NO WAIT, CHEEEEEEEESE."

I get more into it as time goes on, waving my camera in the faces of the spectators, but the walk starts to really drag out by the time we get onto Bathurst. Starving, I pull a sandwich out of my bag. It's squished as hell, but all this talk of internal organs has now made me mildly hungry, and it's been awhile since those chicken hearts. A couple zombie soldiers look at my sandwich and me. I brandish it at them, "HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAM."

It starts to rain, and I can feel the fake blood start to run down my chest. I jog home, kick open the door, and am immediately greeted by, "Hey Al-OH MY GOD WHAT IN THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?"

Wiping fake blood out of my eyes, I say only one word: "Varsity."

"Oh god, I should've known," says my boyfriend. "Can't you report on normal things that don't require you covering the entire bathroom in putty and latex?"

'ALL SHIPS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 19

charts and the band has been rumored to have received a six-figure advance which, by today's standards, is unheard of.

Beyond their fan base's reverence, the band's polarizing sound hasn't been well received. Local critics hate them, with *Eye Weekly*'s Dave Morris referring to them as "painfully oblivious." Message boards mock them, referring to the band as "Auto-tune All Ships."

The band, however, is completely indifferent toward the criticism, curtly responding with a simple "fuck 'em." But the band's long time producer, Anthony Calabaretta, is more candid and confused by the vitriol: "We don't use (autotune) to correct vocals — that's the biggest misconception. Ninety per cent of vocals on records in the world have auto-tune on it; just because you can't hear it doesn't mean it isn't there. Martin's a great singer — we just use it as an effect. Just shows how little people understand the recording process."

* * *

The band is on their way to premiere their new video for the track "Megawacko." The song is one of their oldest, having appeared on their original self-titled EP. I inquire whether the song went through any changes: "It's more structured [and we] added a chorus," Broda says nonchalantly, not worried the scene police might be listening.

For a band that came out of a scene obsessed with the idea of selling out, they are unusually cavalier and comfortable with all the trappings of rock "stardom." They've managed to sign to a major label, star on a reality show and openly discuss adding a "chorus" to previously recorded material. The band hasn't even shied away from the *Jersey Shore* references, with shoutouts to Pauly D and references to the show's popular one-liners on their t-shirts. I ask Aita what's next for a band that has clearly found themselves riding a wave.

"The guido thing will fade," says Anita. "But I'm not worried. We aren't a gimmick band."

Abandon All Ships plays The Phoenix Concert Hall on October 27th.

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Fuzion Malbec Shiraz (2009)
$7.75 at the LCBO

Crying is the last thing you'll be doing when you try the Fuzion Malbec Shiraz from Argentina. When this wine's predecessor was released, it briefly became the top selling wine at the LCBO. A $20 wine with a $7.75 price tag, this Shiraz is peppery with an oaky finish. Some might also taste dark fruits.

I'm the first to admit Shiraz isn't for everyone – I'm not the biggest fan of the sometimes harsh, peppery finish (the lousy house wine at Pauper's Pub is a Shiraz). Fuzion is different. Especially for the price, you cannot go wrong. Fuzion also makes a fantastic rose and white, which should also make it into your wine box the next time you're at the store. Not needing to be chilled, this wine is great for any social occasion. A failsafe beverage, buy a case of Fuzion to reduce the pesky Friday night runs to the LCBO before it closes. Eva Perón has nothing on this!

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There's no place like home

The Varsity Blues field hockey team wasn't slated for one home game this season



The Varsity Blues field hockey team didn't play one regular season game in Varsity Stadium this year. *REMI CARREIRO/THE VARSITY*

Roberta Bell
SPORTS EDITOR

After taking a look at the 2010-2011 OUA field hockey schedule, Varsity Blues fourth-year centre midfielder Hannah Tighe immediately saw that her team wouldn't be taking to the turf at Varsity Stadium at all this season.

"We were super upset. We're a very successful team at this university. For us not to have any home games seemed like a slap in the face," said fifth-year goalie Samantha Lyzun.

The OUA has more field hockey teams than any other conference in the country.

In order to make sure that the tradition of playing the regular season out as double round robin is maintained, the seven Ontario teams and McGill partake in weekend-long tournaments.

The original schedule, which came out on April 22 had U of T paired with Waterloo to host the first weekend in October. Waterloo was set for Saturday, October 2 and U of T for Sunday, October 3.

Problematically, not all varsity field hockey teams are as lucky as U of T's, which is to say that they aren't all fully funded. To keep costs down to allow teams like Carleton and McGill to stay in the league, it was decided that the weekend games should be played in a single location.

Because the field at Varsity Stadium is also used by the lacrosse, soccer and football teams, October 2 was already booked, and the games scheduled for the weekend were moved to Waterloo.

In the past, U of T was one of the only schools with a field that could be used to play field hockey.

The list of schools capable of hosting has since grown to include McGill, Guelph, York, Western, Carleton, Queens, and Waterloo as they now all have access to field-based turfs previously unavailable.

"It's almost like it was our turn to take a year not to," said Ali. "It's not that we don't want to play at home. We have a great field to play at home."

That being said, there are disadvantages to being on the road the whole season.

"It's extra planning in terms of travel time," said Assistant Coach Shankar Premakanthan. "It's nice to have a weekend where you get to host. It's easier on the girls. Traveling can take its toll on the girls as the season wears on."

Besides the wear and tear on the players which will come from the extra travel, the team won't be able to bring out fans to watch them in action.

"Whenever we go around the pavilion or AC people ask how we're doing. It's unfortunate we can't tell them to come out to a game," said Tighe.

U of T traditionally holds an invitational field hockey tournament at the beginning of September, but it didn't go forward this year.

"There weren't enough teams that wanted to play," said Beth Ali, the director of intercollegiate and high performance sport at U of T, and the former program manager and head coach of field hockey. "Some schools could come on Labour Day and some could come the weekend after."

The tournament typically fluctuates between the two weekends, and this year the six to eight schools that usually participate were divided as to when was most convenient.

"It gets people out to watch. We don't get very many people otherwise," said Tighe.

"It's disappointing we can't have the support from our friends and family around town," added Lyzun.

The team will, however, still have the chance to take to the turf in Toronto at least once this season.

York University will be hosting the 2010-2011 OUA field hockey championships at The Hanger this weekend, which is located near their home campus at Downsview.

"This is the first year in quite a while that they've had access to a field," explained Ali.

The misunderstanding has left both the players and the administration feeling uneasy.

"It's especially disconcerting because we are a winning team. It would be cool to get support from the university," said Tighe.

"U of T is a field hockey school. We have a strong commitment to it. It disturbs me when that commitment is questioned," said Ali.

World Cup of Clubs snubbed

U of T doesn't give cultural sporting event support it deserves

Vanja Vukosavljevic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The annual World Cup of Clubs soccer tournament brings out a culturally diverse group of U of T students. *VANJA VUKOSAVLJEVIC/THE VARSITY*

It would seem obvious that U of T, one of the most multicultural schools in the country, would offer support to an event promoting diversity.

But U of T has failed to recognize the significance of the World Cup of Clubs soccer tournament year after year, and has made it difficult for organizers to put the event together.

Vince Messina, captain of this year's title-winning U of T Italian-Canadian Association soccer team, was in charge of organizing this year's event, which took place earlier this month. Like his predecessors, Messina met numerous obstacles in booking space with the Office of Space Management.

Every year, the OSM refuses to let the tournament take place on the King's College Circle field for a full day every year. As a result, matches start at 8 a.m. and a winner must be declared by 4 p.m.

The OSM claims these restrictions are inevitable due to office policy and students who need to cross the field during the day. Many event participants claim these are unwritten rules and hope to push the OSM to be more flexible. Space and time restrictions limit the number of clubs able to participate in the event and keep the tournament from growing.

Neil Briggs, who played for the EFUT French Club's team, said, "U of T has blocked us in terms of time. I would like to see bigger tournaments, all semester, like intramurals. But the OSM won't let us book the field until the last minute and last-minute schedules mean fewer players."

Briggs said that getting access to the field ahead of time would result in a better turnout, and that having it more frequently and for longer would give the World Cup of Clubs the opportunity to really take off. Yet the OSM seems to ignore students' complaints year after year.

Last year's organizer Antonin Mongeau explained, "It's always the same problem with the OSM — they just don't want to give us access to the fields. We complained last year and the situation hasn't changed."

The event promotes cultural diversity at U of T. It gives students an opportunity to represent their backgrounds and embrace one of the world's most popular sports. Participants were frustrated by the inability of administration to recognize why the World Cup of Clubs is so important.

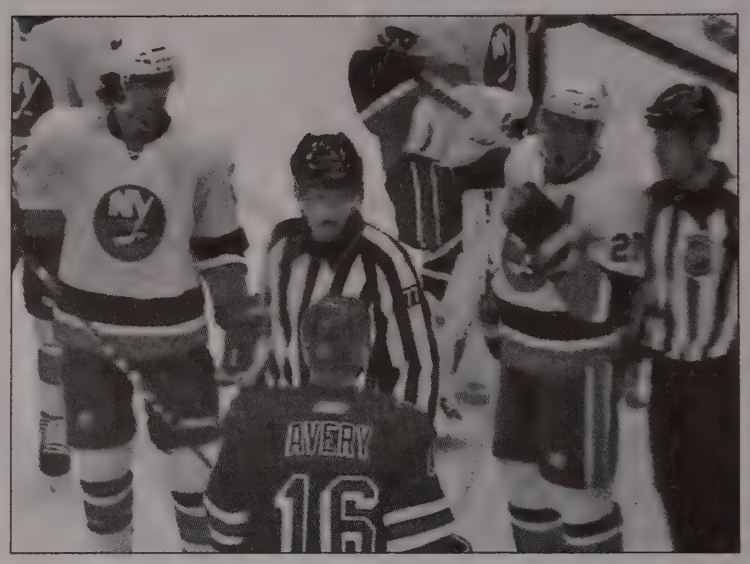
Bernardo Melendez, coach of the Organization of Latin American Students' team, admitted that he is playing for cultural pride. Elena Moliotsias of the Greek team said, "I feel like we're representing the Greeks at U of T.

"There is no other tournament that has this cultural aspect to it, so this event is really important."

Blown out of proportion

What happens when pro athletes get dirty

Grace Im
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



James Wisniewski, a defenceman for the New York Islanders, was caught on camera making a gesture simulating oral sex toward Sean Avery. *FOOTAGE COURTESY OF MSG*

In a week, defenceman James Wisniewski of the NHL's New York Islanders became an overnight YouTube sensation.

Wisniewski was caught on live television making a gesture simulating oral sex to New York Rangers pest Sean Avery on October 11, and the uncensored clip has since drawn close to 600,000 hits on the popular video-sharing website.

It also garnered Wisniewski a two-game suspension from league officials on October 13.

There is little debate that Wisniewski's creative use of both his hands and mouth was of a childish and overly suggestive nature, almost to the point of absurd hilarity. That the action was considered a suspendable offense by the NHL surprised many.

Rude gestures, while not as frequent as obscene comments, are not uncommon in any sport let alone professional hockey.

"It's not the first time, I've seen it happen before," claimed agitator Jarkko Ruutu of the Ottawa Senators to the Ottawa Sun.

Chris Neil, also of the Ottawa Senatores, told the Toronto Sun, "Guys cross the line every game...there's other stuff out there that's worse than that for sure. There's always stuff said on the ice."

Manager of hockey operations for the Greater Toronto Hockey League, Peter Kourtis, pointed out that Wizniewski's infraction would have been called a gross misconduct for obscene gesture in minor hockey. That means it would have carried a three-game suspension with the possibility of extension based on the discretion of the League.

"We have set a standard for conduct that may be higher than what schools use in terms of acceptable language," said Kourtis. "The players and some parents have been affected by this high standard as they have been suspended for what they feel are small penalties that don't [physically] hurt anyone."

The NHL, though less consistent with its rulings, has also been known to stomp down on players for obscene behaviour.

The most famous case to date involved Sean Avery — then of the Dallas Stars — calling his ex-girlfriend Elisha Cuthbert, who had begun dating Dion Phaneuf — then of the Calgary Flames — his "sloppy seconds." The premeditated comment, spoken in front of a scrum of journalists, prompted outrage, and the NHL slapped an incredible eight-game suspension on Avery.

It is often at the behest of the media that the NHL takes action against behaviourial abuse on the ice.

"When [a rude gesture] happened in the past, it wasn't reported. Nobody talked about it," said Ruutu. "Once the media find out about it, it's blown out and you have to deal with it."

Hal Murawnik, a director for Toronto Marlies AHL on Rogers TV and simulcast on Leafs TV, related with Ruutu's sentiments.

"[Wisniewski's gesture] would not have blown out of proportion if not for the age we live in," Murawnik explained. "It's a YouTube phenomenon. If not for YouTube, it likely wouldn't have been such a big deal. Instead, it forced the NHL to have to make a very knee-jerk reaction because the act and the discussion it subsequently generated created bad publicity for the League."

Calgary Flames forward Brendan Morrison was much less sympathetic.

"You have to recognize the fact [that] millions of people will be watching," Morrison said to the Toronto Sun. "This thing is going to get played and played and played again, and it's not good for the guy or the game. We don't need things like that."

The irony here is that the incident could have very easily been missed by live television and therefore would not have even entered public knowledge.

"Pro hockey on network television on average can have up to 10 different camera angles," explained Murawnik. "And if they had chosen to cut to a camera that was broadcasting at a different angle away from Wisniewski, no one would have even known that a gesture was made and he would have likely gotten off the hook.

"Doing live hockey broadcasts are tough. Anything can happen, and all you can do about it is roll with the punches because once it is shown on air, you can't take it back. An action that conotates towards a sexual act is therefore an especially awkward moment for the production team because for the most part, you just can't show that kind of stuff on live TV."

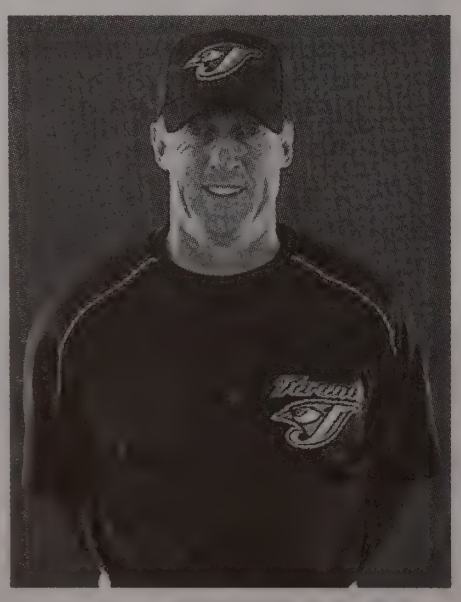
There is little denying the role the media took in the eventual suspension of Wisniewski for his hand-near-mouth incident, particularly given that almost all the cable sports networks felt obligated to blur the action during replays.

As Bob McKenzie of TSN would argued, "If you can't replay on network TV what he did, it's suspendable."

How will the Jays manage?

Why Brian Butterfield should have replaced Cito Gaston as leader of Toronto's MLB team

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR



Brian Butterfield, the should-have-been manager of the Toronto Blue Jays.

One of the story lines that followed the Toronto Blue Jays all season was the retirement of the legendary Cito Gaston. A man who achieved near-cult status in Toronto after guiding the Jays to two World Series victories in the early 1990s, Gaston emerged from the golf courses of southern Florida to rescue the drowning 2008 version of the squad.

Gaston felt he was treated wrongly his last time around (he was fired a few years after the team won the world titles) but this time it was all about respect and giving him the goodbye tour he never received.

The year progressed with no serious talk of ever removing Gaston from his post as manager mid-season, a debate that arises in moments of frustration for nearly every single team.

The 2010 playing season — a spectacular success for the Jays by any standard — concluded at home with "Thank You Cito Night," which saw players from the glory days return for a moving on-field ceremony before the game.

The hoopla sheltered a more urgent issue from public view for much of the season.

Who will lead the Jays post-Gaston now that another window for the team to be genuinely competitive appears at hand?

The question appears to be answered in the form of John Farrell, the 48-year-old Boston Red Sox pitching coach with a universal reputation for competence and zero professional managing experience. The search dates back to August and has been both rigorous and methodical, so Farrell is well-vetted.

There's an impressive list of candidates who came close, sort of close, and were considered albeit not very seriously. Out of the running near the end was Rob Thomson, the Ontario-born New York Yankees first base coach; Bobby Valentine, a legendary figure from baseball's yesterday that it seems was not too seriously considered; and Juan Samuel and Don Baylor, both of whom were endorsed by Gaston personally.

The often-accurate website MLBTradeRumors.com reported as recently as several days ago that the leading candidates were Red Sox coach DeMarlo Hale, in addition to Farrell, and Sandy Alomar Sr, brother of Jays' heyday second baseman Roberto Alomar Jr.

One name that doesn't seem to have been fitted neatly into either category is that of Brian Butterfield, the Blue Jays' long-time third-base coach.

Butter, as he's known, has survived several managerial changes, which is a feat nearly unheard of in professional baseball (newly hired managers are usually permitted to bring in their own coaching staff).

It speaks to how highly he is regarded not only by his peers, but by the players he coaches. He is widely credited with nurturing many young Jays' infielders into big league defensive stars, including standout second basemen Orlando Hudson and Aaron Hill.

Butter's years in the organization make him intimately familiar, and with the crop of young prospects who will be coming up in the years ahead he just might be able to put the Jays over the top once again.

It now appears Butter has lost out in the race to be the Jays' next manager. Unfortunately, most commentators assume he will head to another team, having missed the big prize in Toronto. If Farrell does not pan out as manager, Butterfield will be thought of as the one that got away, the first serious mistake in Anthopoulos' young tenure.

But everything Anthopoulos has touched has turned to gold thus far, and here's hoping Farrell will too.



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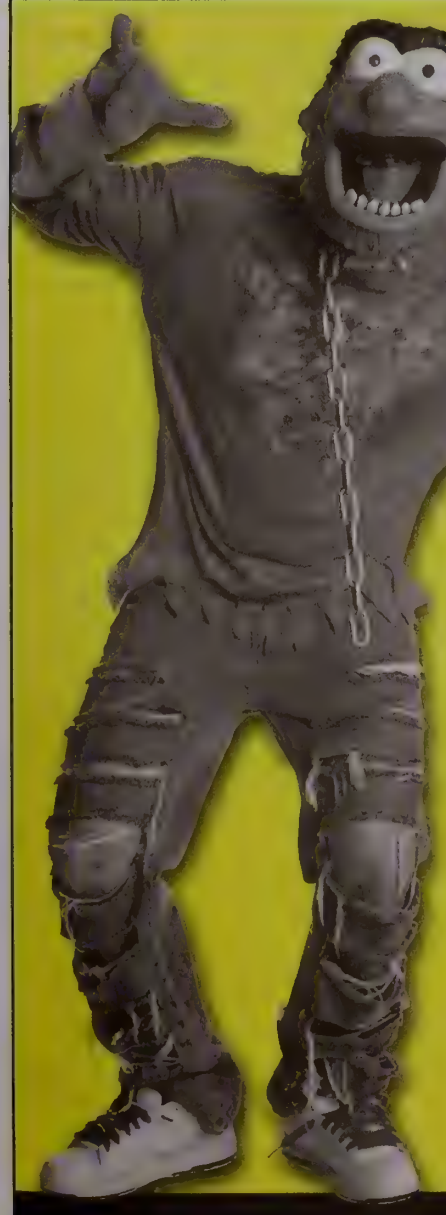
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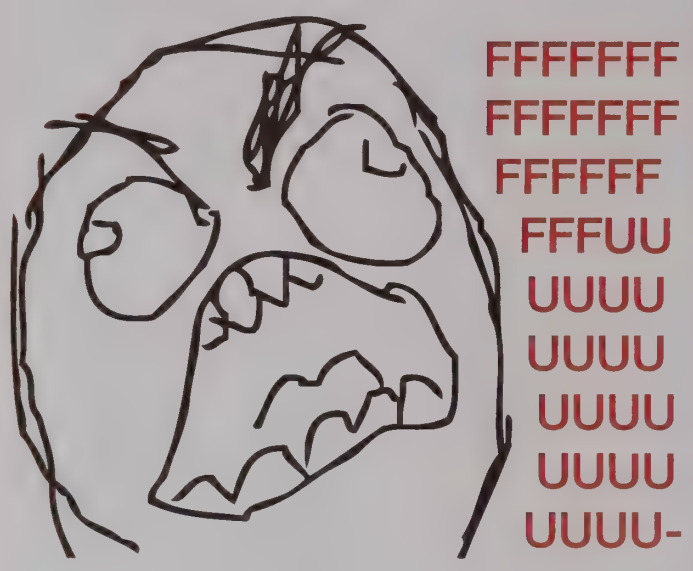
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The Muslim Students' Association's Students for World Justice will be screening the documentary *My Father, the Terrorist?*. Filmmaker Safiya Randera worries about the safety of her father in Canada's continually shifting legal system- anybody can become a suspect. A highly personal and experimental documentary about civil liberties in Canada.

- *October 29th at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.*
- *Sidney Smith Hall, Room 2118 (100 St. George St.)*
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Have you ever dreamed of making the world a better place by eating? Now's your chance. Delta Delta Delta, a U of T sorority, is hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti night with the proceeds split halfway between St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children. Your gluttony could save lives.

- *November 1st at 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.*
- *Delta Delta Delta House (30 Madison Ave.)*
- *$5 for all students*

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Halloween on Church
Revel in this week-long celebration of Halloween put on annually by the Church Wellesley Village Business Improvement Association. Events and activities such as a Jack O' Lantern Competition take place in a village decked out in pumpkin lanterns and giant window dressings, with the festivities culminating in a giant blow-out block party on Sunday.

- *October 24th to October 31st, various times*
- *Church-Wellesley Village (Church St. and Wellesley St.)*
- *Price varies by activity, mostly free*

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- *October 30th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *College St. United Church (452 College St.)*
- *$20 per ticket*

TOURS:

Halloween Tour of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre
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- *October 30th at 1 p.m.*
- *The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre (189 Yonge St.)*
- *$10 with student ID*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

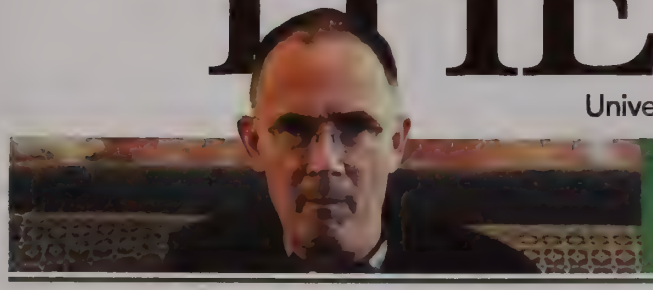
Is university education a right? p9
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Dalai Lama attends CogSci symposium p20
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How are Muslim girls doing in U of T sports? p21
Sports

THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"I think the Ipad descends directly from the Acheulean hand axe, where if we hadn't gotten that hand axe we would still be sitting in the trees eating bananas." – William Gibson **p17**

Vol. CXXVI
No. 12
1 November 2010

LITIGATION

Former student governors sue university

Plaintiffs allege their charter rights were violated

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

Two University of Toronto alumni and former U of T governors have launched a lawsuit against the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, the Toronto Police Services Board, and several U of T officials and Toronto police officers.

Plaintiffs Oriel Varga and Christopher Ramsaroop were among 14 people arrested during a protest on March 20, 2008 that saw protesters occupy Simcoe Hall and demand an immediate meeting with U of T President David Naylor. The University of Toronto and Toronto police accused the students of preventing senior administrators and staff from leaving their offices.

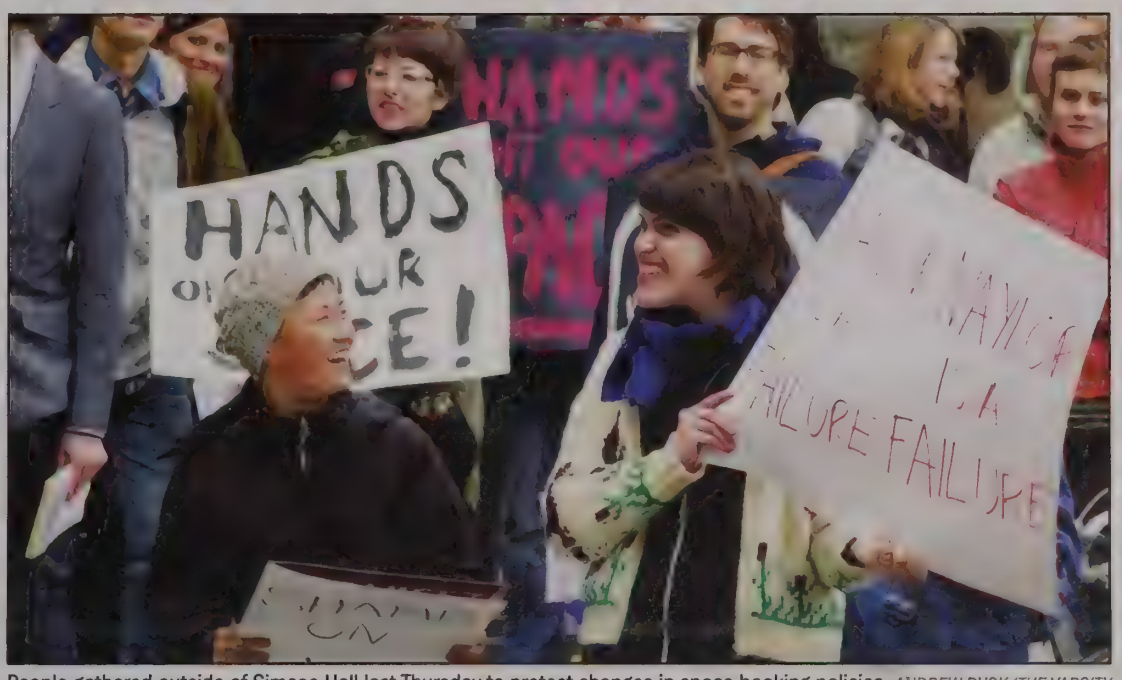
The lawsuit claims that the Defendants breached their fundamental rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Free-

SEE **'LITIGATION'** – PG 7

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Controversy strikes GC meeting

Protests in chambers cause disruption to meeting



People gathered outside of Simcoe Hall last Thursday to protest changes in space booking policies. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A meeting of the Governing Council had to be briefly adjourned on Thursday after a group of several student protestors staged a protest inside Council Chambers. The disturbance erupted near the end of the meeting, during a discussion of one of the items on the agenda having to do with the procedures for booking space on campus for events. The meeting also included other developments related to Faculty Association Arbitration and the Report on Task Force on Governance.

TEMPORARY USE OF SPACE ON CAMPUS

Council approved a new policy document on the temporary use of space on campus, which turned out to be the most controversial item of the evening. The new policy was widely publicized by several student groups before Thursday's meeting. One student governor reported being bombarded with dozens of emails and phone calls from students in the lead-up to the vote.

An email from the French Club and the Muslim Students' Association, for example, implored student governors to vote against the new space booking policy. "If ever there was an

SEE **'GC'** – PG 4

ARTSCI

A&S Academic Plan put on hold

Streamlining to be reviewed after large protest

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Faculty of Arts and Science has hit the breaks on most of its proposed cuts and amalgamations. Dean Meric Gertler told the *Globe and Mail* that most of the streamlining to alleviate the faculty's almost $60-million shortfall will now take place through restructuring instead of amalgamations and cuts.

The change comes after months of vocal protest from within the university community since the plan's publication in July, as well as opposition from academia worldwide.

"The overwhelming opposition to these changes was just too much for the administration to take. They could no longer afford the bad press which this terrible idea had accumulated," wrote ASSU President Gavin Nowlan, in an email to The Varsity. "It really is a great victory for the intellectual

SEE **'ARTSCI'** – PG 5

FEE INCREASE

ASSU requests levy increase

President attributes proposed raise to combat inflation

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This Wednesday and Thursday the Arts and Science Students' Union will be holding a referendum for a $2 per student per term increase in their student levy.

As of now, the levy sits at $7.50 per term. The increase to $9.50 would, according to ASSU President Gavin Nowlan, increase it from "one of the lowest levies on campus" to "one of maybe the bottom three levies on campus of all student societies."

Unlike the University of Toronto Students' Union, ASSU has no automatic "cost of living" fee increase which rises with inflation. "We have nothing," says Nowlan, "so the fee that we had in 2004–2005, when we last raised our fee, is the same fee that we have today. So no check for inflation, no change in it whatsoever."

This 5–6 year cycle reflects ASSU's policy that fees should increase as little as possible over the course of a degree. The fee structure operates such that in the first two years of the 5–6 year cycle, ASSU takes in more money than it spends; the third year, it should roughly break even, and the remainder of the time it will run a deficit budget on paper. This year, that deficit is equivalent to $8,234.

"...$2 is not too onerous per term. That's something it seems like students are willing to accept."

That is to say, the initial levy increase should be large enough that ASSU can save money in the first two years, and spend it when they run a budget deficit in the last two years, such that the typical undergrad will not see a fee increase in their time at the university.

"It was developed by ASSU as an egalitarian policy so that everyone pays into the pot with as limited fee increases as possible," said Nowlan.

The current $2 increase is apparently a function of tradition.

Nolan suggested that an increase is necessary for flexibilty in their budget. "$2 multiplied by 26, 000 students is enough money to add funding for the next five years — and also $2 is not too onerous per term. That's something it seems like students are willing to accept, that level of increase at one time. It would take us so much longer to change our process to have that $2 spread over five years. It's just what's made sense in the past and makes sense now."

With regard to why an increased

SEE **'LEVY'** – PG 5

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
3°C to 7°C	3°C to 7°C	1°C to 7°C	0°C to 9°C	3°C to 6°C

FEATURE

The epic quest for a new Annex watering hole p12

A&E

The Varsity speaks to Filipino author Miguel Syjuco p14

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STUDENT INNOVATION

A ROSIer picture?

Delays continue to plague grad-run site that aims to make course selection personal, bearable.

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Two recent U of T alumni are working to make planning a degree much easier. Project Augur (pronounced 'aw-gur') is an online application that will help students make better course choices by clarifying requirements, mapping one's degree, and offering calculated suggestions.

The project is run by Joel Koroniak and Sean McIntyre, both 2010 graduates. Koroniak studied philosophy and manages the program. McIntyre majored in computer science and is the project's lead developer.

Currently U of T completes degree auditing, where registrars evaluate a student's credits and requirements to see if they have fulfilled their subject posts. With many rules such as prerequisites, corequisites, exclusions, and breadth requirements, students pour over timetables and calendars in an attempt to select the right courses.

The aim of Project Augur is to create what McIntyre describes as a "sandbox environment." Students will have an application separate from ROSI in which they can simulate a timeline for all years of their degree. Courses are added to the timeline and appear as boxes. The application automatically checks requirements and shows if all the ules for the course are followed (blue box) or if it falls outside the rules (red box). The connections betwen all course requirements are linked and are re-checked as each course is added to the timeline.

"It doesn't enrol you in courses. You go on and it simulates your degree for you," said McIntyre. "So you can make a plan [for] your next four or five years at the university and [figure out what you] plan to take."

He added that the program could be used as a counselling tool, imagining students going through their plans with registrars to be advised on the best choices.

According to McIntyre, the application differs from Degree Navigator because it uses a timeline and thus can tell if rules are being violated. He also said algorithms are under development to include course descriptions and information from timetables and anti-calendars. There are also calculated course suggestions in the works that advise students based on their academic history.

It is this idea of an academic advisor that prompted the program's name.

"An augur was an ancient Roman priest, a prophet of sorts, who would predict the future by watching the flight patterns of birds," said McIntyre. "The notion was that the system would be able to predict your future and help you plan your future by watching you, what courses you take, what POSts you take. That's why the logo's a bird."

The project started before the summer of 2009, when the two were roommates.

"[Joel] had seen that I was working on a spreadsheet program. I was typing in my grades for various assignments and estimating future grades and how it would affect my overall CGPA," said McIntyre. "He thought it would be a good idea to make it an application, and we had spare time so we said 'let's give it a shot.'"

Last academic year, the two completed some of the program's coding. In May, they developed the program for four months while being paid by the university. The pair worked in the offices of Enterprise Applications and Solutions Integration, the division that maintains ROSI.

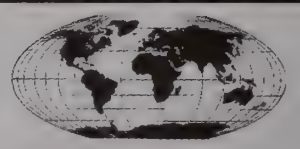
"This had some obvious benefits, such as being able to use U of T servers and have access to up to date and accurate sets of data," said Koroniak. "Currently we're in the process of migrating the project to the Next Generation Student Information Services group, which will be able to give us access to the aforementioned data and servers with less red tape."

Until the pair finds its space within administration, the two continue to work full-time on developing the project with no income. Nevertheless, they are glad to be working with the university, said McIntyre.

"The plan was to do it as an independent system. After a few presentations we got suggestions and realized there was actually a meaningful partnership to being established with the university.

SEE **'AUGUR'** – PG 6



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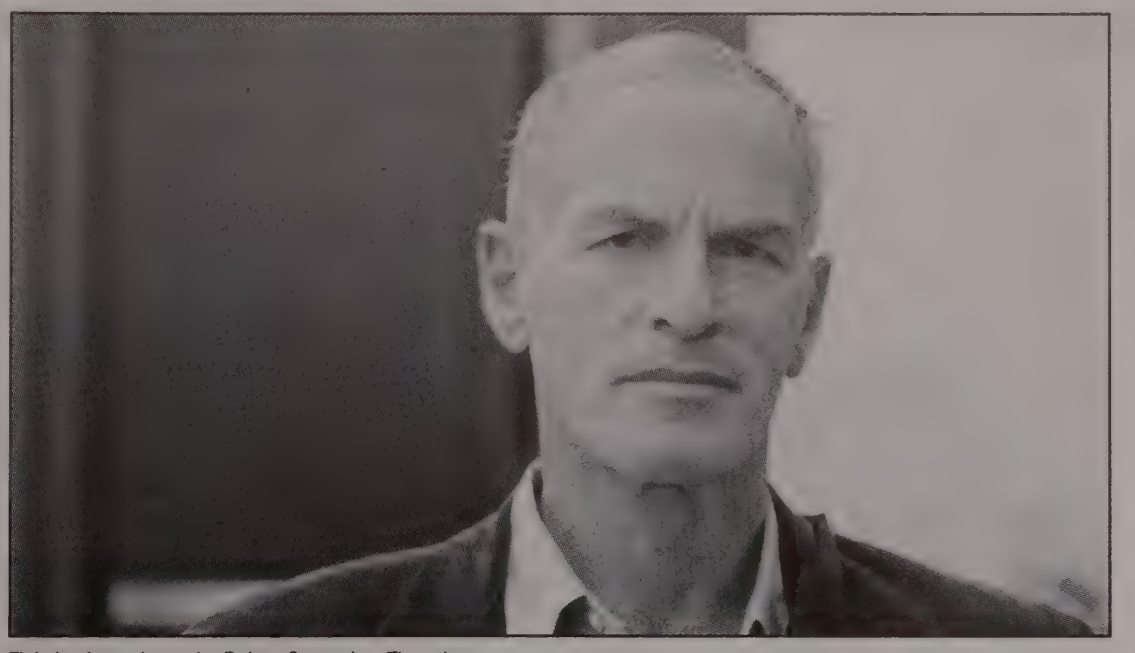
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ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Canada 'out of sync with humanity'

The Varsity speaks with controversial Israel-Palestine scholar Norman G. Finkelstein

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



Finkelstein spoke at the Bahen Centre last Thursday. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Last Thursday, Dr. Norman G. Finkelstein visited U of T and gave two lectures on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Organized by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, the event was titled "Israel and Palestine: Past, Present and Future" and focused on Gaza, the events surrounding the seized aid flotilla in May.

Finkelstein was born in 1953 and grew up in New York as a son of Holocaust concentration camp survivors. He has instructed at numerous universities in the New York City area and was an assistant professor at DePaul University before being denied tenure and placed on academic leave in 2007. He has since parted with the university and is an independent political scientist.

Finkelstein has authored seven books. His most recent ones, including *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering* claim that Israel and Jewish-American organizations have exploited the Holocaust to deflect criticism on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and extort large sums of money allocated to survivors.

Finkelstein spoke at UTM in January 2009 as part of the campus' Expression Against Oppression week. The academic is often criticised by prominent Jewish organizations, some of whom he openly accuses of corruption. The Varsity spoke with the controversial scholar a few minutes before his sold-out speech in the Bahen Centre.

THE VARSITY: *What is your talk about tonight?*

NORMAN FINKELSTEIN: I'll be speaking on what happened in Gaza 2008–9. I'll be speaking about what happened in the Mavi Marmara [the aid flotilla] and I'll speculate on where we're headed.

TV: *And where do you think we're headed?*

NF: I'm thinking it's quite likely, judging from reports, that Israel will be going to attack Lebanon in the next year, year and a half. It's going to be possibly really catastrophic.

TV: *What motivates you to do the work you do?*

NF: I'm 57 already and I first got involved when I was 29. I don't really think much about motivation anymore. I'm much more on the matter-of-fact. That's about a choice in life, and that's what I do.

TV: *Israeli Apartheid Week takes place every year on campus and tends to be quite divisive. U of T President David Naylor once described it as "the consistently worst week of a president's life." What are your thoughts on IAW?*

NF: I think that the expression "Israeli Apartheid Week" is unnecessarily ambiguous. Because there is a broad body of authorities, experts, knowledgeable people, who say that Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territories constitute a version of apartheid.

There are certain similarities. On the other hand there isn't a lot of that broad consensus within, that within Israel itself there is an apartheid-like system. [It's] discriminatory, there's no doubt about that, but whether it rises to apartheid, I haven't seen any convincing argument made.

It's legitimate to characterize Israeli policies in the occupied territories as a form of apartheid. [Finkelstein lists Israeli scholars and politicians who have deemed Israeli policy as apartheid]. I wish that there were more clarity. Because when you say "Israeli Apartheid Week" there is an element of ambiguity of whether [you are] referring to Israeli policies toward the occupied territories, or [you are] referring to the whole of Israel as well. It's ambiguous, what they're referring to.

TV: *What are your thoughts on the Gaza aid flotilla?*

NF: I think that, first of all we have to start in the beginning. The blockade of Gaza is illegal under international law. The aim of the flotilla has been to breach the illegal blockade. I completely support it.

That blockade started in 2007, and for three years the international community was silent. And it was only because of the flotilla, and the nine martyrs on the flotilla, that the international community finally took notice of what everybody agrees is an illegal blockade.

TV: *The Canadian Boat to Gaza is a similar flotilla project aiming to sail next spring. What's your take on it?*

NF: I support it. But I don't have a lot of details on it.

TV: *Two weeks ago, Canada lost its bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. Some suggest this was because of the Conservative government's support for Israel.*

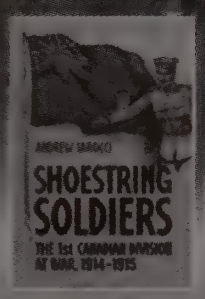
NF: I don't think that's correct. That was one element. But there's been a whole list of policies [where] Canada is out of sync with nearly the whole of humanity: its opposition to the Kyoto agreement, it voted against the [motion in July to declare a human right to "safe and clean drinking water and

SEE **'FINKELSTEIN'** – PG 6

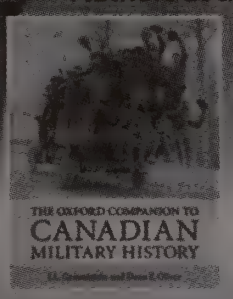
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Remembering U of T Students, Staff & Faculty

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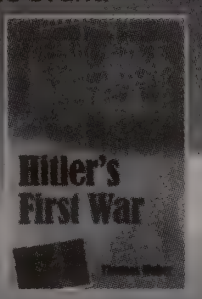
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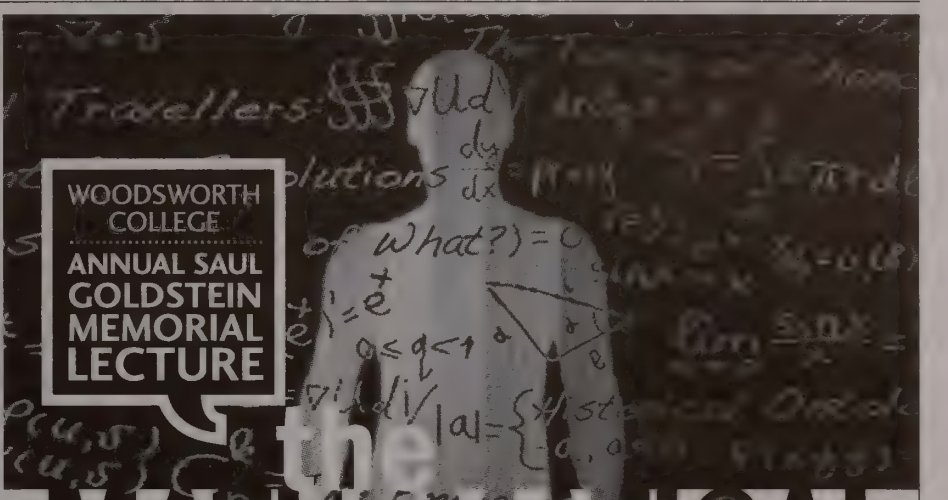


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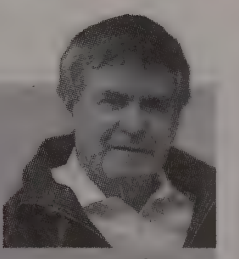
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'GC' - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

issue on which the voting should be 42–8 [with all eight student governors on Council voting against the measure], this is it!" the email reads, adding "our memberships will be notified of your votes."

In terms of substance, the new policy document provides that "the university may, as a condition of booking, require that authorized security be made available during the use of the space [...] at the cost of the user and to be arranged by the university." In addition, it says that "the university at its discretion may assess additional security requirements and require that campus police be present at any event."

Student groups said they worried that these provisions in particular would allow the university to impose burdensome conditions on the organizers of certain politically sensitive events like Israeli Apartheid Week, without outright cancelling these events. Several student leaders expressed their concern that this would allow the administration to essentially sidestep criticisms that it was stifling debate on campus.

Provost Cheryl Misak, whose office was responsible for drafting the new document, insisted that the new policy was little more than an update of an older set of guidelines dating back to 1988. "It's not a new policy," she said, urging that the new document was simply an articulation of current practices around space bookings.

Misak also responded to student concerns that the new document would result in higher charges for security costs. "My view is that we should do everything possible to not charge student groups, whether they be small student groups or large student groups, for security costs," she said. "Of course the students eventually pay for them in some way because the money could be spent on other things, but we do not charge student groups for security costs," she said. Misak said the university would really only charge external groups. She conceded however that some student groups, would be charged if the security costs were unusually high, but maintained that this was exceptionally rare and not a departure from current practice. "We're working very very hard to not charge student groups with security costs."

FACULTY ASSOCIATION ARBITRATION

U of T President David Naylor addressed the recent arbitration between the university and the Faculty Association. The arbitrator awarded across-the-board salary increases of 2.25 per cent to university faculty and librarians for two years beginning in July 2009.

Naylor told Council that when other factors were included, the real cost of the award to the university would be 2.47 per cent per year and that together with the merit increases of 1.9 per cent, totaled 4.37 per cent per year. Naylor argued that this was well above the rate of inflation and "far outside the framework recommended by the province in its compensation restraint legislation." Naylor also divulged that UTFA was actually arguing for a 3.5 per cent salary increase for both 2009 and 2010, slightly above the 3 per cent that UTFA had publicly stated it was seeking.

"This is an award that while moderate when compared to [UTFA's] position, will put significant pressure on this institution," said Naylor. "We have an absolutely outstanding group of faculty and librarians. In ordinary times I would not be as concerned about increases that moved ahead of inflation [...] but the reality is these are not ordinary times. The marketplace has changed quite dramatically."

TASK FORCE ON GOVERNANCE REPORT

Council approved a major report from the Task Force on Governance, a body set up over two years ago, to identify potential problems with the current system of governance. The report tabled a number of recommendations which were hotly criticized by several student governors and student groups, as contributing to what they felt was an already harsh environment for student perspectives on Council.

The report made two main sets of recommendations: one to take effect immediately and another to be handled by an Implementation Committee, which would oversee and coordinate the longer term recommendations.

Joeita Gupta, a student governor representing part-time undergraduates, said that she was concerned that the Implementation Committee would be given overly broad powers. Gupta also drew attention to a recommendation granting the Executive Committee of the Governing Council sweeping powers to approve and terminate academic units, approve capital projects, and make recommendations for expulsion. She said this was further evidence of a clear trend towards a concentration of real authority in the Executive Committee, and the Implementation Committee, which reports back to the EC.

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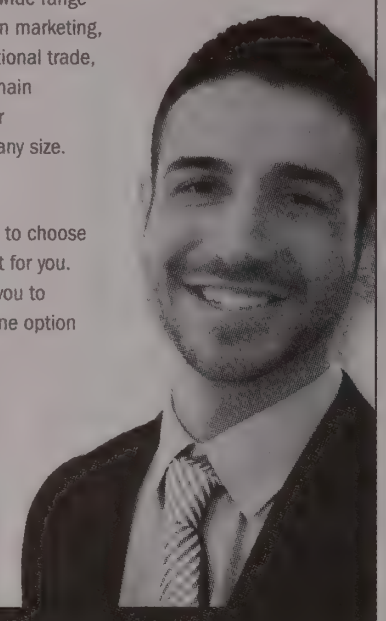
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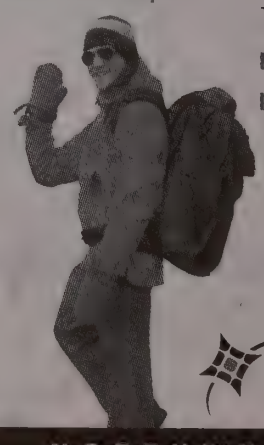
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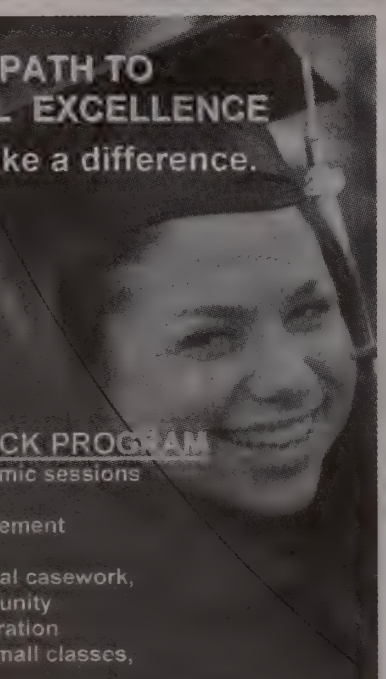
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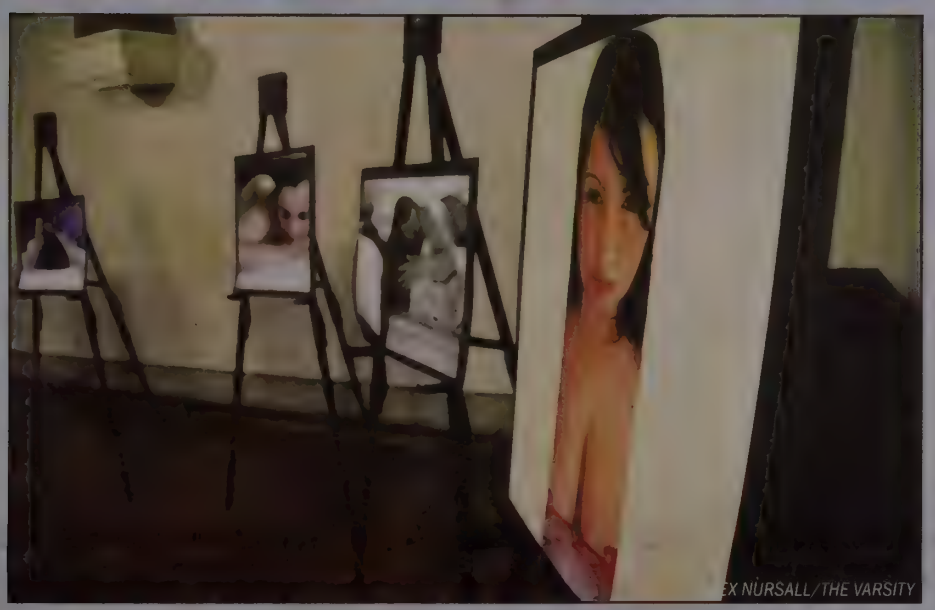
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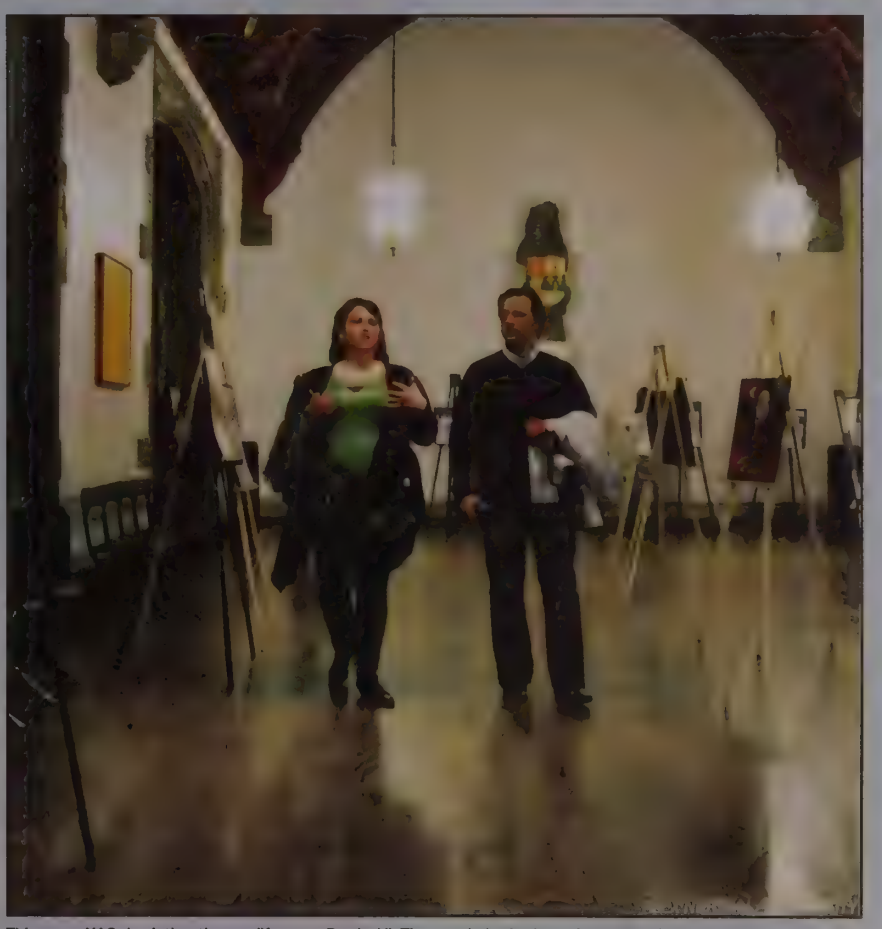
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EXPRESSION AGAINST OPPRESSION WEEK HITS CAMPUS









This year XAO had the theme "Access Denied." The week looked at the systemic nature of barriers that preclude marginalized groups from accessing services and participating in democratic and political processes.

'LEVY' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

levy is necessary, Nowlan cited inflationary pressures as well as the recent proliferation of programs of study, and consequently course unions.

"There are way more individual units," said Nowlan. "Used to be there was History, and now we have History, the Centre for Medieval Studies, the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, and International Relations. Peace and Conflict Studies came out of Political Science, and every group of students that get split up by the faculty want to be their own course union, so out of English came Book and Media Studies, so now Book and Media Studies has a course union."

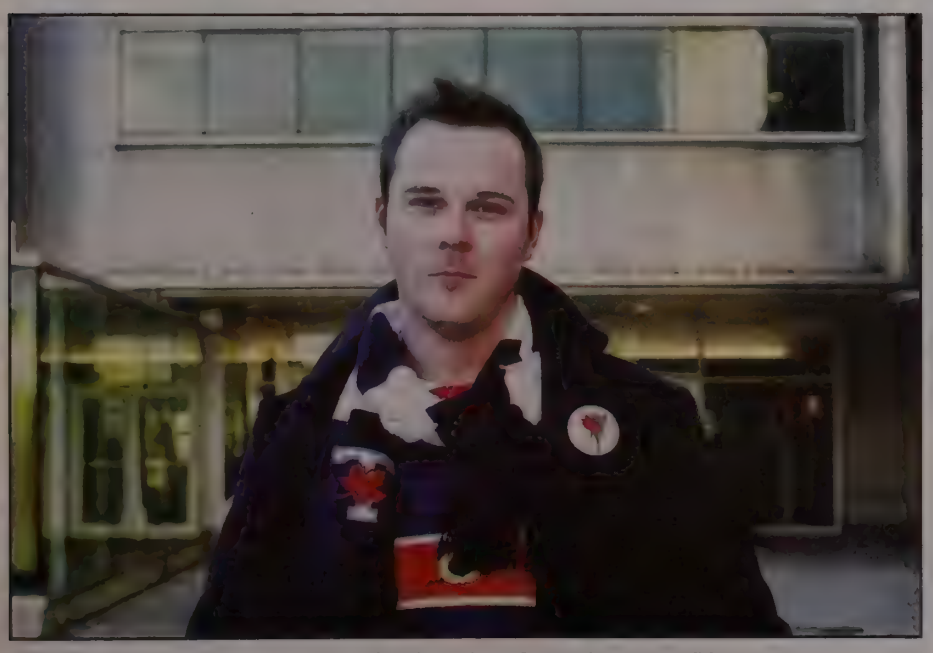
Critical to this is that ASSU's constitution guarantees a baseline of equal funding to every course union, regardless of their size, such that a department of 150 students will receive the same as one of several thousand.

Nowlan claimed that this has "not really been a problem in the past, because there are ways to get around that in our funding structure. To give, let's say, more money to the bigger course unions depending on the size of their events."

Still, the baseline guarantee combined with this increase in numbers represents a significant change in expenditure. Nowlan estimates that in the past five years, some 15 new student unions have required funding.

Nowlan stated clearly that the union "is not adding any new services, we're making sure we can actually fund the services we have and deal with the increased demand students have for their course unions and for the services we provide."

"To plan creative events and to do that sort of stuff, it takes money [...] and we want to provide them with that money," said Nowlan, claming that insufficient funding of the course unions has been "a big complaint for a number of years."



ASSU President Gavin Nolan says the ASSU tries to keep fees as low as possible. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

'ARTSCI' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

history, and future, of this university."

The original plan sought the closing of the Centre for Comparative Literature, the Centre for Ethics and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies. It also proposed the creation of a super-department called the School of Languages and Literatures, an amalgamation of the Department of East Asian Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of Italian Studies, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

The Centre for International Studies is still planned for disestablishment as courses are being merged into the Munk School of Global Affairs.

The change was announced by Gertler to five of the threatened departments at a meeting Wednesday morning, according to the *Globe*.

THEFT ON CAMPUS

Victoria University broken into on Halloween

Less than $200 stolen, laptops and projectors untouched

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On Sunday night, a mail centre in the basement of Victoria University was broken into.

P.C. Lorne Bass of 52 Division said the incident took place sometime between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and that it was discovered by Rodney McEwan, CEO of the security company MCOR Group.

Varsity staff went to the basement at 10 p.m.. Four officers were on the scene, two from Campus Police and Toronto Police Services respectively. A green bench from a piano down the hall was overturned on the floor in front of the counter of Vic Express. The counter's overhead rolling door was pried forward.

Bass said it is likely the alleged thief entered through the window and exited through the office door, which only locks from the inside. He said three metal cash boxes were stolen, containing bills of a value under $200. The much more expensive laptops and projectors were not stolen. There were no cameras inside the office.

"I'm shocked," said VUSAC President Akash Goel, who first heard about the break-in from The Varsity. "I could never imagine anything like this happening at Victoria College."

With files from Natalie Sequeira

The Arts and Science Student Union is requesting a $2 levy increase. Do you support this increase?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Zach

2nd Year Political Science,
"Until they show me a concrete plan and outline, no. Throwing money at a problem won't make it go away."



Lauren

4th Year Psychology,
"I want to know what they're doing with it. We don't hear enough about them."



Jessica

1st Year Human Bio,
"I want them to reach out to us. They don't advertise nearly enough and it has to be more than word of mouth."



Evan

3rd Year English and history,
"Once they explain it to students and get the message out, okay. We should have a say."



Hari

2nd Year Biology and English,
"If it's for a good reason, sure. They should make it more transparent before they increase their levy. How many of us actually use their services?"



Rebecca

3rd Year English,
"What is the increase for? Is there a reason why? I feel uninformed."

'FINKELSTEIN' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

sanitation"], it voted against the rights of indigenous people.

There's a list and it's kind of just, astonishing. The Israel issue, it has some salience. But apart from Israel... Canada's record is just like Bush in Canada, but Bush is out. So now it's just Harper.

TV: *How do you think the international community can reach a peaceful solution to the conflict in Israel?*

NF: The only way we can achieve a just settlement is to insist that all parties in the conflict respect international law. International law constitutes the best matrix for trying to find the right principles to resolve the conflict.

It's everyone's job, not just students' job, to insist Israel obeys international law. And I think we'll be well on our way to achieving a reasonable resolution to the conflict.

'AUGUR' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

"I was surprised, personally. It was really exciting to find out that they were really into the idea of having these kinds of progressive software deployed to students as rapidly as possible. It's been a really enriching partnership."

Prior to the university's support, college councils contributed to the project. Last academic year, ICSS, UCLit, VUSAC, and WCSA each donated $500 and SMCSU held a fundraiser pub night. TCM did not contribute to the project. The councils were told the application would be available to students for the start of this academic year.

"Our plan is still to release this service to U of T students as soon as possible, as well as work with student councils to ensure any growth and maintenance is still focused on student's needs," said Koroniak. "Unfortunately, working within any institution as big as U of T, these things always take more time than anticipated.

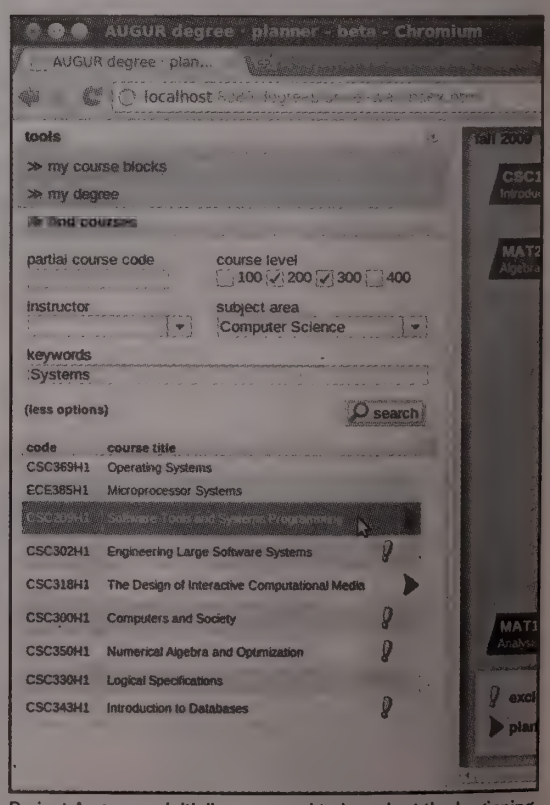
"We hope to re-start a dialogue with the various councils which supported us within the next month or two. By then we should have a clearer understanding of how U of T's IT groups will be able to support us, how much longer development will take, and how we can start getting students involved in beta-testing the program."

The two hope to launch the project at the end of this academic year, starting with the Faculty of Arts and Science. In the meanwhile, they encourage students to visit their blog and contribute feedback.

"We want students to engage, give feedback," said McIntyre. "We want to give people a sense of what they're doing. We want people to know and be excited that this system is coming out."

And why have the pair invested so much time and energy?

"I think it's something that we both see as a way of giving back to a community that we were very recently a part of," said McIntyre. "It's something that always irritated us while we were [at U of T]. Because these things are not that difficult to build. And if you can do it, I say why not."



Project Augur was initially supposed to launch at the beginning of the 2010 academic year. *HTTP://PROJECTAUGUR.COM*

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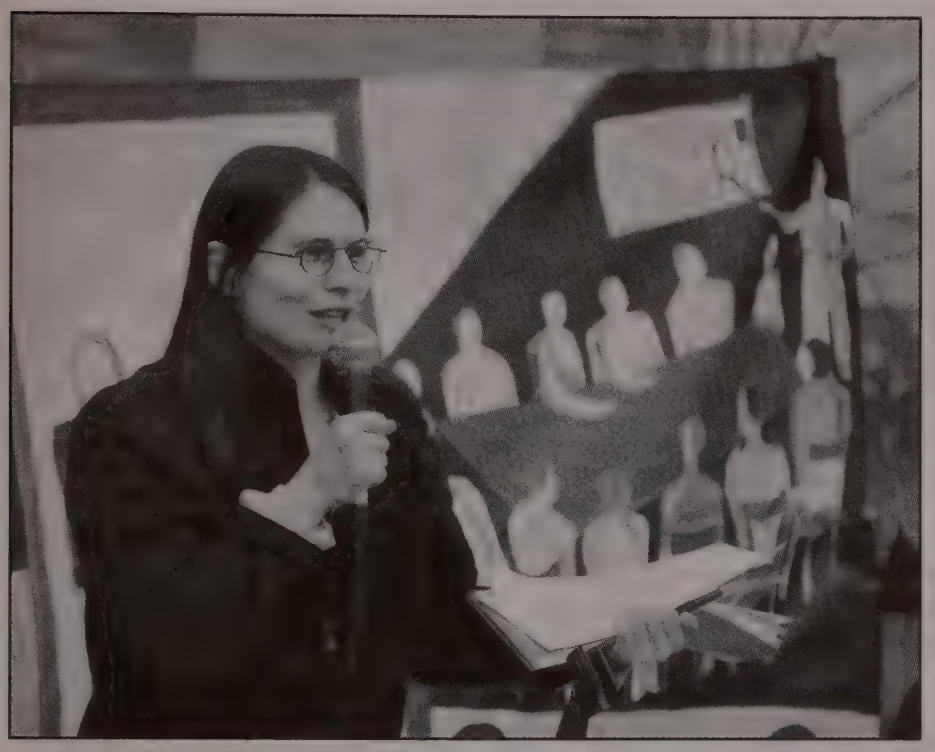
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Oriel Varga speaks at a press conference on Thursday. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

'LITIGATION' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

doms, including their freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, their right to liberty, and their right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

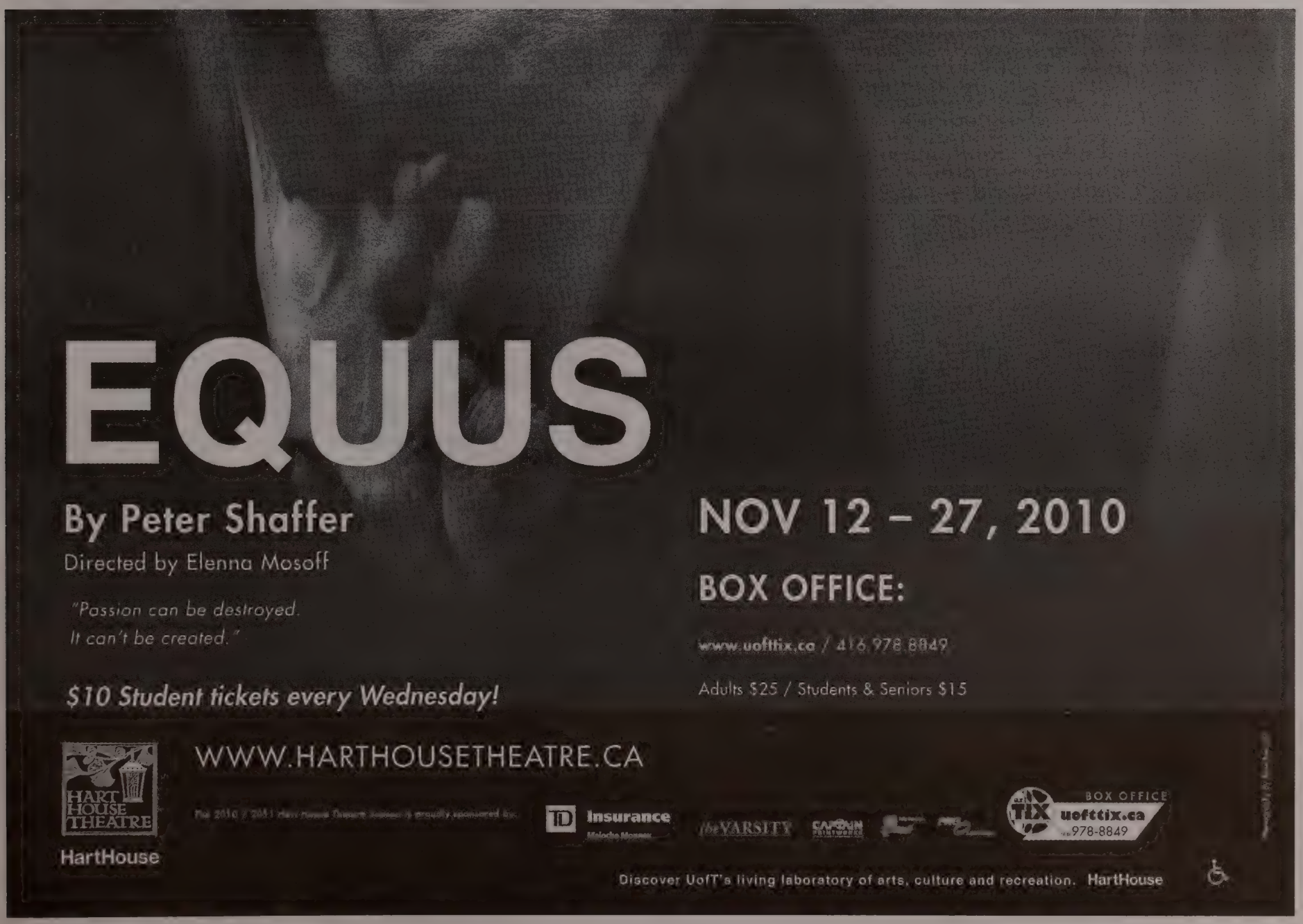
The university has said it will be defending the claim vigorously. "The university believes the claim to be entirely without merit, and it will be seeking to have it dismissed with costs," read a statement from a university spokesperson. "Remarkably, the claim goes so far as to sue the innocent victims who were confined in an office against their will." The university said it does not plan to comment further while this matter is before the courts.

"In a democratic society [...] the public must be able to question and critique institutional decisions and practices without being bullied and criminalized by public institutions like a university or the police," said Varga, who is currently a law student at Osgoode Hall Law School. "[The university] must be held accountable for breaching the Charter that they are supposed to uphold."

Following the March 2008 arrests, the Fight Fees Coalition was formed to support those arrested and raise funds for legal defense. Both the University of Toronto Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Union are part of the coalition.

On September 10 Ontario Court of Justice Judge Paul Reinhardt dropped the charges for Varga and Ramsaroop on the basis that their Charter of Rights and Freedoms under section 11 (b) had been breached. To date, the criminal charges against all 14 have been withdrawn, stayed, or dropped.

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FACE OFF

POINT COUNTERPOINT



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Post-secondary education is a right and should receive more funding from the government

Mersiha Gadzo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

High tuition fees negatively impact students' academic success. A survey conducted by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations revealed that 64 per cent of Ontario professors agree that university students struggle to keep up in school because of their jobs. In order to stay in school, students have no choice but to work and this inevitably leads to lower grades. Tuition fees defeat the whole purpose of university, which is for students to learn as much as they can, for their skills to develop, and to prepare them for their future careers.

The fact that we have been hit hard by the recession makes the situation even worse for students. Student unemployment in July and August of 2009 broke records, and those who were lucky enough to even have a job faced fewer hours and lower wages. Despite this, tuition still increased about 5.4 per cent for the 2010/2011 academic year.

The government should take into consideration the scarcity of student jobs, and set the fees at a reasonable standard. Yet they have allowed tuition fees to increase at double the rate of inflation over the past decade, while grants can't keep up with increasing enrollment. Today, almost 50 per cent of university costs are endured by students and their families.

"Our students are facing huge pressures that we are not adequately addressing," said Mark Langer, president of OCUFA. "We expect our students to pay for a larger share of their education, engage in more paid work, attend larger classes, have less interaction with faculty, and pursue remedial courses on top of their regular studies to succeed in a demanding university curriculum. This is a recipe for disaster."

Fees are soaring but our quality of education is decreasing. Student satisfaction results show that interaction between student and professor is key for success. Brian E. Brown, former president of OCUFA, stated that the student-faculty ratio in Ontario is 27 to 1, while our top university competitors in the states have a 16 to 1 ratio.

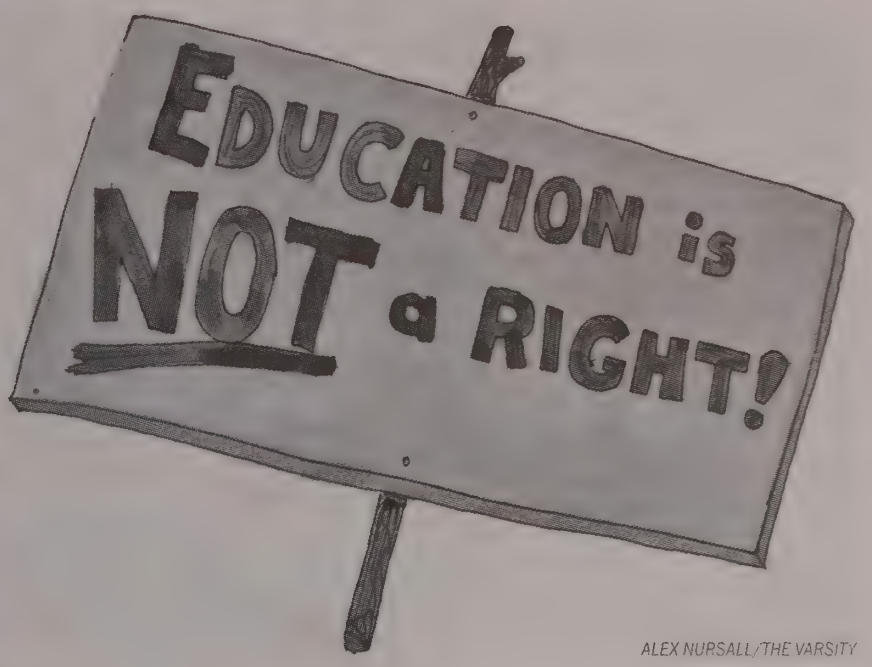
The financial mess in the U.S. is far worse than in Canada, yet it has still made education a top priority, with President Obama's stimulus package providing billions of dollars for higher education. Canada's 2009 federal budget contained over $50 billion in stimulus spending with nothing allocated for students. U.S. competitors will be able to advance further than us by hiring more faculty, building new labs, funding research, attracting more students, and allowing qualified students from all income groups to attend university.

Insufficient funding is threatening the global competitiveness of Ontario's universities and the provincial economy. Classes have become so overcrowded, that essays are slowly becoming extinct with more and more professors having to resort to evaluating students with multiple choice computerized tests. If students do get the chance to write essays, they send it through turnitin.com because there isn't a large enough staff to check for plagiarism. Many professors are on contracts with no job security, which also prevents them from completing the necessary research in order to stay ahead in their field. Our economy and society can't progress without investment in education and research.

Education is increasingly becoming privatized, which will inevitably result in many qualified students being excluded. It isn't fair if a student who has excellent grades simply can't attend university because of their family's income. Students are being limited to education based on high financial costs, widening at the same time the gap between income groups.

Students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in the country but yet are not receiving the same quality of education. The government is wrong in forcing dramatic tuition hikes to supposedly fill the funding gap. All this does is create problems for students and prevents Canadian universities from competing globally. University funding should actually be a provincial and national priority — investing in education means investing in the economy and a brighter future.

With a total Canadian student loan debt at over $13 billion, students are graduating with mortgage-sized debt loads while the Harper government is spending $16 billion for 65 fighter jets. The government shows no respect or understanding for students who are suffering because of these horrible decisions. The only question is: how long are we going to remain silent while the government robs us of our right to quality education?



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Post-secondary education is not a right, but a privilege

Yves Guillaume A. Messy
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Amidst recent history's worst financial crisis, U of T is once again fraught with both anguished protest and righteous debate. The reclamation at hand: a costless higher education. The impending penance of higher interest rates on Canada's highest ever student debt level is reanimating the debate on whether higher education should be a right. History is mired with tales of brave struggles. Struggles for freedoms deemed to be universally needed, essential to humane living, and key requirements of a free society. Let it be clearly stated: higher education is very far from being one of them.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms entails every citizen's right to an education. The hope being that it will help produce an enlightened citizenry, for the good of country. These requirements are largely met by primary and secondary schools whose educational mandate is sponsored and monitored by the federal government. This national education mandate covers essential points of Canadian political, economic, and civic life in addition to the body of knowledge so essential to modern living. Any further level of education is thus an additional option fully available to anybody willing to take up the challenge.

Higher education is a prized distinction available to any student sufficiently desiring and minimally equipped to cope with its required amount of work. There are scarcely any financial obstacles to the acquisition of a higher education. Between OSAP, government grants, scholarships, family contributions, and part-time employment (with sufficient planning) are a few of the many ways one can finance an education. The sole remaining prerequisite for entry into higher education is a demonstrated scholastic aptitude of the right level. Even this obstacle is dealt with appropriately with transitional options like JUMP courses that pretty much remove that barrier to entry. With such a variety of access points available, it is rather clear that higher education is available to whoever is willing and able to do the work. In fact, any argument to argue for a right to higher education is little more than a vain attempt to justify paying for both the unwilling and the unable; one that typically is doomed to fail.

There are significant dangers to having a universalist approach to higher education attendance. These are already clear in display at Canada's largest (and best) public institution of higher learning: the University of Toronto. One of the immediate drawbacks of massive indiscriminate public institutions of higher education such as U of T, is corporatism. One surely doesn't need a PhD in sociology to decipher the significant influence of blue chip corporations over U of T's curriculum. Our university's experience shows that a regime of universality in higher education attendance will leave a hitherto world class institution squabbling for corporate R&D funding. The freedom demonstrated in New York University's recent expansion to the Middle East NYU Abu Dhabi demonstrates one of the many possibilities that a rights-based approach to higher education attendance will cost us. Is this not obvious as the university is now closing fundamental houses of modern learning such as the Center for Ethics? A strong merit-based non-public approach to higher education would strengthen and deepen the research span of many Canadian institutions of higher learning. A rights-based approach to the latter would lead to just the very opposite.

Additionally, akin to any other public institution of higher learning, the university's staggering size (now upwards of seventy thousand) has made it ever less able to meet its students' needs. This is plainly evident in the level of drop-out along with a notoriously bland student experience rating according to the most recent issue of Maclean's. These sad outcomes are directly linked to U of T's government-regulated status, with its less than competitive undergraduate admission standards, and its significantly large admission quota for students issued from the secondary school system. It is no secret that a larger than average proportion of our undergraduates are so acutely unprepared, unassisted, and unsatisfied that they simply wholly underperform throughout their degree. The resulting unemployment and failure to reach graduate school are just two of the many consequences of this universalist push for university enrollment.

Construing higher education as a right, and not an earned distinction, is sure to devalue and deteriorate, the process and the proceeds of our higher education system. A flooded job market of whimsically (and sometimes randomly) educated young people is likely to make it ever harder for deserving students to prove their worth as they seek employment. If this isn't bad enough, those whose path into higher education was motivated by simple whim, the exertion of a right maybe, are likely to find themselves unhappy, hopelessly indebted, and eager to oppose any argument that higher education is anything less than a distinction, an earned privilege.

Welcome to Fordland

Rob Ford's agenda and how it will affect the City of Toronto

Arash Azizi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

If you want to laugh, laugh. If you want to weep, weep. But it's now done. Rob Ford, the right-wing Etobicoke councillor from Ward 2 who many of us rightly regard as a potential disaster, is now mayor of the city of Toronto. With his simple promise of "stopping the gravy train" he won the hearts and minds of thousands of Torontonians. His victory was of such a wide margin that even if Smitherman and Pantalone had put all their votes together, Ford would still be the new mayor. He got more than 383,501 votes, which equals 47.098% of the vote compared to 289,832 for Smitherman and 95,482 for Pantalone.

When Ford first entered the race in April, nobody took him seriously. Smitherman, one of the top Liberal provincial politicians, had thrown his hat in the race and was thought to be unbeatable. Pundits said that if there was a right-wing politician who could beat Smitherman it would have been John Tory, the former leader of PC Ontario who had lost to David Miller (and to a few other people in almost every election he ever took part in). Toronto was thought to be too "progressive" for somebody like Ford to win.

Right from the outset I repeatedly warned people about the chances of his victory. In September I wrote: "In absence of such a candidate (a labour candidate with socialist solution to people's problems), they (the people) will flock to a right-wing populist candidate who nevertheless is angry with 'status quo' and ready to take on 'elitist politicians', a crew generally hated by the general populace."

This is how Rob Ford won, and the blame for this victory rests directly on the shoulders of Joe Pantalone and the lacklustre campaign he ran.

Ford won by appealing to people's hatred for the "elites" during this economic crisis. Pantalone could have appealed to people's anger by promising a fight against the Harris legacy of downloading services. He could have offered real socialist solutions to people's problems. This would have distinguished him clearly from the rest of the candidates. But all he offered was more of the same. People saw him as an insider bureaucrat who would just continue the Miller regime without any change in people's lives (he would build a cricket stadium, though!). Ford, superbly, if demagogically, used people's anger with wasteful politicians to come to power.

Shallow, superficial pundits might say so but Ford's election actually doesn't signify a general shift to the right in Toronto. During the election, some polls that showed Ford as the definite winner, also showed that if David Miller had run again, he would have been elected. It is true that a lot of Millerite leftie councillors were also ousted in what is clearly a rage against incumbents. However, some new left-wing councillors were elected. In my own riding, leftie Kristyn Wong-Tam was elected against the Liberal ex-cop Ken Chan. It was a general fight against the status quo and not an ideological shift to the right.



It has been said that "four years of turbulence" is what's upon us now that Rob Ford has been elected.
CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

But what will Fordland look like now? What kind of Toronto will we have with Ford as mayor and a new council that, despite what some say, will probably end up voting with him on most of the matters?

Cutting waste and answering everybody's phone calls might have been the loudest and most regular thing that came out of his mouth but his real plan is simply a wide-ranging attack on the working class in Toronto. It is not incidental that he started his victory speech by saying "Toronto is now open for business." Ford might have presented himself like a member of the "common folk" to a lot of people with his football coach experience and modest mini-van. But his agenda, backed by his multi-millionaire brother, Doug Ford, who now replaces him as the Councillor in Ward 2, will be decided by the big corporations and Toronto's Board of Trade.

Just take one of Ford promises that was also repeated in his victory speech: abolishing the Fair Wage Policy, which obligates the City to pay union wages to contract workers. Or his promise not to replace retiring workers and, perhaps most importantly, to outsource garbage collection, as was previously done in Etobicoke.

Each of these policies on their own are enough to justify months of strikes. It has been said that "four years of turbulence" is what's upon us now. I say "four years of class war" is probably a more accurate designation.

I'll end this article with an anecdote. In case you think this might be just one of my left-wing fantasises and unions will not stand up to Ford.

Stumbling on John Cartwright, from the Toronto & York Region Labour Council this past Wednesday I asked him what labour's response to Ford would be. He said: "We'll do to him what the Republicans are doing to Obama."

Arash Azizi is the co-chair of U of T's Marxist Discussion Group and a member of the New Democratic Party.

Justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

More needs to be done to create a lasting peace in the war-torn African country

Chelsea Bin Han
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

For some, justice is negotiable. For victims of rape and torture, it is not.

The culture of impunity in the Democratic Republic of Congo has a regrettably long history. This shaped the two peace processes during the First and Second Congolese Civil Wars. The 1999 Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the 2002 Inter-Congolese Dialogue failed to enforce the criminal accountability of the Congolese rebel groups for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The DRC is a country where Gabriel Amisi, a former insurgent who allegedly spearheaded the Kisangani massacre in May 2002, can become a brigadier-general of the national army. This is where the pursuit of justice defies the gravity of law. In the eyes of victims, the government favours short-term stability over justice. The appointment of four rebel leaders as vice presidents at the expense of retributive justice is not "rational."

The apparent trade-off between peace and justice is a recurring pattern in peace agreements. This dualism in agreements is seemingly instrumentalized only to provide a stamp of legitimacy for belligerents in the conflict. The power-sharing deal of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue secured the political survivability of rebel groups by forsaking the interests of the Congolese citizenry.

Although the Dialogue included the ill-fated resolution on a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, it had the power to grant amnesty to any persons who confessed their crimes. Instead of insisting on the stringent clauses of criminal justice, the Congolese government yielded to the interests of rebels by declaring that any guilt was absolved for acts of war for rebels who participated in the Dialogue.

The debate in the Canadian House of Commons on March 22, 2000 revealed the dynamics of negotiation that prevailed in the Lusaka Ceasefire Accord. As Jean Augustine, a former Liberal Member of Parliament questioned:

"I'm still grappling with the whole notion of the dialogue. If the people want peace, if those involved in the war say they want peace, what is the problem here? I don't fully understand that."

The problem is the absence of sincerity of the negotiators. What is worse is the international community's self-induced deception that the peace agreements, like the Lusaka Accord, are an effective lever to halt the maelstrom of war. As it turned out, the Lusaka Accord was a mere pause in the spiral of violence that continued until 2003.

The admission of a lack of political will by Sir Ketumile Masire, UN-appointed facilitator in the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, is not constructive in reputing the false dichotomy of peace and justice. Negotiators should not succumb to an all or nothing mentality about promoting either peace or justice. The lesson of the Congolese peace processes attests to the need to employ various instruments of justice, such as military tribunals and community-level reconciliation, to achieve lasting peace.

Canadian's contribution to upholding the rule of law has been meager. Out of the 20,509 military personnel part of the UN mission in the DRC (known as MONUC), there are only 12 Canadian Forces officers who are helping to bring justice to those who witnessed the atrocities of the conflict. The Department of National Defense has dispatched 140 soldiers since the beginning of the MONUC in 1999. This thin record of cooperation in a strategic periphery is not enough to justify Canada's token involvement.

For Canada, the path it must choose at the crossroad between peace and justice is clear. Canada must hark back to the bygone era of being a moral superpower and exert its soft power as an honest broker in the dialogue of just peace.

Canada's leadership by example in funding multilateral initiatives such the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region is laudable. It must render continual diplomatic support by reappointing the Special Envoy to the DRC and the Great Lakes Region.

At home, it starts with a small step: overcoming compassion fatigue by humanizing the people whose justice has been denied.

Is this the end of the RCMP?

The federal government may have to completely overhaul the iconic national police organization for it to be effective

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



KASHMERA/FLICKR

Last week, embattled RCMP commissioner William Elliott announced the creation of regional commands for the Mounties. The new structure, modelled in part on that of the Canadian Forces, would see local RCMP detachments reporting principally to empowered regional commanders, rather than directly to Ottawa. If successful, the change will be an important step in the right direction. However, this and other reform efforts will do too little to address the challenges facing the Mounties. Allegations of misconduct within the force are rampant as are reports of discord and dispute between RCMP veterans and their civilian bosses, including Elliott.

The notoriously hard-headed culture of the RCMP is partly to blame, as is its increasingly anachronistic structure. Reviews of the RCMP's problems, whether external or internal, tend to focus too much on culture and far too little on structure. To be sure, the RCMP's culture, which is said to be suspicious of civilian control and wary of the insensitivity of Ottawa-based commanders to the realities of day-to-day policing, is a crucial factor. However, ascribing the problems entirely to culture makes it too easy for RCMP leadership and politicians to avoid considering and implementing substantial reforms.

The solutions proposed for structural problems, such as commissioner Elliott's announcement of new regional commands, are often too weak or poorly implemented. Those changes proposed by internal reviews tend to be insubstantial not because of a lack of interest in major reforms, but because reviewers are aware of the increasingly distrustful relationship of senior RCMP commanders and the force's civilian leadership. Unfortunately, this cautious approach does little to prevent the relationship from worsening. External reviewers are aware of this problem, but are too deferential to the RCMP's civilian leadership, which in turn is in a relatively weak position to implement reforms.

Not only are proposed structural solutions too weak, but they tend to downplay the principal challenge facing the RCMP: the breadth of its responsibilities. As Canada's federal police force, the Mounties are responsible for investigating federal crimes, such as counterfeiting and smuggling. They also have a special responsibility for national security, particularly counterterrorism, which has been substantially expanded since the September 11 attacks. In much of Canada, the RCMP is also contracted by provincial governments to deliver local policing. Many other countries, such as France and Italy, have national police forces with local responsibilities, but nowhere does a single national police force have such broad responsibilities.

The breadth of the RCMP's responsibilities is problematic because it not only hampers the ability of the leadership to exercise control over the RCMP's diverse operations, but also keeps its complaints commission from effectively being able to investigate allegations of misconduct. Current reform proposals would see the complaints commission strengthened and a greater emphasis placed on regional control over local policing, but this would do little to address the problematic aspects of the RCMP's federal policing, and especially its national security-related activities. Given the RCMP's culture and structure, a more balanced reform that would address all of the RCMP's responsibilities is unlikely to be effective.

Instead, the government should move to break up the RCMP. Ideally, the government would shrink the existing RCMP and reorganize it along the lines of the Australian Federal Police. It would then negotiate with the provinces for whom it currently delivers local policing to transfer a portion of the RCMP's resources in those provinces to new provincial police forces, starting with Alberta and British Columbia. The federal government should continue policing in the territories and smaller provinces in the medium term, though they should examine opportunities for shared regional policing.

Unfortunately, such a reform would likely be too radical to be palatable to politicians and RCMP leadership alike. A more likely solution would be to create provincial police forces in Alberta and British Columbia, which are wealthy enough to afford the transition costs. The government should also split the RCMP into two federal police forces, one with the responsibility for federal policing and national security and another for local policing in the provinces without their own forces and in the territories. Both federal forces would need clearer rules and better oversight to avoid as many of the problems which plague the current version of the RCMP as possible.

Neither solution would solve all of the RCMP's problems, but both would help address the confusion of responsibilities. This would help RCMP leadership exercise better command and control and facilitate effective oversight and review of the RCMP's operations, especially in the area of national security. Unfortunately, creating new provincial police forces, even in only two provinces, would require more and better interagency and intergovernmental coordination, which would be hard to establish and even harder to maintain. Despite this potential problem, the status quo is untenable and change is necessary if the RCMP is to avoid further scandal and shame.

· LETTERS ·

Re: The president writes backs, Oct. 25

President Naylor, I think you do a disservice to those who objected to the Faculty of Arts & Science's restructuring plan by caricaturing their objection as asserting conspiracies at Simcoe Hall or among "evil right-wing benefactors."

There is little doubt that the consultative process you speak of at A&S failed. The proof is in the pudding. The proposed plan was met with shock and vociferous objection both at U of T and far beyond our campus. If the consultative process had been properly executed, there never would have been the boiling point that was reached nor the subsequent pull-back of the proposed restructuring.

So whilst you make some good points, President Naylor, I would have appreciated if you also acknowledged a failure at Arts & Science to effectively conduct the very debate and dialogue you cite as necessary.

"John Doe"

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions submissions are also welcome.

An Open Letter To the University of Toronto Administration

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of [hu]mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people…
— Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On June 27 the G20 Summit's Integrated Security Unit raided the Graduate Student Union on the basis of a tip provided by a Reilly private security guard. No warrant was provided at the time of the raid and police arrested 73 guests of the GSU, as well as two elected members of their executive. During and after the raid, the police engaged in an open policy of profiling and targeting Francophones. Police officers ransacked the GSU's building and damaged GSU and guest property. The Administration of the University of Toronto made no effort to stop this illegal raid.

In October, the Crown attorney dropped all of the charges against those arrested at the GSU. This decision amounts to an admission that the ISU and the Ontario justice system arbitrarily and illegally arrested the GSU's guests and denied them their basic civil rights.

On Wednesday, October 20, under the aegis of the Toronto Association of Police and Private Security, the Toronto Police and private security firms from across the city were scheduled to convene at the University of Toronto Faculty Club to hold a closed-door "G20 Debriefing" training seminar. The University of Toronto Campus Community Police Service and Reilly Security (a private contractor of the University) arranged to host this event less than ten meters from the site of the GSU raid. This plan was an insult to those arrested, to our campus community, and to the most basic principles of this institution.

Under pressure from the campus community, TAPPS relocated its October 20 meeting to an undisclosed location off campus. This victory demonstrates the effectiveness of collective organizing and mobilization. We will continue to mobilize until the University of Toronto Administration meets all of our demands.

According to its Statement of Institutional Purpose, adopted in 1992, the University of Toronto is dedicated to the "vigilant protection of human rights." On June 27, this protection was violated under your watch.

We the undersigned demand the following:

- An immediate ban on closed police, security, or military events on campus;
- Compensation for all those who were wrongfully detained and had their rights violated during the GSU Raid;
- Full disclosure by the University of Toronto as to its interaction with the Integrated Security Unit during the G20 Summit;
- A public reaffirmation by President David Naylor, Provost Cheryl Misak, and Governing Council of their commitment to the University of Toronto's Statement of Purpose;
- A public apology from all parties involved in executing the raid at the GSU.

Sincerely,

University of Toronto Students' Union
U of T Graduate Students' Union
U of T Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students
Canadian Union of Public Employees 3902
Ontario Public Interest Research Group — Toronto
Health Studies Students' Union
U of T Faculty Signatories:
Bonnie Burstow, *Faculty, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education*
Andrew Clement, *Professor, Faculty of Information, Coordinator, Information Policy Research Program*
Deborah Cowen, *Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Research Associate, Cities Centre*
Hans B. de Groot, *Associate Professor of English Emeritus, University of Toronto*
Chandler Davis, *Department of Mathematics and New College*
James Deutsch, *Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine*
Judy Deutsch, *President Science for Peace*
Paul Downes, *Associate Professor, Department of English*
Paul A. Hamel, *Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Director, Health Studies, University College*
Paula Karger, *Centre for Comparative Literature*
Ernie Lightman, *Faculty of Social Work*
Jay Macpherson, *Professor Emeritus, U of T*
Shahrzad Mojab, *Professor, Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology*
Victor Ostapchuk, *Associate Professor, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations*
Richard Roman, *Associate Professor, Sociology (retired) and Founding Fellow, Senior College, University of Toronto.*
Richard Sandbrook, *Professor of Political Science*
Nicholas Sammond, *Cinema Studies Institute/English Department*
Ben-Z. Shek, *Professor Emeritus, U of T*
Rinaldo Walcott, *Associate Professor*
Germaine Warkentin, *Professor Emeritus of English*

THE HUNT FOR GREEN OCTOBER

Where are U of T students supposed to drink in the Annex now that the Green Room is closed? **JOE HOWELL** drags **SEAN MACKAY** and **TOM CARDOSO** around town to find out.

Photos by *TOM CARDOSO*


VICTORY CAFE

DOWN AN ALLEYWAY AND THEN INTO ANOTHER, THERE EXISTED A BAR THAT WAS THE STUFF OF LEGEND.

Yes, it had mice. Yes, someone might puke in a corner and the staff would blithely ignore it. And yes, the ashtrays in the grotto would build up into cancerous little pyramids without anyone emptying them. A thousand times yes!

All the stories are true — go ahead and make up your own. Although if you've been at U of T for more than two months you probably don't have to. The thing was, though, none of these damning tales mattered. Like Owen Wilson's broken nose or the Tower of Pisa's drunken lean, these imperfections only added to the Green Room's charm.

And really, what did you expect? There were hardly any food or drink options on the menu that cost more than four dollars. The place was dimly yet cheerily lit with beer bottle candles and coloured lights, and there was always indie rock on the sound system, frequently a classic album playing in its entirety.

The walls were covered in eclectic art, the staff were great when not overwhelmed, and the meatheads and jocks that plague other Annex locations mostly stayed away. Truly, it was God's country — just without the whole cleanliness-being-next-to-godliness thing.

Unfortunately, The Man didn't find the Green Room's grunginess so endearing, and after repeated health violations the place was shut down. On September 22, an angry red DineSafe "CLOSED" notice shuttered our incorrigible little dive bar, perhaps for good, and The Varsity's motley collection of drunken journalists have been at a loss ever since.

Where are we supposed to go after production? Where will we celebrate victories and lament defeats? After a month of crying another tear into our beer at sanitary yet soulless pubs like The Pump, we decided to take action. We would find the new Green Room, or die of alcohol poisoning trying.

So on a dreary Tuesday night, in the middle of a "weather bomb" that was difficult not to turn into pathetic fallacy in the wake of Ford's mayoral win, I assembled a few of this paper's more notorious lushes: Sean, who's been known to enjoy a snifter of port at Christmas; Tom, who likes to shoot photos and drinks with silly names; and Andrew, the famous Ten-dollar Wine Snob, who bailed when he discovered the plonk-tasting I'd lured him out with was a ruse.

The three of us set out for Bloor Street. Our mission: visit as many Annex bars as humanly possible, and see if we couldn't find a watering hole that would fill the hole in our hearts left by the health inspector.

THE REGAL BEAGLE

The first stop on our tour was the flavourless Beagle. From the outset we could tell this pub, sparsely populated with as many TVs as lonely-looking dudes, wasn't for us. But since it's geographically closest to our corner of campus, we figured we'd give it a try.

Not to give this dog a bad name, but it suffers from a real identity crisis. We heard the Beatles, Bob Marley, and Lykke Li in the 15 or so minutes we spent there, and the drink list was stuffed with vile-sounding teenage concoctions like "Killer Kool-Aid" and the "Dirty Monkey," even though the clientele was mostly middle-aged. And the lights! It was so bright in there. We like places were people won't realize how homely we are. That being said, the bartender was extremely friendly.

SEAN MACKAY: This bar has potential but it lacks focus. They're going in too many directions at once and not doing a good job with any of them (friendly staff excluded). And what's going on with the music in this place? There's no harm in being eclectic, but this sounds like they've put someone's iPod on shuffle and didn't bother to filter out the missteps that are inevitable when you let a machine choose the songs.

TOM CARDOSO: This place has no personality. It's not trying to be anything, and because of that, it doesn't really cater to anyone in particular. I get a feeling that the only people that come here are accidental passers-by who aren't familiar with the area and don't know any better. I guess there's a reason I've only ever been here twice.

THE MADISON

Next up was the infamous super-bar, the Maddy. I once spent a summer boarding at a frat house, and the entire pan-Hellenic community would congregate here every Monday to discuss the origins of Greek democracy, debate foreign policy, and get their mack on. Having neglected to GTL before leaving the office, I was skeptical we'd fit in here, but Sean figured we could order Jägerbombs at one of the Maddy's nine bars, and blend right in.

SM: After a long day of work, I'm feeling a bit exhausted as we climb to the second floor of the Maddy. Luckily, inhaling half a can of Red Bull along with a shot of delicious Jägermeister gives you a great buzz. These frat dudes are on to something.


THE REGAL BEAGLE

TC: As maligned as the Maddy might be, I actually don't mind it. Heck, I might even like it. It's nice and big, looks pretty clean, and the service is good. It's also mildly entertaining that you can sit on the patio for a while with a bunch of fratty 20-somethings, then go down to the basement and watch a bunch of drunk 50-year-olds play darts (it can get surprisingly competitive). Still, the fratty vibes I get from this place don't really float my boat.

JAMES JOYCE

This bar makes about as much sense as *Finnegans Wake*. At the front door, we're into the green lights and sign promising cheap drinks, but confused by the karaoke cover of Pearl Jam's break-up classic "Black" drifting into the streets. Inside, blue-collar pub types cohabit uneasily with twenty-somethings who look like they got lost on their way to Parkdale. TVs play


THE LAB


INSOMNIA

"the game" while girls on stage wail their way through Rocky Horror's "Time Warp," and when I go to visit the WC, I find two Slavic gangsters plotting the murder of their enemy. I decide it can wait until the next bar.

That being said, this is the best bet so far: it promises live music 365 days a year, and they deliver. It's got enough character to justify not just drinking at home, and the drinks are cheap enough to keep you from dropping another class for the ROSI refund.

SM: While the two girls screeching their way through a karaoke version of "You Oughta Know" is a bit unsettling, the place has a much better vibe that the Madison and the Regal Beagle. It's also the most lively bar we've been to yet. With pool, karaoke, cheap pints, and Halloween decorations, the Joyce is trying to accommodate a diverse array of tastes and it seems to be doing a pretty good job.

TC: Joe disagrees, but I find the James Joyce to be way too dark. And the couches are too soft and actually kind of uncomfortable to sit in. But aside from that, it's got a nice, divey atmosphere. There was a guy sitting next to us with hair like a lion's mane, so the JJ gets extra points for that, too.

Unfortunately, The Man didn't find the Green Room's grunginess so endearing, and after repeated health violations the place was shut down.

THE TRANZAC

Before now, I've always encountered the Tranzac peripherally. Between intending to and then failing to visit the Toronto Zine Library, or hanging in the parking lot after intending to and then failing to see a Fringe play, I've always meant to hang out here. Now, I don't know why I waited so long. The Toronto Australia New Zealand Club is a strange but intriguing place, full of interesting people and music. We had such a good time, we'll even forgive the bartender for trying to make our whisky sour with Apple Sourz. Just be careful if you want to chat over the freaky live jazz.

SM: Not so much a place to hang out as it is somewhere to see talented performers from diverse backgrounds while enjoying a vast selection of beer. I once saw a burlesque show here.

TC: I'd never been here before, and now I kind of regret it. This place is awesome! Considering the sweet live jazz going, the microbrews on tap, and the Zine Library on the second floor, it's a bit troubling to find out that they're not doing so well financially.

THE LAB

We agree to stop by the Futures back room for a quick one before girding our loins with some food. Luckily, we have our I.D. — you'll always get carded here, even if you're in your late-early twenties. The drink specials and candles on the tables put this locale miles above crapholes like the Beer Station, but the emeretic teeny martinis and amateur-hour DJs never fail to make this place feel like a bush-league Czehoski.

SM: Though a quintessential pre-drink location in my second year, I wouldn't want to spend more than half an hour at the Lab. It's just as grimy as the Green Room, but is completely devoid of charm.

TC: Lightning round! With shots of Jameson, no less! (God, I hate Jameson.) The Lab has always sort of weirded me out. It's not bad, but it just feels off for some reason. If I stay here for more than 30 minutes, I start to get depressed thanks to the shitty atmosphere. Not my choicest hang-out, to be honest.

INSOMNIA

Man, were we ever glad that Pauper's Pub was closed by midnight on a Tuesday. We ended up getting actually edible eats in a place that was worth hanging out in. This place was almost too nice, giving our meal an oddly bromantic vibe, but we all agreed it was great. Just don't mistake it for its crummy psychosomatic rival Amnesia.

SM: If it weren't for Insomnia's kitchen that is conveniently open until last call, I'd be in serious danger of crashing before completing our mission. I must admit, their avocado and brie sandwich is far superior to the Green Room's. Great selection of beer too! And four dollar pints of Mill St. Lemon Tea beer on Wednesdays — I think I'm in love.

TC: The food here is amazing! Definitely feels like you've been transported to Queen Street all of a sudden. Art on the walls, candlelight, late 20-something creative types drinking wine and eating tapas; it might not be everyone's scene, but it's deceptively affordable, incredibly enough. I've made a mental note to go back in the next few weeks. Speaking of notes, Sean lost all of his notes for the night here because he was too drunk.

THE CENTRAL

Minority report: this bar was rad. The girls on stage for the open mic night were killing every song request the three or four other patrons were shouting at them, and the bartender didn't seem to mind that we were down to counting out our quarters just to tip him.

SM: It seems like we came on the wrong night. This place is pretty deserted. Admittedly we're coming in pretty late on a Tuesday, but it's tough to judge a bar's strengths when there just isn't anything going on.

TC: I had high hopes for the Central. We definitely came here on the wrong night. Why do bars even do open mic nights? They're always so terrible! Sorry, back to the Central: drinks are cheap enough here, and the place has a pretty neat character (that is, when "performers" aren't doing some misogynistic comedy routine). Check this place out on a weekend.

The group at the next table is rolling a joint and the staff doesn't seem to notice/care. I think this speaks to the laid back character of this fine establishment.

THE VICTORY CAFE

The Varsity's former Editor-in-Chief, Jade Colbert, would always insist we go here instead of the Green Room if we wanted to get her to come along (she had some vendetta against filthiness). It's actually a pretty great little bar — dimly lit, good music, nice people and a patio — if a tad far from campus. It's probably the Annex's best bet right now. For what it's worth, it's the only place we got a second round.

SM: The group at the next table is rolling a joint and the staff doesn't seem to notice/care. I think this speaks to the laid back character of this fine establishment. Another gin and tonic please!

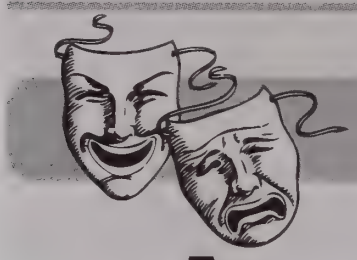
TC: The Victory seems to be my perennial "plan B." If something falls through or the Green Room is closed due to health violations, I'll usually end up here. I wonder why, though: the service is awfully slow (this past summer, I once sat for a full hour on the patio before getting a menu to look at), the music is almost always just-slightly-too-loud, and the waiters all come with a plentiful serving of attitude. Yet I still love it here. Go figure.

VERDICT

The Victory is victorious! Go spend your student loan here instead of studying. That being said, if some dive bar tycoon wants to buy the Green Room and bring it up to code without changing anything, we'll pay for your investment five times over.


THE TRANZAC


AND JOE PAY THEIR FINAL RESPECTS



Campus Stage

Angry? Actually, we're content.

Victoria College Drama Society does Twelve Angry Men *justice*

Daniel Portoraro
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

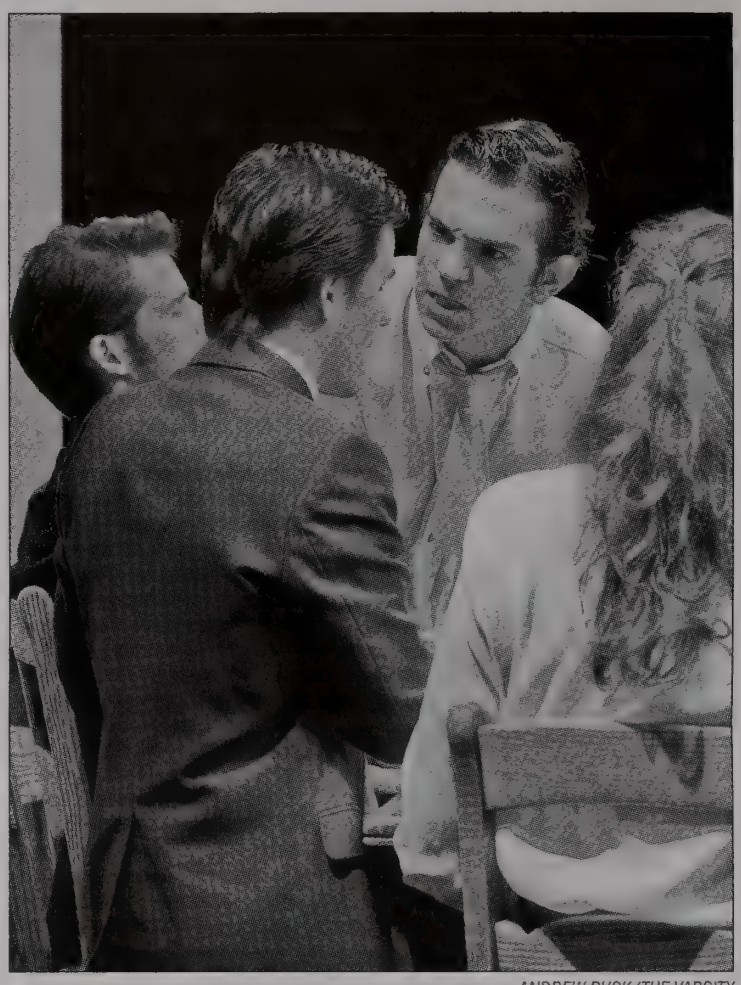
There is no substitute for Henry Fonda, but over the course of his two hours on stage, Stephen Ermel does a commendable job in trying to convince us otherwise. This year, the Victoria College Drama Society chose*Twelve Angry Men* to expose to the university audience. A difficult task, no doubt, but one that the beautiful cast and the director, Patrick Kelly, take on with gusto. Set in the 50s, the play tells the story of a jury comprised of twelve individuals who have nearly unanimously voted on the death penalty for a murderer. *Twelve Angry Men* is a voyage through the deconstruction of evidence and logic, as Juror Eight attempts to convince the rest of his peers that the suspect is innocent.

Though a wonderful script and riveting story, VCDS's production is not without its flaws. Ermel proves to be a convincing and highly intriguing Juror Eight, and whether it's because he is the voice of reason in the play, or because he is a sound actor, the audience inevitably finds itself drawn to him. But the anger inherent in the show is never adequately conveyed on stage. The blame here lies with the intolerant characters of Jurors Three and Ten, played by Robert Bellissimo and Christopher Mastropietro respectively. While Bellissimo is convincing whilst seated and stupefied, his outbreaks of rage seem forced and contrived. Mastropietro, however, seems adequate by comparison. Juror Ten begins with a strong performance, effectively making the audience despise him, but toward his monologue in the second half, Mastropietro trips into the realm of self-conscious acting, portraying strong narrow mindedness with weakness. However, by the play's climax, it is this softness that saves him; the actor is fully able to portray a man broken down. In the VCDS's *Twelve Angry Men,* anger is best conveyed through intonation, and not through the bursts of shouting and the toppling-over of chairs that director Kelly tries to take on.

To a certain extent, the inclusion of women in the cast doesn't make much of a difference in the production. One wonders whether such a decision was made on the basis of political correctness, rather than artistry; the director could just easily have had men en lieu of Juror Two, Four, Six, Seven, and none of us would have minded. However, this would have prevented the audience from being exposed to Emily Johnson, a riveting figure in black and white, who may very well be the play's hidden jewel. Her back straight and hair tightly done, Juror Four's character is uptight and strict, which Miss Johnson conveys with such substance that it would be hard for this reviewer to imagine her any other way, on or off the stage. Janina Kowalski, Juror Seven, however, is a bit less convincing in her portrayal of a roughed-up baseball fanatic. Such a role set in that time period is inevitably that of a man, and in this production the decision to have Miss Kowalski take on the reins of loud gum-chewing is rather forced and unnatural. A shame.

It is impossible to have a perfect view of all the jurors, from any seat in the theatre. This unique, if sometimes crippling, form of staging nonetheless acts as an invisible spotlight, cleverly focusing our eyes on the most important characters. Special mention ought to go to the play's costume designer. All the pieces are of period and convince us we're looking in on a jury from the 50s. This reviewer is also happy to note that, while it is not common practice in other university-level productions, the entire cast looks comfortable in their clothes, modifying them naturally as the figurative and natural heat of the room takes hold.

Running at two hours (with an intermission), *Twelve Angry Men* sometimes feels longer than it ought to. No matter how one looks at it, the play is a success due to its script, and regardless of some of the production's shortcomings, the show is competent, led by key members of a relatively-talented cast.



ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Fair Game goes off its game

Doug Liman's film about Valerie Plame stumbles in its second half

Alan Jones
VARSITY STAFF



Considering how high-strung and abrasive Sean Penn seems in real life, whether he's stating his political views or attacking the paparazzi, it's kind of remarkable how often he is able to give effectively restrained performances — sometimes even performances as people the audience might actually want to know. Penn's performance as former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson in Doug Liman's *Fair Game* is not one of those performances. Wilson is a public figure in his own right: he wrote an op-ed piece in 2003 for the *New York Times* that revealed the George W. Bush administration had twisted speculative evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to begin a war. Whether he's delivering an impassioned speech about the follies of the Iraq War to a crowd of college students, or screaming and pointing his finger at a group of reporters surrounding his car, Sean Penn never seems to be anyone but Sean Penn.

But the movie isn't really about Joe Wilson, or Sean Penn. It's about Valerie Plame (Naomi Watts), Wilson's wife and a CIA agent working on weapons of mass destruction. Doug Liman, who at times is capable of directing with great skill (*The Bourne Identity, Mr. And Mrs. Smith),* is at his most comfortable in the first half of the movie, where we witness the inner procedures of a CIA task force. We oversee board meetings in which aides from the vice president's office push speculative evidence. We witness the manner in which this unreliable evidence is twisted to justify the coming war. We see the dismay of the intelligent but timid CIA analysts as their work is used for unjust ends. It's rare that a film paints such an unsensationalized portrait of an organization as mythologized as the CIA, and although I'm sure creative liberties were taken, it is certainly a unique presentation.

But after Wilson reveals the misinterpreted information to the press, the operations of the CIA become secondary to the marital relationship between Plame and Wilson. Valerie Plame's name is leaked to the press by Richard Armitage, under the direction of vice presidential aide Scooter Libby (David Andrews). Her family is harassed, their names dragged through the mud in the press, and Plame's operations in Iraq were immediately cancelled; Joe Wilson continued to talk to the press even as he was subject to slander. The rest of the story, as it appeared in public, is known. Eventually, Scooter Libby was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for perjury, obstruction of justice, and making false statements, but was pardoned by President Bush before serving time.

Perhaps the wide public knowledge of this case is why, at around this point, the movie decides to become a domestic drama concerning the crumbling relationship between the vocal Wilson and the silent Plame, who fears the effect that the publicity of this scandal will have on the normalcy of their family life. It is here that the movie stops delivering; Liman is less skilled with drama than with action, and the abrupt shift in tone and subject matter is unwelcome. Instead of an engaging (albeit politically simplified) thriller, we get a marriage that comes close to falling apart, but Watts' performance doesn't provide Plame with suitable degree of emotional strength, and the similarities between Wilson and Penn makes one wonder if Penn is using this role as a catharsis for his own tumultuous marriage with Robin Wright. While I applaud Penn's willingness to engage in films that represent his political views, he should know not to put this much of himself into a character.

Portrait of the artist

Heralded debut novelist Miguel Syjuco's call to arms

Jade Colbert
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Miguel Syjuco first entered the international spotlight in 2008 when the manuscript of his debut novel, *Ilustrado*, won the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize, awarded to the best unpublished English-language book by an Asian author. The novel, published in Canada in May, tells the story of a young Philippino writer living in New York, also named Miguel Syjuco, and his mentor, lion of Filipino letters Crispin Salvador. When Crispin dies mysteriously and the elder writer's long-awaited manuscript goes missing, Miguel suspects foul play and returns to Manila to investigate if the death had anything to do with rumours that Crispin's latest work was to pillory the Philippines' ruling elite.

Told partly from Miguel's perspective, partly through fragments of Crispin's writings as well as blogs, news reports, and interviews, Ilustrado examines the responsibilities of the artist within the corruption of Filipino politics.

Raised in Manila and Vancouver, the 33-year-old author currently lives in Montreal, where he is completing thesis work for a doctorate from the University of Adelaide. *The Varsity* met the author over brunch while he was in town for the International Festival of Authors.

TV: The Ilustrados *of your title: who are they?*

MS: Well, on the surface they are the young men, the young expatriates who left the Philippines in the late 1800s to become students and propagandists and reformers in Europe. These are a group of middle class scholars, the educated elite, who left, studied all they could in Europe — warfare, the liberal arts, sciences, medicine, philosophy — and then came back and were a central part of the Philippine Revolution. I use it in other ways. One way I flip the meaning, I use it somewhat ironically in the book, because it's an indictment of the elites who made the wrong decisions or selfish decisions throughout the generations. These are the ruling elite who have let the country down.

TV: *You've said that "serious literature" aspires to some sort of effect or some sort of commentary. Would you say that* Ilustrado *has a moral?*

MS: No, but it is a book about morality. It is a book that tries to dispel these facile absolutes of good versus evil, rich versus poor, corrupt versus not corrupt, or honesty versus dishonesty. In a country like the Philippines, like any third-world country, its not about that, it's about the in-betweens, it's about the hidden agendas. So there's no moral. It's a book without answers, but it's a book filled with questions.

TV: *It's also a very Filipino book. Was there something specific about the Filipino diaspora that you wanted to address?*

MS: I wanted to write a book that would appeal to both Filipino readers and international readers. I wanted to show that experience as something that has happened over generations and over classes. I wanted to speak to the frustration we have that through generations, nothing has changed in the country. I hoped that the act of publishing, the act of being read abroad in a way [would] become a source of pride for the Philippines. More often than not, people haven't read a book by a Filipino writer.

TV: *And I'll admit that I hadn't.*

MS: Exactly, right? Most people haven't even heard of a book by a Filipino writer, and we've got a hundred-year history of writing in English. I hope [the book] represents this idea that we can tell our stories if we work hard, that people are interested, and they want to read it and want to listen to this culture that is all too often dismissed as a bunch of preconceptions such as maids or prostitutes or Imelda Marcos. We're all of those things and far more.

TV: *That desire to cover these subjects: was that the jumping-off point for writing the novel? How was the book conceived?*

MS: I wanted to write about a character, a portrait of an artist, a frustrated guy who, having enjoyed some success when the world was watching, when the news cycle was focused on us, fell into obscurity and frustration later on, and anger and resentment, and the hope that we could come back. I found that through his work, by using those sorts of didactic forms — essays, interviews, articles, blogs, and memoir — I could quite elegantly be didactic without the reader feeling they're being fed some sort of sugar-coated, potted history.



TV: *In other interviews that you've done, you've seemed to bristle at the word "postmodern" when it's been applied to this novel. In a way, it's understandable why people might apply it to* Ilustrado. *It's fragmentary, and for a lot of people, that's shorthand for the postmodern. But you don't think that label applies?*

MS: No. I mean, postmodernism was a reaction to modernism of the '60s or '70s. I don't think it's a precise word at all. I don't think it's an applicable word. I think this book is contemporary. I think the way we look at our reality is fragmentary. Our sources of information come from many places. You look at movies, you look at music: we have a lot of sampling, a lot of influences. HBO TV: they cut scenes, and they follow different characters. It's no longer just one or two cameras following the action. And yet, in fiction there's a resistance to that sort of move to processing narrative or experiencing narrative the way we do elsewhere. I just see it as a contemporary novel, whereas other novels that stick to older conventions are more traditional. That's all there is to it. I don't consider it postmodern at all.

TV: *Is that something that you also struggle with? Trying to describe what's going on in contemporary literature?*

MS: Yeah! I'm struggling with contemporary literature, period, you know? I find that — yeah, I'm distressed by the fact that, when something is considered different, innovative, people say it's "postmodern," it's "clever," it's "pretentious," all these things — I don't know why.

TV: *Well, there's something to be said for being entertaining.*

MS: Yeah, and that's fine, but it's almost funny because, you know, you think David Foster Wallace, Thomas Pynchon, Roberto Bolaño: these are writers who people know they're going to have a challenging time reading, but that's fine, they understand that. But it's almost as if they established themselves earlier on in an age when, I don't know, when it was okay to do those things. But nowadays…

TV: *But, you know, people do enjoy being set a challenge. You sit down to read David Foster Wallace and you know what you're getting into and you look forward to that.*

MS: Exactly. And the thing with David Foster Wallace is, I don't see any reason why we shouldn't assume that readers are smart. But a lot of books out there — and it frustrates me — a lot of books out there feel like they're kids books for adults.
We need people trying to do things differently. It took me a while to come to terms with this idea that my books aren't going to fly off the shelves. It's not going to be universally loved. It's going to be divisive. There are going to be people who get it, enjoy it, some people in some cases love it, there are going to be people who don't get it whatsoever, dismiss it, say "this is crap." But then there's that faith, there's that description: "It's a good book for a book club." Like, it's even taught in schools. I like that. I mean, publishers want to sell books — writers do, too — but this idea that you can write books that people feel passionately about: that's the most important thing.

TV: *A couple people feeling passionately about it rather than a lot of people feeling okay about it.*

MS: Exactly. I don't want a middle-of-the-road book. My readers — people say, you know, "So who was your intended reader?" It's anyone who likes this sort of stuff. And if they don't like it, that's fine: go read something else.

This interview has been abridged for print. For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

Review haiku

Because sometimes you just don't have time to read an entire CD review

Belle and Sebastian
Write About Love

Like a scrawl in the
stall of a disco pisser:
"Not so free, are we?"

-BRENDAN HOBIN

Kings of Leon
Come Around Sundown

Sold tons, but now the
sex sits in the mircrowave.
{continues to yawn}

-NICK McKINLAY

Ice Cube
I Am the West

Too West Coast to rep
the California swagger.
(Your threats don't make sense.)

-EK

Lil Wayne
I Am Not A Human Being

Go make my wife and
my mother fuck my brother
I'm still not impressed

-ARIEL LEWIS

Shakira
Sale el Sol

Your hips never did lie.
But, when did you get so
boring, Shakira?

-EK, AL

Taylor Swift
Speak Now

In exclusive club
with Jennifer Aniston
John Mayer's conquests

-J.P. KACZUR

Sufjan Stevens
Age of Adz

Schoenberg dreams of
Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" and
wakes with happy tears.

-BH

The Pretty Reckless
Light Me Up

And your teenage angst
really "make(s) me wanna die."
At least it's catchy.

-EMILY KELLOGG

Bob Dylan
Bootleg Series Vol.9:
The Witmark Demos

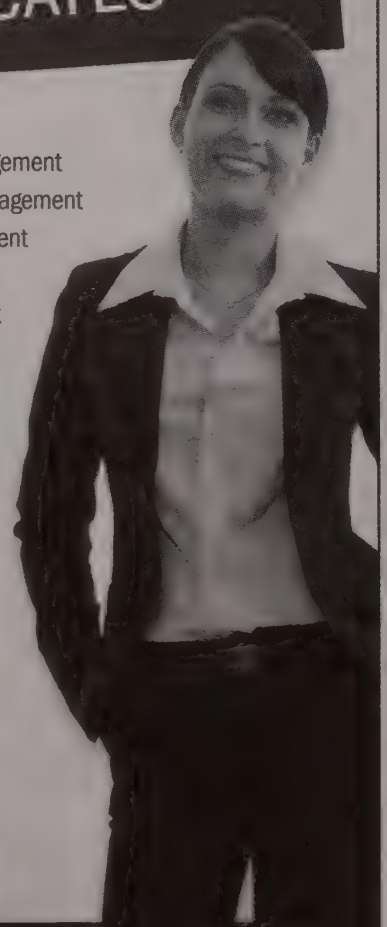
Scraps of songs balance
on a shaky piano
and it's all still here

-NM

HUMBER
The Business School

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Financial Planning
Global Business Management
Human Resources Management
International Development
International Marketing
Marketing Management
Public Administration

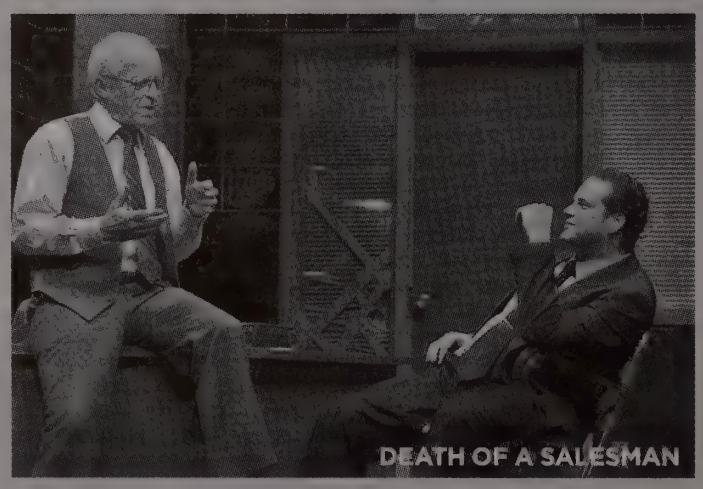


be more

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VarCity

The Varsity's guide to Toronto's best stage



Death In Venice
Thomas Mann's novel is performed in an English opera at the Canadian Opera Company.
Runs to Nov 6. $20/students.
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.
145 Queen W.

Death of a Salesman
Soulpepper takes on Arthur Miller's classic tale of failure and the quintessential middle-age crisis.
Runs to Nov 20 $31.20-$75.33.
Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 55 Mill.

The Girl Who Saw Everything
Ryerson Theater School presents the story of a book club who explore those quintessential themes of life by looking at the influence of an epic.
Runs to Nov 12. $18/students.
Abrams Studio Theatre,
46 Gerrard E.

The List
When a woman becomes too busy to attend to her friend, she accidentally sentences her to death. Chaos ensues.
Runs to Nov 6. $22-$49.
Berkely Street Theatre,
26 Berkely Street.

Madhouse Variations
It's a mental asylum. It's acted out by puppets. Marionette violence and madness has never looked so cool.
Runs to Nov 7.
Theatre Centre,
1087 Queen W.

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Barefoot Cabernet Sauvignon
$9.95 at the LCBO

The first thing you notice with the Barefoot Cabernet Sauvignon is that it won the "Best Buy" award from *Wine Enthusiast*. But ten dollar wine fans beware! "Best Buy" does not necessarily equal good wine.

In fairness to Barefoot, their Cabernet Sauvignon is a decent wine. Like most wines of this variety you'll detect black currant and berry flavours, and it pairs marvelously with pizza and chicken. The berry tones are not as distinct as other Cab Sauv wines, particularly from the Niagara Peninsula, but if you're willing to drink something whose name associates drinking wine with bare feet, I doubt you'll mind.

Also, I would advise against buying a wine that advertises that it is a "Best Buy." The bottle screams thrift and gives the drinker about as much class as a frat boy at a cocktail reception.



William Gibson overdrive

The Varsity's **ALEX ROSS** *sits down with the cyberpunk pioneer.*

PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE

In the 1980s, a young writer, William Gibson, came up with a word to describe the hallucinatory world of visualized information he was creating for "Burning Chrome," his latest short story. The word was "cyberspace." He wrote it down with a red felt tip marker on a small pad of yellow paper and underlined it. And the language to describe the Information Age was born.

He didn't just coin the term "cyberspace." Gibson also pioneered the cyberpunk movement in science fiction. His first novel, 1984's *Neuromancer,* introduced a strange new world of mega-corporations, sprawling neon-lit cities, and obsessive computer hackers with an ability to store RAM in their heads; concepts expanded in novels like *Count Zero, Mona Lisa Overdrive, Virtual Light,* and *Idoru.*

Gibson now sits perpendicular to me at the Westin Harbour Castle, ready to talk about his 10th novel, *Zero History.* Gibson strikes me as someone who keeps it all in perspective. Relaxed, in his blue jacket, checkered shirt, and black slacks, his eyes hint at a mix of deep thought and playfulness.

In *Zero History,* a European plutocrat named Hubertus Bigend employs Milgrim, a reformed drug addict, and Hollis Henry, a broke former rock star, to sniff out an underground military fashion label called Gabriel Hounds. Bigend has appeared in Gibson's previous two novels. In 2003's *Pattern Recognition,* he sent Milgrim to track down the origin of a series of viral videos and, in 2007's *Spook Country,* sent Hollis Henry to report on a new form of aesthetic expression called locative art — all in the name of cashing in on cool. I ask about this theme of trend-spotting in *Zero History.* Gibson instantly tunes into the laid-back philosophical speaking style he's known for.

"It seems to me that a lot of what we do now, is that we have economies of information and trend-spotting is, in its various forms, a central part of any economy of information," he explains. "One of the things you can reliably get rich on knowing is what the next popular thing is going to be, and you can make a good living telling people what the next popular thing's going to be regardless of whether you're right about it."

This makes me decide to ask Gibson about the role of trend-spotter conferred on him by reviewers.

"You've been previously characterized as a prophet, though I know that's a designation you're uncomfortable with. As a science fiction novelist have you always been writing about the present? Have you just been showing people things they should be seeing anyway?" I ask.

"In a sense, yeah, absolutely. Um, I think, you know, anyone can use science fiction as a narrative strategy. Margaret Atwood has used science fiction as a narrative strategy a fair bit recently and she's done it extremely well. But she's not a science fiction writer." He continues: "We build an imaginary future in front of the present when we write the kind of fiction I was writing when I started out. It can only ever be about the present, because it's made out of, it's faked out of the present. That's why imaginary futures in science fiction are obsolete the moment you write them."

This makes me think back to one his early short stories, "The Gernsback Continuum," in which the main character experiences revulsion at the science fiction aesthetic of the 1930s, something that Gibson seems to still share.

"They start to acquire a quaint patina of old-timey futurism as they move along the timeline and that can only increase with time. […] There's some incredibly lucky shots where we get a part of an imaginary future that will last awhile and I've had a couple of those, but I've had lots more things that are just not what happened."

I ask for an example. "Well in *Neuromancer* there are no cellphones. There's a scene in *Neuromancer* that hinges dramatically on a line of payphones ringing in sequence and the thing that's calling is an artificial intelligence. […] That's incredibly archaic in 2010," he says. This brings Gibson back to his earlier point about creating the future out of the present:

"I think an interesting thing to think about is if a science fiction writer had been able to foresee cellphones and in 1980 had written about it in a novel set in 2010, with cellphones the way we have cellphones now, I just don't think anybody would have been able to read it."

I make the point that people were also weirded out by the concept of cyberspace in the 80s and Gibson ponders this for a moment before answering.

"You know I was really lucky with that one. Though what I depicted is really not much like what has happened."

"What about Second Life?" I inquire. "They have a community called Caledon where you can live a steampunk lifestyle and I'm sure there's another where you can live a cyberpunk one too. Don't you think people are creating consensual hallucinations like you described?"

From a technical perspective Gibson sees the Internet as a much more complex mechanism than his original conception of cyberspace.

"The real [technology] is infinitely more complex than any prose model of a [technology] can ever be. G.K. Chesterton said that the funny thing about the future is that when we arrive there it's inevitably as small and unremarkable as the past."

Gibson's quietly profound and humble musings hit overdrive when I start the next set of questions. In one passage in *Zero History,* Milgrim reflects on the nature of addiction and the "gradual dire alchemy" that causes it to start making crucial life decisions for you. I ask Gibson whether he thinks technology could be considered addictive.

"I don't think I would say that myself because to imply that technology is addictive is to imply that technology is a pathological entity. […] Technologies are us. We were the only species, that we know of, that evolved in such a way that it began to create prosthetic forms of human memory that could survive the death of the person who encrypted the information." Gibson takes a more biological view of technology, that we have always been augmenting our reality in order to make the environment suit our needs.

"I don't see any point where […] we doomed ourselves to some sort of endless addictive pathology of technology. I think the Ipad descends directly from the Acheulean hand axe, where if we hadn't gotten that hand axe we would still be sitting in the trees eating bananas," he explains. "Technology seems, to me, to be in our nature."



But is it possible to have any consistency with all of this change? I ask Gibson if the title *Zero History* is something that could apply to the characters in his novels since we cannot get a grasp of their interior history.

"I sometimes doubt that we have selves. I think our idea of self is very much a cultural artifact," he says calmly. He qualifies his statement with a general observation of our society: "We live in this vast LED soup of messages offering to help us define ourselves." I think of the advertisement on Facebook that's trying to sell me cyberpunk-themed t-shirts and can't help admitting that he's right.

"Why don't we ever get inside the heads of Milgrim and Hollis, but instead get these impressionistic slices of the world around them?"

"The tool I am using to depict those characters is what novelists usually call closed third person. […] When you write fiction and you have characters, you have to model the characters to how you think real people operate. I don't trust my understanding of human beings sufficiently enough to go further than I go because then I am actually making it up. The people in *Zero History* pretty much behave the way I think human beings actually behave for the reasons I think human beings actually behave."

I recount the famous story of his writing *Neuromancer* on a manual typewriter. Gibson explains that it was more of an "accident of history."

"I didn't write *Neuromancer* on a typewriter in order to be technologically austere, because in 1980, 1981 when I wrote it, there were virtually no personal computers anywhere. They were very, very thin on the ground."

He explains the advantages of not being deeply involved with the technology itself.

"I think it's made me able to see the forest for the trees. And I've always been much more interested and excited to see what people do with emergent technologies than I would doing it myself," he says. "Often what people choose to do, no one anticipated. The people who invented cellular pagers never thought it would change the face of urban crime, but it did."

So what now? What future projects lie on the horizon? Gibson thinks for a moment and says that he hopes to write another book, though he's satisfied he's been able to ring out all the ideas he can with his latest trilogy.

"For me, it's actually a really good feeling. It's great. The drafty dirigible-hanger in which I construct these things is totally empty. […] It's all potential. I can build anything in there. I just have to see what comes about."

The psychology of confinement

The tale of the Chilean miners

Tanya Debi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

On August 5, 2010, the San Jose copper and gold mine in Chile caved in, trapping 33 miners underground. For over two weeks, there was no sign that they were alive. Seventeen days later, rescuers above ground made contact with the miners, and it was confirmed that they were alright — or at the very least, alive.

Bryan Keenan, author of an article in *The Telegraph* concerning the psychological pressures faced by the miners, was a hostage in Beirut for four years. He can therefore relate his own struggles of being trapped with the long wait for rescue that the miners faced.

"The greatest horror of mankind is to be buried alive," writes Keenan. "[There are] so many men [and] inevitable psychological breakdowns will come with different intensities at different times." He continues, "mind time is totally different from ordinary time. […] Strategies to kill time […] don't work."

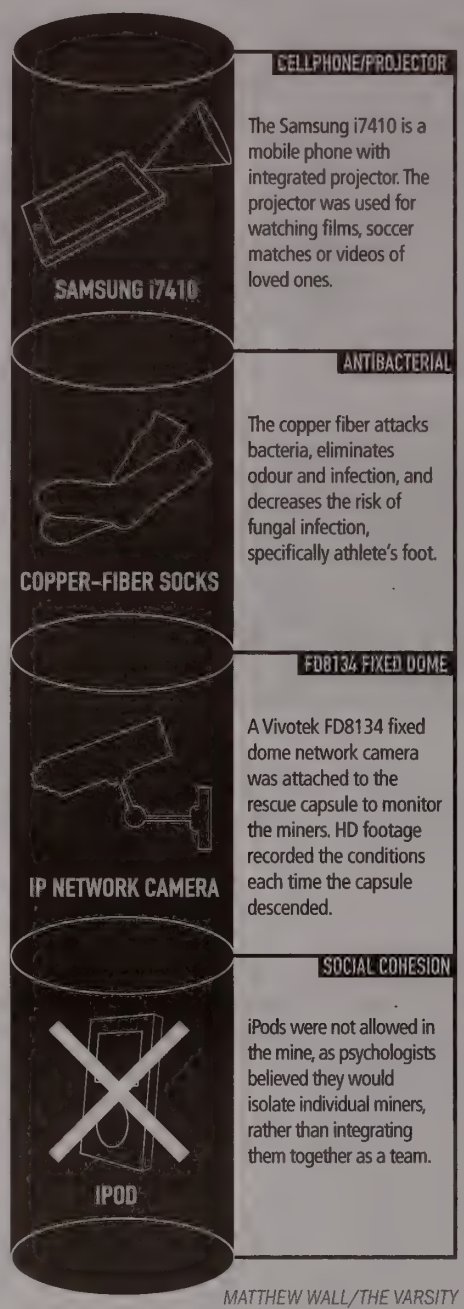
So how did these men cope? According to Keenan, once the miners were located, the most senior miner, Mario Gomez, sent a note up to his wife above ground. "It was a message of hope […] 'God is great, and the help of my God is going to make it possible to leave this mine alive.'"

This courageous message of hope highlights the fact, as Keenan puts it, that "the heart is stronger than the mind […] and flies to those you love. It is an intuitive thing."

The families of these miners have also been victims in this unfortunate situation. Lila Ramirez, the wife of Mario Gomez said that when she found out about what had happened, she felt a lot of rage and pain. "I felt powerless," she said. "I knew this was an accident waiting to happen".

Elizabeth Segovia, the wife of trapped miner Ariel Ticona recalled: "When I heard about the accident, my world just collapsed. I cried and cried […] but I had to try and be strong especially for my two sons." The father of another miner, Richard Alex Vega, stated, "I'm not the kind of person to sit there with my arms crossed and crying. I said my son needs my help. I went into the mine […] to try and find him. It was terrible."

During the second month of the miners' darkness, one can only wonder how they survived. Vivian Sequera of *The Globe and Mail* paints a picture of the support team behind the trapped miners headed by their lead psychiatrist, Alberto Iturra Benavides. They focused on the mental health of the miners and had them host prayer sessions twice a day.



MATTHEW WALL/THE VARSITY

While underground, the miners had leisure time, during which they watched movies and television, mostly news programs, action, or comedy movies for about 13 hours a day — but nothing depressing. Some miners requested music players and headphones, but this was rejected because this activity tends to isolate people from one another, and one of the main objectives was to keep the miners together.

They had daily chores of cleaning the trash, emptying the toilet, and attending to the supply capsules, which were called "palomas," or carrier pigeons. These were very important for the team's survival, since they contained supplies for the miners. When these palomas were lowered, at least three miners emptied them and filled them back up with dirty clothes or other material, rolled up to fit.

Approximately 100 litres of water was also pumped into the mine every day, so the miners could take showers, along with fresh air pumped down on the hour, reducing the heat below. As for eating habits, lunch was shared together at noon to maintain unity of the group, and the warm meals retained heat because of the high temperature underground. Each miner got an average of 2,200 calories a day.

Since October 13, all the miners have been rescued. "I was with God, and I was with the devil, but God won, I held onto God's hand, the best hand, and at no point in time […] did I doubt that God wouldn't get me out of there." said Mario Sepulveda Espina after his rescue. However, a doctor said that 19-year-old Jimmy Sanchez, the youngest of the freed miners, appeared to be having a hard time adjusting, and seemed depressed. "He spoke very little and didn't seem to connect."

So what happens now? How do these miners cope psychologically and physically with what happened to them? Physically, the lack of sunlight led to a decrease in vitamin D, and according to the Chilean health minister, the miners suffered signs of anxiety and increased heart rate as they were lifted to the surface. One miner is known to be suffering from pneumonia, which was complicated by silicosis, a lung disease caused by inhaling crystalline silica dust. Another miner has complications resulting from his diabetes. These men will be kept on watch for the time being.

Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, a professor of psychiatry at the Georgetown University Medical Center states, "We cannot say for certain what will happen in the coming days, and especially weeks and months. Some [of the miners] may be haunted by the trauma and it may dominate their lives and render them helpless. Others may bounce back and do just fine. It will likely depend on each miner's individual constitution, family, and other support, and whether they have experienced past traumas."

Religion is considered important as well in the current situation, according to Dass-Brailsford. "Many people who have survived confinement and captivity report that their faith helped them cope. Faith is a huge protective factor for trauma survivors." This is evident with the miners, who speak of the pull between the devil and with God and their strong faith in God.

As for the counselling the miners will receive, Dass-Brailsford echoes Keenan's previous thoughts about the families as victims who have also suffered, and suggests that their families should be involved in the counselling. "[They] would get intense individual counselling — group counselling for all the men, and family counselling as well, so that they understand what the miners may be going through now and how best to support them."

Sheryl Bishop, a social psychologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, continues on Das-Brailsford's statements. "In the short term, some miners may experience panic attacks, flashbacks and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from memories of the roof collapse, and the fear of never being rescued. […] Some miners may find going back underground to be particularly disturbing."

However, this may take a while to appear, or even go away. These are just some factors that the miners face.

Many of the miners later reunited at the San Jose mine to attend a ceremony dedicated to their rescue. They were joined by an Evangelical Pastor and a Roman Catholic priest, who were also present at the rescue. The Chilean President says the mine will be closed, and we can only hope now that the miners can recover to some degree for their families and for themselves.



WONDERLAND in space

Locating the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

Somewhere beyond the layers of cloud-tops, veiled below the horizon, lies a series of massive craters on the southern surface of the planet Jupiter. Their explosive history and recent origin can be traced to the fragments that once formed the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet, before its close encounter with Jupiter in 1994. Scientists celebrated it as the first ever observation of extra-terrestrial impact.

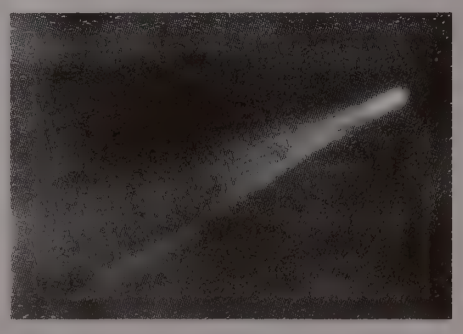
Like the Earth, Jupiter bears the scars of past surface impacts. The first observation of Shoemaker-Levy 9 began thirty years before its fateful collision. While many comets orbit from the Kuiper Belt, Oort Cloud, or beyond, some fall within the planetary system itself. Shoemaker-Levy 9, though discovered in March 1993, was caught by Jupiter's gravity during the late 1960s or early 1970s, reorienting its orbit away from the sun.

Astronomers Eugene Shoemaker, Carolyn Shoemaker, and David Levy accidently discovered the comet while searching for near-Earth objects at the Palomar Observatory in California. What they uncovered was a tight, elliptical path falling towards the planet: its orbit was the consequence of its trajectory while being captured by Jupiter. Prior to its detection, Shoemaker-Levy 9 had already skimmed its cloud tops and broken into at least 23 fragments thanks to gravitational tear. The fragments varied in size, from tens of meters, to a few kilometres. Broken, but not destroyed, the pieces maintained their orbit in unison.

Using the best tools of their time, experts found that not only had Shoemaker-Levy 9 previously grazed Jupiter, but that it was soon to return at a distance of 45,000 kilometres from its center. Given the planet's enormous size, and the comet's path of motion, this implied a 99.99 per cent chance of collision. Astronomers became excited at the prospect of seeing an event that occurs but once every six thousand years.

With numerous telescopes, two nearby probes, and even the distant Voyager 2 trained on the anticipated meeting, media coverage of the event grew. Fate would have it that only minutes after the collision began, Jupiter was at just the right angle for direct Earth observation of the impacts.

Six hundred times more powerful than the world's entire nuclear arsenal, the pieces slammed into the planet at sixty kilometres per second. The



resulting plumes reached 3,000 kilometres into the sky at a temperature of over 24,000 degrees Celsius, creating dark crescents in the cloud tops that could span the diameter of the Earth. From July 18 to July 22, 1994, scientists exploited the opening of the clouds to find what lay beneath them.

Shoemaker-Levy 9 revealed the presence of diatomic sulphur (S2), carbon disulphide (CS2), ammonia (NH3), and hydrogen sulphide (H2S) in Jupiter's atmosphere. It generated seismic waves that permeated the planet at hundreds of kilometres per hour, amplifying radiation emission from the surface. Based on data collected from the impact, Jupiter contained less water than previously thought — or at least, farther within its depths. The scars from the collision remained for months, and were even more prominent than the Great Red Spot.

These events were critical in demonstrating the conception of Jupiter as a "cosmic vacuum cleaner," a body that attracts objects away from the inner solar system. Because of its sheer mass and location, Jupiter would be well-suited to pulling asteroids, meteors, and comets such as Shoemaker-Levy 9 away from any chance of meeting the Earth. Some scientists speculate that the number of extinction events on Earth due to impacts has been significantly reduced by Jupiter's influence. However, a debate remains as to whether Jupiter pulls more of these objects than it blocks towards the Earth with its gravity. Regardless of theoretical implications, the comet's punch into the planet not only made a spectacle for all to see, but also marked an important day in astronomy.

Drifting away from the explosions of Shoemaker-Levy 9, next week we will awaken to the serenity of the red desert from another planet, and the tale of a land lost on it. Until then, the glow of comet dust trailing through a sea of darkness awaits you.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Omg! Facebook interactions are more meaningful than you think

Do you often find yourself checking your notifications on Facebook while taking a break from studying? Do you also find — after your break has gone two hours into overtime — that you begin to panic and become upset with yourself for logging on in the first place? Well friends, do not fret.

A new report from the National IT User Center shows that pastime browsing is actually beneficial. The report has predicted that new social media tools will result in the growth of individual entrepreneurs, and that the networks created on Facebook are more meaningful than previously thought.

What accounts for the potential increase in entrepreneurs is that Facebook enables individuals to be more independent when searching for information. Facebook users have access to a wealth of information, such as job opportunities, housing availability, and connecting with new contacts. The most meaningful relationships available to users are the opportunities to reach out to other people — in business and in pleasure.

— THUY TRUONG

Source: Uppsala University

Gigantic X-ray telescope used to find the origins of the universe

The space agencies of the US, Europe, and Japan have worked on a cooperative project to build the largest X-ray telescope ever made. The International X-ray Observatory is planned for space launch in 2021, and is expected to provide brand new information about black holes, and thus, the origins of the universe.

The massive X-ray detector features a mirror with a 1,300 square meter surface, consisting of carefully engineered silicon wafers with 1 mm^2 pores underneath. Detectors then capture the incoming radiation and ultimately translate it into digital format for computer processing.

Preliminary X-ray telescopes will be launched into space as soon as 2013 to search the sky for specific "supermassive black holes," which emit characteristic high energy X-radiation in comparison to other types of black holes. These black holes developed at the dawn of the universe, possibly before the birth of the first stars. Scientists believe the insights brought by the IXO will add knowledge in the search of the universe's origins.

— ALBERT RAZVAN GHEORGHITA

Source: The German Physical and Technical Federal Institute

How gut-invading worms infiltrate your intestines

Ever wonder how intestinal worms are able to survive in a digestive system that can easily mash up even the most resilient diets? A group of researchers at the University of Edinburgh recently uncovered a key protective element that enables these gut-invading worms to function and survive within the intestine.

Using mice, they showed that intestinal worms produce a protein that activates regulatory T cells, which are cells capable of suppressing the immune response in both humans and animals. Because a heightened immune response can eradicate intestinal worms, the group also demonstrated that blocking regulatory T cell activation greatly decreases the viability of these worms. What's more interesting is that regulatory T cells can also alleviate allergies, and it has often been reported that patients with intestinal worms have tend to experience less allergic symptoms.

The study speaks volumes to an area of medicine that has always been difficult to treat, and opens up doors for a new therapeutic approach.

— WILSON KWONG

Source: Rockefeller University Press

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Aspartame!

Aspartame is one of many artificial sweeteners, though it is probably one of the most famous. Artificial sweeteners have been controversial since they were first discovered in 1870, when a chemist accidentally spilled a chemical compound on his hand and then licked his finger.

Examples illustrating the controversy surrounding artificial sweeteners include cyclamate, which has been banned in the US since the 1970s, but remains legal in Canada. Saccharin, on the other hand, is banned in Canada, but is legal in the US. It is interesting to note that cyclamate and saccharin were the first artificial sweeteners used in the 1950s, when diet soda was invented for diabetics.

The most recently discovered artificial sweetener, neotame, is essentially a descendent of aspartame. By chemically altering aspartame, scientists have derived a compound that is up to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar and has yet to exhibit adverse effects. Bear in mind, however, that it has only been on the market for eight years.

By creating an even sweeter artificial sweetener, scientists allow for smaller amounts of sweetener to be used, thus decreasing the risk of toxicity upon consumption. Nevertheless, this feeble attempt to appease our taste buds, while tricking our digestive system with compounds so foreign they're not even recognized as being food, is not without its potential side effects.

Though artificial sweeteners are useful for weight loss, diabetics, and for preventing tooth decay, after a century of research studies continue to demonstrate commonly cited side effects, which include migraine headaches and carcinogenicity. Furthermore, artificial sweeteners are not an effective way to cut calories: research has shown that individuals who reduce energy intake via artificial sweeteners tend to compensate at later meals.

In addition to the artificial sweeteners that were invented in labs, sweeteners like sorbitol, xylitol, and mannitol commonly found in chewing gum, diet foods, and even toothpaste, are unlike the host of previously mentioned sweeteners, because they occur naturally in fruits and vegetables. Nevertheless, they do not naturally occur in the concentrations in which they are found in their role as food additives. As a result, they have been noted for aggravating gastrointestinal conditions.

Artificial sweeteners are yet another too-good-to-be-true solution to our nation's dietary dilemma. The moral of the story seems to be that you can't have your cake and eat it too.



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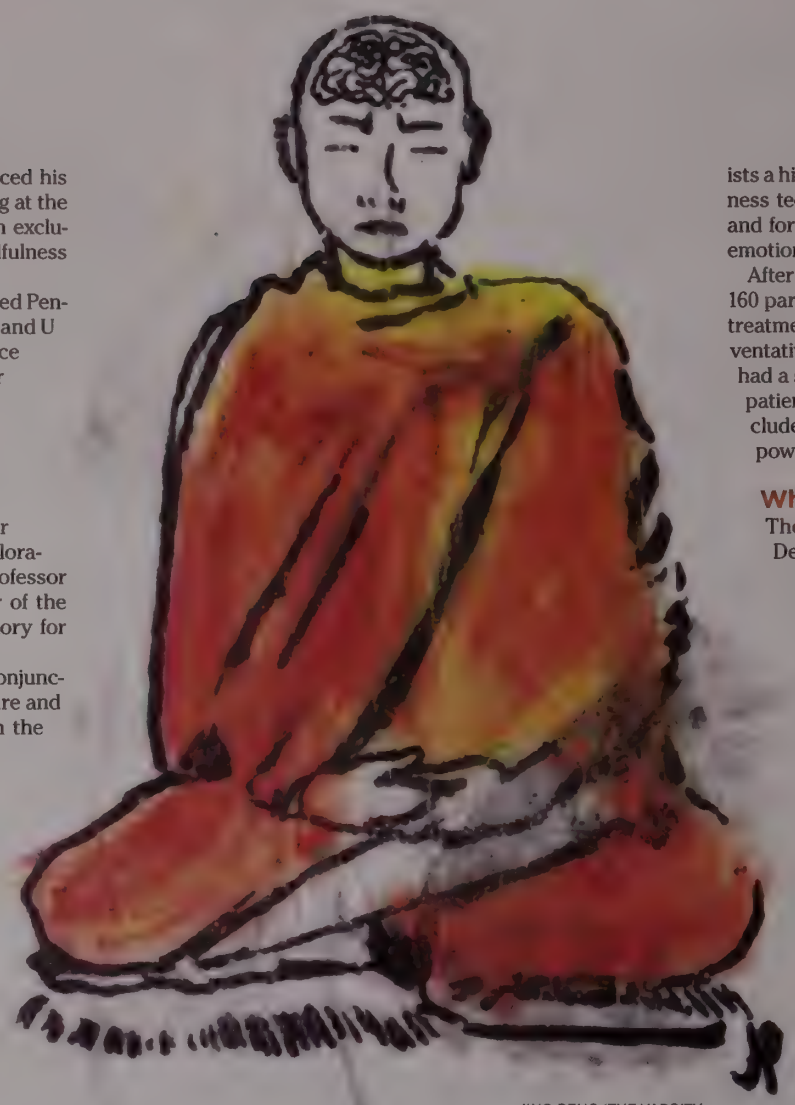
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The Dalai Lama's visit



JING PENG/THE VARSITY

Exclusive symposium on cognitive science and mindfulness explores the intersections between Buddhism and western science, MEKHALA GUNARATNE *reports.*

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet commenced his three-day visit to Toronto on October 22, beginning at the University of Toronto, where he participated in an exclusive four-speaker symposium on "Cognitive Science, Mindfulness and Consciousness."

Among the 56 guests, some notable participants included Penpa Tsering, the speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile and U of T Chancellor, David Peterson. Dr. Franco Vaccarino, Vice President and Prinicpal of UTSC, acted as the moderator for the symposium, which covered four areas of clinical and experimental research.

The biology of language

The first presenter, Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto, gave a talk on "Expanding the human brain's processing capacity for thought and language: insights from neuro-imaging explorations of bilingual and monolingual brains." Petitto is a professor in the Department of Psychology at UTSC, and director of the Genes, Brain and Mind Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory for Language, Bilingualism, and Child Development.

Petitto explained that biological mechanisms work in conjunction with environmental factors to allow humans to acquire and organize language in the brain. "Language is a signal in the form of neuro-chemical patterns," she explained.

In her research, Petitto has tracked neural tissue as it develops in monolingual and bilingual speakers, and found that bilingual brains use a significant amount of extra tissue compared to monolingual brains. Petitto concluded that "the biology of language has evolved as a gorgeous adaptation to the infinite, expansive, and generative biology of human mind."

Neural bases of the mindful self

Dr. Adam Anderson, a professor at U of T's Department of Psychology and the Canada research chair in Affective Neuroscience, spoke about his research in mindfulness, the self, and its neural correlates.

He began by posing one of the most fundamental questions that has puzzled, intrigued, and garnered fruitful debate among scholars, scientists, and Buddhist practitioners: "What is the self?"

Through his own research, Anderson has been able to isolate multiple representations of the self: the mentalistic self, the judging self, and the mindful self. He explained that the mentalistic self is an amalgamation of all our physical and personality traits — for example, "I am male," or "I am introverted." The judging self is more critical of our self and our experience, and is associated with a part of the brain called the cortical midline structures. Anderson explained that the mindful self remains nonjudgmental, and experiences change from moment to moment.

In one study, participants practiced eight weeks of mindfulness based stress reduction, or MBSR, a therapeutic technique that includes meditation. After only eight weeks, participants demonstrated a higher attunement of the mindful self to body state, as well as relative reduction in the judging self, including reduced activation in cortical midline structures. Participants also showed neural decentring, meaning that there was more brain activity in the mid to right hemisphere.

Anderson concluded that when a negative mood is induced, the judging self — which is associated with depressive relapse — increases its activity. However, by developing the mindful self, individuals can disengage the judging self and greatly reduce their capacity for suffering while increasing their capacity for wellbeing.

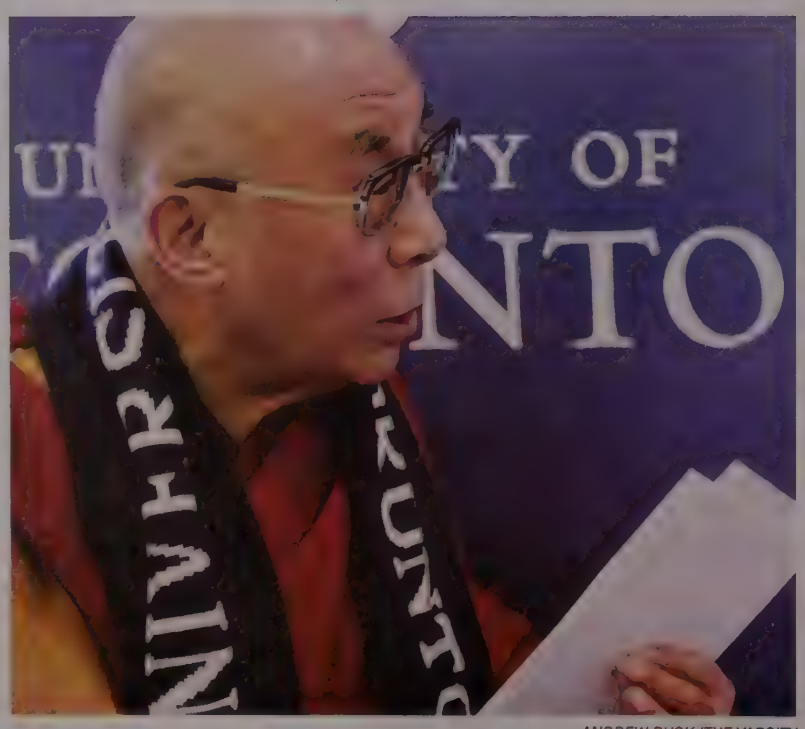
Mindful awareness as therapy for mood disorders

Dr. Zindel Segal, the Cameron Wilson Chair in Depression Studies at U of T's Department of Psychiatry spoke next about his work in mindfulness-based therapy for treating mood disorders. Segal acts as the head of the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Clinic within the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Segal presented on the clinical effects of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy. MBCT is a therapeutic technique used to treat depression and prevent relapse which Segal developed with Dr. Mark Williams and Dr. John Teasdale, who also attended the symposium. Mindfulness involves the calm awareness and observation of one's own body, feelings, and consciousness. Applied to therapy, it can be used to help patients become more aware of the kinds of thought patterns which often perpetuate depressive symptoms.

Segal explained that despite the development of effective treatments for depression, there still exists a high rate of depressive relapse. MBCT incorporates mindfulness techniques to help patients work with their own emotions and form a healthier relationship with them. This helps prevent emotion provocation from spiralling into relapse.

After evaluating the data collected from a six-year study with 160 participants, Segal and his colleagues found that in the post-treatment phase for depression, participants who continued preventative techniques using drugs like SSRIs, or therapy like MBCT, had a significantly lower rate of depressive relapse compared to patients who were assigned to a placebo condition. Segal concluded that using MBCT as a preventative therapeutic tool has powerful clinical outcomes to prevent depressive relapse.



ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

What do meditators do when they meditate?

The final presenter, Dr. Tony Toneatto, is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and director of the Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health Program at U of T. He is a registered clinical psychologist and acts as director of the Toronto Institute for Mindfulness, Meditation, and Psychotherapy.

Toneatto's presentation was titled, "What do mindfulness meditators say they do while they practice? A content analysis." He explained that traditionally, detailed instruction from an expert teacher was vital and necessary to learn meditation and acquire its benefits, yet current research on mindfulness meditation does not usually include such guidance.

He asked if scientists could confidently attribute the positive benefits reported in mindfulness research to the practice of mindfulness itself, since the specifics of what meditators do while meditating is unknown. Thus, Toneatto sought to uncover what participants actually did while they meditated. Were they meditating, or were they fantasizing, or even sleeping? In a review of over 50 studies using mindfulness techniques as a main component of the methodology, not one reported what meditators were doing as they meditated.

When Toneatto introduced this line of questioning within his own research, he found that meditators reported feeling relaxed, observing mental activity without distraction, attended to the breath, and were aware of their thoughts. He also found that after a few weeks of meditation, participants reported lower depression and anxiety scores. These scores were associated with the cultivation of particular mindfulness skills such as being non-judgmental and having an accepting attitude.

Toneatto concluded that it is necessary to know what meditators actually do while they practice, in order to determine how well their mindfulness skills are being learned, and whether it is possible to draw a significant link between mindfulness and the benefits that we believe accompany its practice.

Buddhism and science

Following the four speakers' presentations, His Holiness the Dalai Lama proceeded to comment on the symposium, mentioning how impressed he was with the wealth of information each presenter was able to generate. He stressed the importance of science and scientific inquiry, discussing that initially, science focused on studying what was external to human beings such as environmental phenomena and overt behaviours. Over time, however, this has changed dramatically, and scientists have turned their microscopic lenses inward to focus on themselves. Scientists have become the subject matter of their own inquiry.

His Holiness explained that by gathering knowledge on something, we learn how to manipulate it in such a way that that it becomes beneficial to us. Similarly, by studying our inner selves in depth, we wield the capacity to master our self, and harness our potential which may lead to the synthesis of a healthy body and a healthy mind. According to His Holiness, modern science is made more complete by combining both internal and external matters, and this amalgamation is creating a new field of scientific research that can benefit humanity.

In Dr. Franco Vaccarino's closing comments, he noted the power of new tools and technology emerging within the field of mindfulness research. "We have developed new levels of reflection regarding the mind, consciousness, and what it means to be human," said Vaccarino. "As a result, we are unravelling the complexity of the mind and brain to demystify it and create enough comfort for us to probe deep questions."

He concluded, "Now we are bringing humanism and science together in a sophisticated way, developing a multidisciplinary nexus."

Muslim women in sports

BETINA ALONSO *explores the intersection between religion and athletics*

The University of Toronto has come a long way in fostering an inclusive policy for athletics. Training facilities on all three campuses offer women's-only hours daily, and the Varsity Blues program has a history of accommodating the religious customs of its athletes. Being in Canada, however, bears undeniable cultural implications that prevent some Muslim women from becoming active in university athletics.

Muslim girls who are indifferent to wearing headscarves and have no qualms about being around the opposite sex adapt more easily to athletic life at the University of Toronto. However, practicing girls that prefer to wear less revealing clothing, have stricter families, and tend to feel less comfortable around men who are not their relatives might have more serious concerns when it comes to training.

"I come from Saudi Arabia and because we have segregated sports for both boys and girls, it really encourages more girls to try out sports and actually get very interested in them," says Huda Idrees, the vice-president External of the Muslim Students Association. "Over here, the general aura around people who play sports — the Varsity uniforms — might be big hindrances. There are also, of course, the religious restrictions, such as the headscarf."

Hanieh Khosroshani, a Muslim U of T student and part of the Varsity Blues women's rugby team for two years, believes that, mainly for issues of comfort, Muslim women tend to stay out of university athletics.

"I think many Muslim women limit themselves, because of the occasional lack of acceptance, and because of the inconvenience and uncomfortable aspects of it," says Hanieh.

Naafia Mattoo, a Muslim U of T alumnus, notes that "in Muslim culture, you wouldn't be in a room filled with guys who weren't related to you in tight fitting clothes."



Many Muslim women choose to be active despite encountering difficulties. *IAN RASSO/FLICKR*

Still, Hanieh comments that in her experience with the Varsity Blues, "[They] were very considerate when it came to accommodating my needs in terms of uniform. They allowed us to do whatever we needed to in order to be comfortable."

To play rugby, Hanieh was given a scrum cap to wear, so that her hijab would not move around. Nevertheless, there is only so much that accommodation can help with.

"When I play soccer for tri-campus, it makes it a little more difficult. It's just not that easy working out when you're fully covered," says Hanieh.

Manager of Sports Information and Promotions for the Blues, Mary Beth Challoner, reports that without the administration's knowledge, there have been Muslim women competing in OUA field hockey and soccer.

"They have worn track pants the colour of the shorts and long sleeve shirts under their jerseys. They have also worn head coverings. These athletes were able to train and compete with their teams in an open facility because they were able to accommodate their sport uniform needs with their religious requirements," says Challoner.

Girls who are only involved in training and use the university training facilities adapt in different ways. Some go to gym facilities during regular training hours and use breathable scarves, wear tights under their shorts, loose tracks, and long tops. Others prefer to take advantage of the scheduled women's-only hours, since they allow for Muslim girls who normally wear headscarves to work out in regular training gear.

Huda considers the efforts made for inclusiveness at the university athletic facilities "commendable," with some caveats.

"As soon as the women's-only hours finish, the guys pretty much pour into the centre, and I'm always paranoid that I will be caught off-guard without my hijab," says Huda, and she prefers keeps on her headscarf as a result. "I would much rather not have my headscarf on while exercising because it gets hot and sweaty."

While there are women's-only swimming hours at the Athletic Centre, the swimming pool is visible from the dance studio. "It defeats the purpose," says Huda.

"The hours are fairly short. I guess that's the only criticism I would make," claims Hanieh, and adds that "not all areas of these facilities get women's-only hours, only some do." Huda also finds that the hours are restrictive and usually don't fit into her schedule. She also has to leave the pool and the strength and conditioning centre before the end of women's-only training hours, since men are let into the room on the clock.

Dance classes are mixed, and as a result, can be distressing for those who prefer not to have an opposite-sex dance partner.

Maryam S. Mughal, who goes to dance classes, does not like to dance with men, and prefers to use a female partner. Huda personally thinks there should be women's-only dance classes.

"I would want the Dance Studio to be closed for this class, so men aren't allowed in," says Huda.

Most girls have not had a problem with acceptance by other students, or been the target of inappropriate comments while training.

"Nobody has ever bugged me about my clothing," claims Huda. "The dance and SCC instructors are great."

"I think people are accepting, but whether people accept it or not has never really impacted what I have wanted to do," says Hanieh.

Students embrace dragonboat racing

UTSC's team is one of the most formidable in the up-and-coming sport

Rachella Valdez
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Dragon boat racing is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada and U of T Scarborough's team, the Scartans, haven't been left out of the chase.

The Scartans were founded in 2004 and participate in three major festivals each year; the Montreal International Dragonboat Festival, the Toronto Island Dragonboat Festival, and the Pickering Dragonboat Festival.

During the last competition season, the team picked up a gold in the premier final F division 250m final in Montreal, a gold in the premier E division 500m in Toronto, and came first place in the premier B division in Pickering.

To prepare for competitions, which take place in the summer, the team trains rigorously throughout the school year.

The team holds land practices at UTSC's athletic facilities, pool practices at West Hill C.I., and lake practices at Balmy Beach Club in the Beaches.

The long and strenuous practices are not unheard of to many of the team's veterans who have competed at the international level.

Ellen Letts was part of Canada's National U23 team that participated at the 2009 World Championships in Prague while Alfred Ku, Massey Ahmar, Armi De Francia, Carmen Yung, and Julian D'Cruz were all part of the Alliance U23 Dragonboat Club team that came in third overall at the 2010 Club Crew World Championships in Macau, China.

The dedication and commitment of each and every member of the team, regardless of skill level, makes it a positive environment not only to develop as an athlete, but to form friendships.

"You get physically fit, you feel competitive, and just being on the team is so much fun!" said Cameron Wilson, who is in his fourth year and double majors in political science and economics at UTSC.

Fourth-year double major in psychology and integrative biology Beverly Hestick agreed, "The best part is being with 20 other people who aren't just your teammates; they're your friends. It's nice to meet a bunch of new people when we start tryouts."

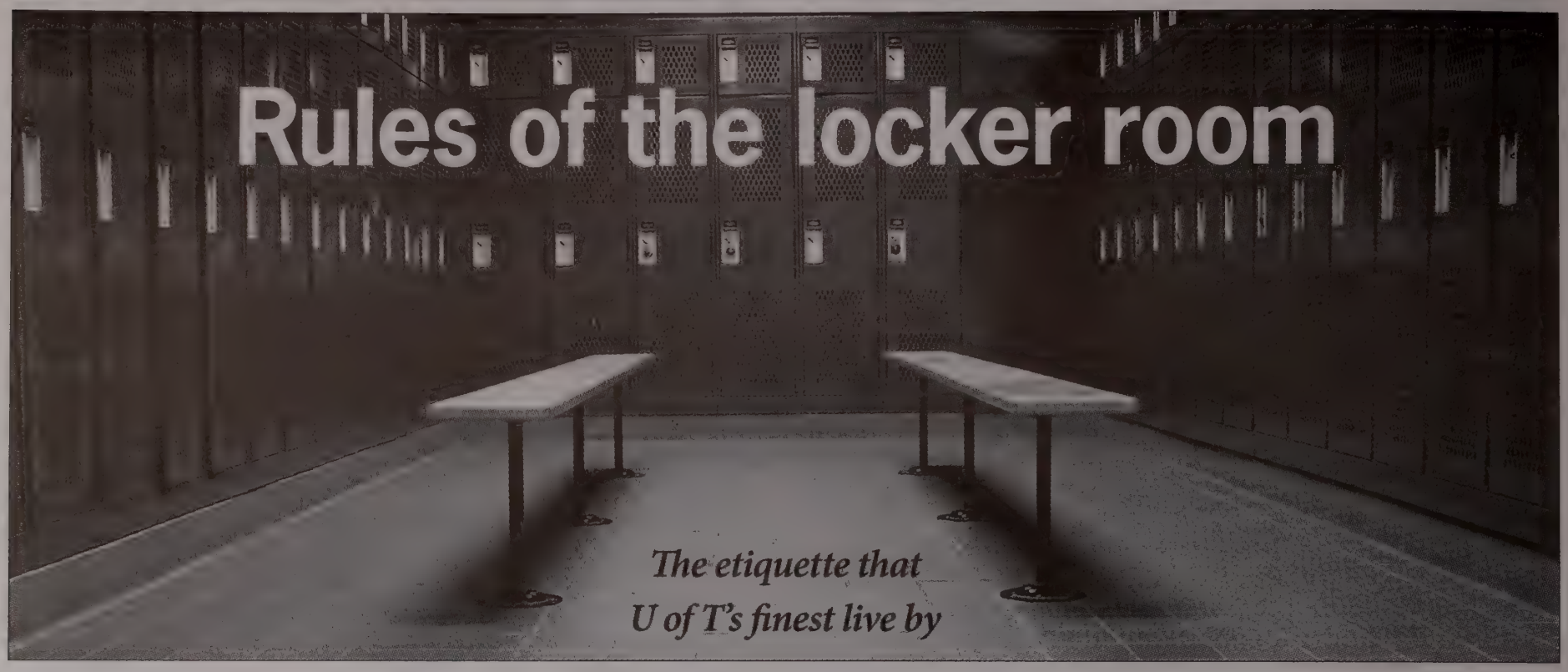
Hestick's teammate and seasoned dragonboat racing veteran, Averill Che, said, "It's one of the only sports where the girls are at an equal playing field with the guys, everyone is the same, and everyone plays an important role."

"I love the fact that I'm working together in unison with people who have a common goal, which is to win," agreed Philip Luu, a third-year double major in neuroscience and psychology. "Every single person contributes a big portion to the team."

For more information on how to get involved with the Scartans, check out utsc.utoronto.ca/~dboat/, or email dboat@utsc.utoronto.ca.



UTSC's dragonboat racing team, the Scartans. *COURTESY OF THE SCARTANS*



Rules of the locker room

The etiquette that U of T's finest live by

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

There is one factor that every sports team out to win possesses: camaraderie.

Players need to be comfortable with their teammates, coaches, and trainers. This doesn't mean that everybody has to necessarily like each other, but they should at the very least respect one another.

Sure, this mentality should be practiced by everyone, whether in the office, the living room, or Walmart, but have you ever seen the way athletes act with and around their teammates?

They take comfort to a whole new level.

As spectators, we think that players seem to have no insecurities when it comes to teammates and their personal space. We see players hugging in celebration, holding hands in anticipation, and smacking each other's asses in congratulation.

In a typical work environment, this would be seen as harassment. But in sports, and excuse the *Family Guy* reference, "nothing says 'good job' like a firm, open-palm slap on the behind."

Athletes do have boundaries, believe it or not, particularly in the locker room. There is a code, a certain etiquette that players must adhere to whenever they are in their sanctum.

On the field, personal space is nonexistent, but in the locker room everyone has a piece of real estate, and there are limits to how players must conduct themselves.

From the depths of U of T's locker rooms comes the following guide, and subsequent penalties for stepping out of bounds.

There are rules about violating another player's safe-zone. Do not sit in another player's stall, do not touch another player's equipment, and most importantly, do not fart in the vicinity of someone else's locker. Violations of these rules are not to be taken lightly.

A player once put a dead squirrel in a teammate's locker. While some found it funny and others disturbing, this player had crossed the line.

How did the owner of the locker respond? By messing with the other's equipment; he pooed in a cup, and then put the cup in his teammate's helmet. Obviously, the instigator did not like this act of revenge, and a fight almost broke out.

Keeping in mind that it is a locker room and players will inevitably be nude at some point or another, there are a few laws regarding behaviour while exposed.

While it's fine for two naked players to stand or sit talking to each other, once one player puts his or her leg up on the bench or spreads their legs, offside must be called. This is a locker room, not the set of *Basic Instinct*.

That being said, players must know what type of grooming is dressing-room appropriate, and what is not.

Do not shave or trim your pubes in the aisle. Sounds obvious, but it happens, and it's not cool.

And if you have hemorrhoids, as shitty as it must feel, don't apply your Preparation H in an open space while everyone is around you.

There is a sense of business within any given locker room, and it's important for players to focus on the task at hand.

Park your personal problems outside the locker room. Whether it's family issues, relationship problems, or academic troubles, the locker room is not the place to air them out. Sweaty balls, yes. Private matters, no.

There is also an interesting social dynamic in the dressing room, and it involves rookies and veterans. While hazing is illegal and frowned upon, there is still an element of it in the locker room, just not to the degree it once was.

Rookies don't get sodomized with mop handles, sprayed with urine from shampoo bottles, or duct taped and then rubbed with feces and peanut butter — at least not any more.

It's just about maintaining social order these days. Rookies aren't to make eye contact with veterans, or laugh at their jokes.

If a rookie breaks the code, and say, decides to soak a veteran's clothing, the consequences are severe. Once, the entire team pissed all over a rookie's stuff, and put A5-35 in his gloves, helmet, and jock strap.

So while there are limitations to conduct in a dressing room, these boundaries seem unclear, or rather, are not set in a way that is… reasonable for a civilized society.

When you set foot in a locker room, you walk in with a clear conscience: no grudges and no outside distractions. When you leave the locker room, the slate is once again wiped clean.

What happens in the dressing room stays in the dressing room.

A good sport

The sexless "unscandal"

Why NFL legend Brett Favre's fumble isn't as bad as it seems

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Imagine a sex scandal that featured neither sex nor scandal. Would it still be a sex scandal?

In reality, of course not — but in the real world, if one of the participants happens to be Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre, the story would have stronger legs than a scandal involving a private, married citizen snorting cocaine off a stripper's breasts.

So Favre is being pummelled for doing something sexually scandalous, even if it wasn't a sex scandal per se.

Is it fair, is it just? Only if you make the tortured argument that he deserves it for picking a life in the public spotlight.

Here's what we know. When with the New York Jets, Favre persistently tried to communicate — probably in the pursuit of ultimately doing something else — with game day hostess Jenn Sterger. He sent her MySpace messages and used an intermediary to exchange phone numbers. He wound up leaving her a series of voicemails.

Many of the goods have been publicly posted by *deadspin.com*, and going through them — screenshots of MySpace messages and recordings of voicemails — it's hard to get past the idea that this resembles an obsessed sixteen-year-old backup receiver going after a just-turned-fifteen cheerleader than an actual sex scandal. Really, Brett?

If athletes trying to solicit extramarital sexual relations were a sport, Tiger Woods would have to take it easy on Brett for the sake of sportsmanship. Tiger sure never had to send MySpace messages or get PR people to slip phone numbers.

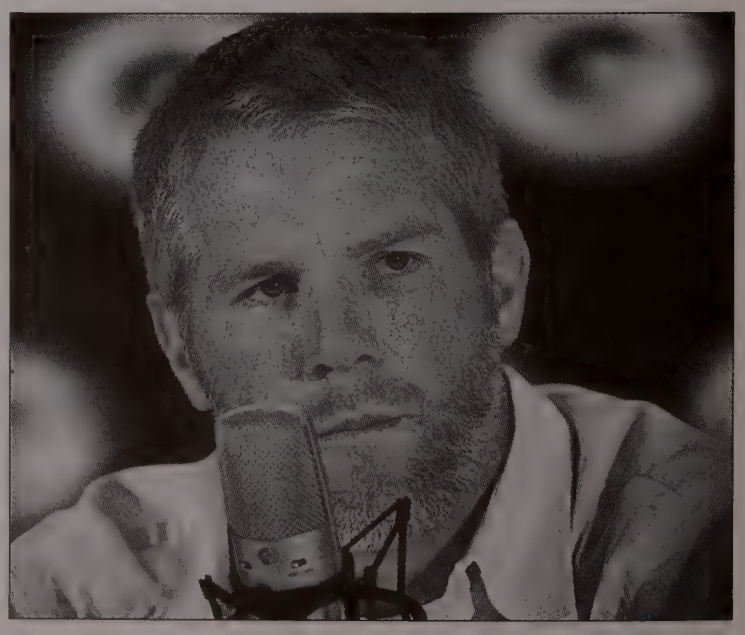
So really, where is the scandal here? Other than Favre's fame, of course, what is the story?

Sure, if you really think about it, the whole situation is a bit creepy. MySpace messages, voicemails inviting her to the hotel — not really "normal" courtship.

Then again, if Brett did want to have an extra-marital affair (he's been married to Deanna Tynes since 1996), it's not like he could have just taken her out to a nice restaurant like, well, nearly anyone else that isn't world famous could have done.

Maybe Sterger felt uneasy at the attention. However, men make women feel uncomfortable every day: at bars, on the bus, and online. Why is Favre taking the heat?

It's just an observation that nothing that happened here is any more scandalous — in fact, everything about it appears to be far less scandalous — than any number of everyday events.



Brett Favre, who has come under public scrutiny since news of his controversial behaviour surfaced.

U of T going to OUA semi-finals

Men's soccer team victorious over Queen's thanks to a handball

Alex Nursall
VARSITY STAFF

The Varsity Blues men's soccer team prevailed 2–1 in the OUA quarter-final against the Queen's Gaels on Saturday at Varsity Stadium.

The game was marked not just by the tension on the field, but by the tension in the stands between the opposing supporters.

The first goal was scored by Gaels centre back Joseph Zupo just over 30 minutes in, and the game remained heated at 1–0 for Queen's until late in the second half.

When a breakaway by Queen's was foiled by Blues goalkeeper John Smits, a Blues fan called out, "You guys can't even score on a breakaway? You suck, Queen's! I hear your boys don't even score in real life!"

"What's the score of the game right now, jackass?" shouted back a Queen's fan.

At the 85-minute-mark, Blues striker Nordo Gooden tied the game up. With five minutes remaining, supporters in the stands were on edge.

As the clock counted down the last seconds, the Blues made one final dash for the net.

The ball slipped through the fingers of goalie Maxfield Materne, and as the Gaels scrambled to deflect the shot, defender Matt Kenny was penalized for a handball.

The referee blew the whislte and the play stopped. Spectators realized what was going on and became raucous.

The din of the Blues supporters and Queen's supporters was unintelligible as the Blues leading scorer, Alex Raphael, went up to take the penalty kick.

Raphael shot the ball deep into the bottom left corner of the net, making it 2–1, and sending the Blues to the OUA Final Four tournament, where they will play a semi-final match against the Western Mustangs.

Queen's fans were livid.

Leaning over the edge of the railing, one yelled angrily, "You'd better be damn sure of that call, ref! I hope you don't sleep for a week!"

The OUA Final Four tournament will take place at York University this weekend



The trajectory of the Queen's handball. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

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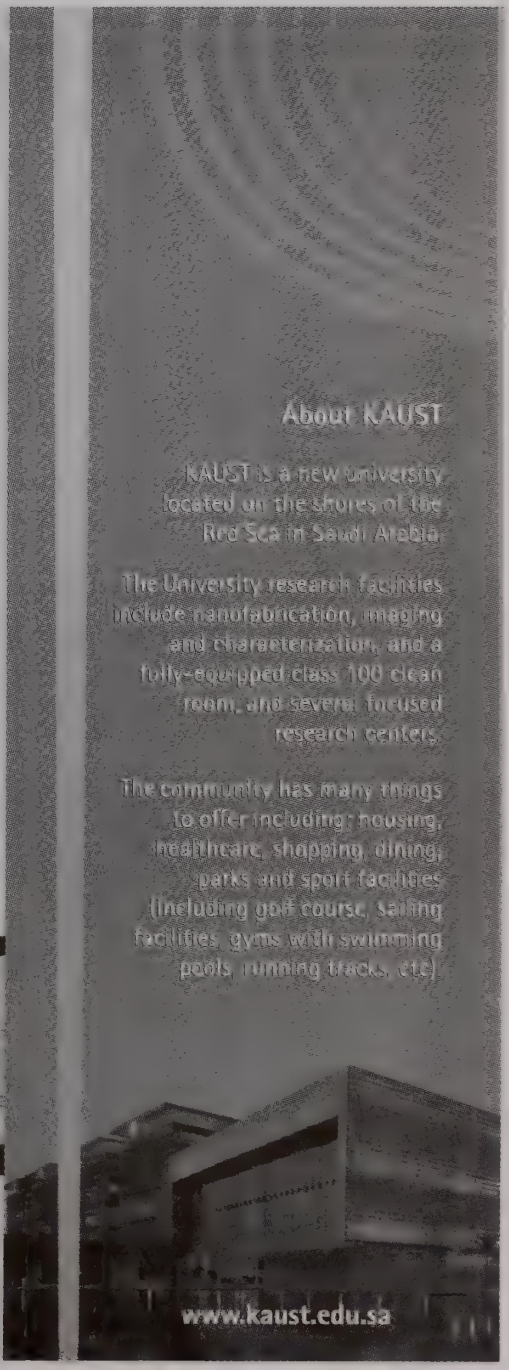
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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Schumann Piano Concerto
James Parker will be performing the concerto with the U of T Symphony Orchestra. Celebrated by audiences and critics alike, Parker has performed with every major Canadian orchestra and has given recitals all across North America. The program includes selections from Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms.
- *November 6th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *MacMillan Theatre (80 Queen's Park)*
- *$10 with student ID*

FILMS:

Earth 2100
Students Against Climate Change will be having a free screening of the film *Earth 2100: What Will the Next 90 Years Look Like?* The film shows us what could happen in the next 90 years in North America if there is nothing done to mitigate climate change.
- *November 5th at 7 p.m.*
- *OISE, Room 5150 (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *Free!*

South of the Border
Toronto Socialist Action's latest film in their Rebel Films series will be *South of the Border.* The documentary, directed by Oliver Stone, was called a "political road movie" by its writer, Tariq Ali. Stone and his crew travel from the Caribbean down the spine of the Andes in an attempt to explain the "phenomenon" of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.
- *November 5th at 7 p.m.*
- *OISE, Room 2-212 (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *$4 donation requested*

READINGS:

Soldier's Tower Author Event
The U of T Bookstore will honour the students, staff, and faculty who were a part of WWI and WWII by featuring four well-known Canadian military authors in their reading series. The "Human Side of War" event will feature prominent historians who will read and discuss the emotional and physical impact of war on soldiers, family, friends, and the community.
- *November 4th at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)*
- *University of Toronto Bookstore (214 College St.)*
- *$15 per ticket, limited seating*

OFF CAMPUS:

FAIRS:

The Royal Winter Agricultural Fair
The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the largest combined indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition in the world. Watch as hundreds of Canadian and International breeders, growers and exhibitors are declared champions. Or simply just explore, shop, and eat.
- *Starts November 5th*
- *Exhibition Place (Lakeshore Blvd.)*
- *$18*

FESTIVALS:

Rendezvous With Madness Film Festival
On Friday, Workman Arts presents the 18th Annual Rendezvous With Madness Film Festival: Cinematic Perspectives of Mental Illness and Addiction, a nine-day festival presenting over 20 programs of feature and short films. Each program includes a post-screening panel discussion with filmmakers, people living with the issue explored, a health care profession and a special interest person.
- *Starts November 5th, various screenings*
- *Workman Hall (651 Dufferin St.)*
- *Check rendezvouswithmadness.com for prices*

Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival
The 6th Annual Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival is back! The lineup's headlining act is none other than Second City and Youtube sensation Brian Gallivan as his most famous character, the Sassy Gay Friend. The festival features over 40 troupes performing more than 40 shows on three stages over six nights.
- *Starts November 2nd, various showtimes*
- *Various locations*
- *Tickets start at $15, check torontosketchfest.com*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

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V 0045 104

The Varsity's exclusive coverage of U of T's title-winning performance at the OUA Final Four men's soccer tournament » p20

One of America's most trusted cable news sources is a comedian whose specialty is biting political satire.

So where does this leave the mainstream media outlets? Meghan Lawson explores the cultural phenomenon that surrounds Jon Stewart and his highly-publicized March to Restore Sanity. **p12**

Also in this issue...

The fight for student space **p9**

Science is like intellectual S&M **p14**

Q+A with author Eleanor Catton **p17**



THE VARSITY

Vol. CXXXI, No. 13 *8 November, 2010*

JOURNALISM SCHOOL UTSU

U of T graduate journalism program in the works

Project head optimistic, eyes 2012

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A former U of T communications executive is working to establish a new graduate program in journalism. Robert Steiner, former assistant VP strategic communications, is hoping to have a unique, highly specialized program ready for students in fall 2012.

"We should know by September 2011," said Steiner. "We'd all have to know by then, because by September 2011 we'll have to be marketing the program."

He said the program will be unique from anything he's ever seen. Doctors, lawyers, grad students, advocates, and other people with substantial life history would participate in a program tailored to their niche. While learning the fundamentals of journalism, students would focus on reporting in their specific fields and would begin freelancing by second semester.

"It's premised on all this evidence that while generalist media are having problems, specialist media are actually growing," said Steiner. He noted the 2008 US recession, when American car companies lost revenue and slowed advertising. While *Newsweek* suffered, magazines like *Motor Trend* saw increased advertising revenues, said Steiner, adding that companies increasingly advertise within their niche.

The idea is to form freelance journalists who can pitch their work globally.

"The problem with conventional journalism programs at the master's level is that they are teaching people to be general assignment reporters at the local city paper. There aren't as many jobs as there are students.

"What we'd like to do is actually create a program that recruits students who already have a specialty. We're going to recruit those folks and teach them over the course of two years how to be a journalist in the global niche media, covering their fields. This would be as global as convention [journalism programs] are local."

The program would likely be run from the Munk School of Global Affairs and would seek a mix of Canadian and international students. Course content would include entrepreneurship and how media work in various states, including covering authoritarian states. Students would be taught how to create a personal studio, complete with all necessary tools for reporting through multiple platforms on the issues relevant to their work.

"I think most of our students aren't going to be working in newsrooms in the end," said Steiner. "They'll be working as freelancers, and they'll be working in their own areas."

Steiner started his new role of founding director of the Journalism Lab at the Munk School in mid-October. Since summer 2009, he has worked on the program during evenings and weekends. "I was doing this on the side a little bit over the course of the last year, until it got to a point where we figured someone

SEE 'J-SCHOOL' - PG 6

U of T publication alleges financial misconduct

UTSU claims Toronto Globalist *received compensation as per clubs funding*



Toronto Globalist editor Matthew Gray alleges that UTSU is acting improperly. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Matthew Gray, editor-in-chief of the *Toronto Globalist*, has alleged that UTSU has acted improperly, shifting their publications funding policy without going through the board of directors or consulting with the relevant publications.

"I had talked to Corey [Scott, VP Campus Life] informally, where I was trying to gauge exactly how much money we would get, and what he said was that he felt that publications didn't contribute to campus life as cost effectively as cultural organizations do and basically because of that they were going to be cutting funding," said Gray.

Scott doesn't recall saying that publications did not contribute as cost-effectively as other organizations, and "certainly doesn't think that's necessarily true."

"From my understanding," said Gray, "which I'm not entirely sure of, you would require some sort of modification of clubs funding policy which would have to pass through the board of directors of UTSU. That's what I thought was going to happen and I thought there would be space for all of us publications to rally and say 'This is going to kill us.'"

According to Gray, in a meeting earlier this year Scott told him the *Globalist* should expect "in the range of $500 to $750, maybe $1000." Though this figure would be an increase from last year, when the *Globalist* received only $500 from UTSU, it is a cut from the year prior, when they received some $1500.

"Basically our total budget has been between $4000 to $5000," said Gray, "and the contribution from UTSU has been roughly between $1500 and $2500."

According to Gray, the cut to $500 "kind of destroyed the organization." The last time they printed an issue was spring of 2009, "because the UTSU dragged their feet" in giving last year's funding. "[Last year], we just weren't receiving any responses from UTSU and I actually had to personally figure it out because I knew Adam [Awad], Corey [Scott], Danielle Sandhu, so I went

SEE 'PUBLICATIONS' - PG 6

HART HOUSE

Hart House receives new mission statement

House aims to be a more inclusive and student oriented place on campus

Robin Buller
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

October 22 was a big day for Hart House. For the first time in 90 years, the university's extracurricular hub released a new vision statement.

"Hart House is a living laboratory of social, artistic, cultural, and recreational experiences where all voices, rhythms, and traditions converge," read the statement. "As the vibrant home for the education of the mind, body, and spirit envisioned by its founders, Hart House encourages and supports activities that provide spaces for awakening the capacity for self-knowledge and self-expression."

"We're not pushing aside the Founder's Prayer," said Louise Cowin, warden of Hart House, in an interview with The Varsity. The Founders Prayer references the previous mission statement, etched into the stone on the building's east wall.

Hart House was founded as a place for students to explore artistic, cultural, and recreational opportunities outside the classroom. Before 1972 it was restricted to only males.

"Only in a forty-year period has Hart House even admitted women," said Cowin. "It isn't a long time ago in terms of number of years, but there have been exponential changes in society since then." She added that the new vision statement is an attempt to reflect those shifts by being "representative of the diversity and complexity of today's student body."

Cowin attributed the amount of time between the house admitting women and the birth of a new vision statement to the environment created by University of Toronto's students. "I think it has to be directly related to the change in the body of students. My predecessors were able to talk about the Founder's Prayer with it still having reference to today even though the language is somewhat dated. And I didn't feel that we could continue to say that the sentiments were still true today."

Hart House's position relative to the University of Toronto can be hard to pinpoint. "The way Hart House's operational budget comes together is that Hart House receives half of its operating funds from a student ancillary fee," said Cowin. "So, really, its driven by the students who pay for Hart House."

However, Cowin also describes the house as "a gateway between the university and the city. Our budget now is such that we need to rely on this external revenue to balance the books."

The transition to the new mission statement will occur through programming. "We're going to begin to work towards inclusion that is meaningful so that a greater number of students are identifying [Hart House] as a place to call home and to hang their hats," said Cowan. "Hart House might become an umbrella or a coalition for groups to actually have opportunities to actually gain access to space and to dollars."

Cowin hopes the statement will help Hart House be more inclusive, as opposed to what she describes as an institution that has "been very rigid and limited."



Warden Louise Cowin launched the new mission statement for Hart House in October. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Varsity Board of Directors By-Election

Varsity Publications is looking for interested candidates from the Scarborough campus to serve as the UTSC representative on the Varsity Board of Directors. We seek motivated candidates who wish to get more involved in the functioning and oversight of Canada's largest student newspaper. In order to be eligible pursuant to our by-laws, you must be a full-time undergraduate student at UTSC.

The nomination period is from Monday, November 8th to Monday, November 22nd at 9pm. The by-election will take place on Monday, November 29th.

Whether you're interested in journalism, wish to acquire business experience on campus or just want to get more involved in campus life, this is a great opportunity to learn more about and take an active role in the workings of a widely circulated newspaper.

For more information or to receive a nomination form, please contact Emily Sommers, CEO of the Board of Directors at *ceo@thevarsity.ca*



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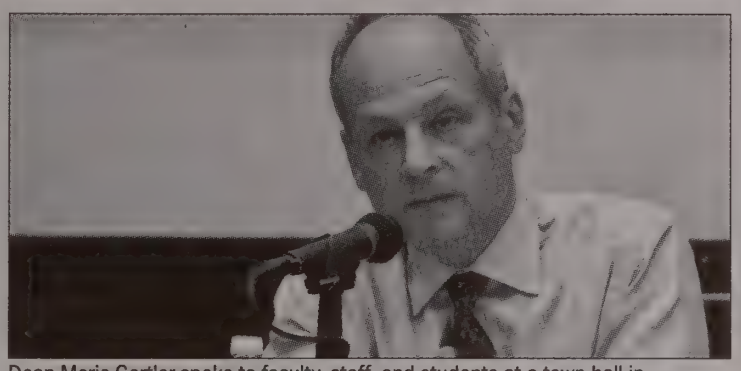


FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

A&S Dean pledges collaboration

Part-time rep scolds council for lack of criticism; changes to academic plan published

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



Dean Meric Gertler spoke to faculty, staff, and students at a town hall in September. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Faculty of Arts and Science Dean Meric Gertler acknowledged the distressing response to his academic plan and pledged to work collaboratively to deal with his faculty's near $60-million shortfall.

"I understand many were worried," said Gertler. "I'm glad people were engaged, it proves they care."

The faculty council had its monthly meeting last Monday at the Munk School. The week before, Gertler told faculty heads that all but one of the amalgamations proposed in the plan, which was published in July, would be put on hold.

The School of Languages and Literatures, which would have amalgamated almost all area studies programs, will not be created. Instead, faculty will work together on four key areas: increasing enrolment, collaborative learning, shared recruitment methods, and reorganizing administrative services.

Gertler promised to publish a memo within the week detailing the changes. The document, released Friday, can be viewed online.

Former East Asian Studies chair Andre Schmidt read a resolution composed the morning of the meeting by CUPE 3902 and signed by GSU, UTSU, UTFA, and United Steelworkers 1998. The public statement called on Gertler to "suspend indefinitely the implementation of the major structural changes of the current plan until a proper democratic process is established." There was applause after the statement was read.

Comparative Literature PhD student Ryan Culpepper asked Gertler to reconsider future review process methods "to save time and antagonism."

One professor said the plan had been "distressing" and "made many anxious." He thanked Gertler for working collaboratively but said he should have done so sooner.

Gertler acknowledged the process was "causing a lot of sleepless nights for a lot of people" and that he could have communicated more clearly that his ideas were solely proposals. He pledged to implement timelines that work swiftly but leave enough time for ample consultation.

Robert Baker, vice-dean of research and graduate programs, mentioned that the faculty will look at establishing first-year programs like Vic One for all constituent colleges. He also said college registrar processes would be streamlined with the Office of the Registrar to ensure greater efficiency and a "deeper level of advising."

Gertler said his budget committee has been formed and he hopes to give an updated report at next month's meeting, as requested by many at this meeting.

When asked if the committee would clarify how much money moves in and out of the faculty among other university units, he joked that U of T money circulates like federal equalization payments and that his faculty would be Ontario. He added that this information is already publicly available.

Gertler noted high amounts of engineering students in his faculty's courses who pay almost double in tuition. "We're following the money," he said.

While many thanked Gertler for now working collaboratively with his faculty, CUPE 3902 Liaison Officer Patrick Vitale said students were "busting their asses this summer" to defeat the plan and asked Gertler to not "take credit for our work." There was applause.

Part-time Undergraduate Representative Andrew Agnew-Iler scolded council members for thanking the dean.

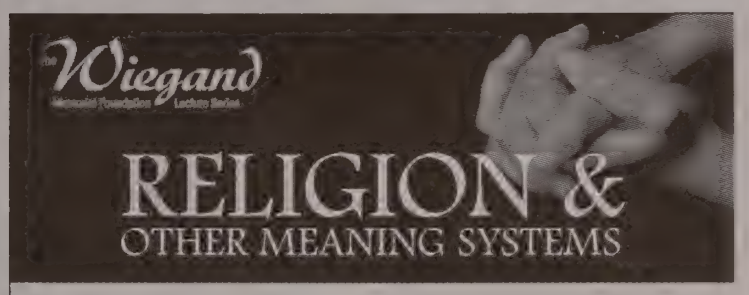
"Our job is to question [the dean's] proposals, it's not to accept them based on some consultations," said Agnew-Iler. "[These are] vague ideas. It's not our job to say 'yeah that's great;' it's our job to say 'okay, let's make sure this works.'

"Are we so scared for our positions that [...] we have to give thanks to the dean so we hold our positions [sic]?"

Gertler replied that he gets plenty of criticism and that he encourages open speech.

GSU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Graduate Students' Union
University of Toronto
TUESDAY, NOV. 23, 2010
6:10 p.m. SHARP
Koffler Institute Auditorium
569 Spadina Avenue
beside the GSU

Agenda:
2009–10 Financial Statement & Audit
Appointment of the Auditor
Approval of Minutes
All graduate students have voice and vote
info@utgsu.ca **www.utgsu.ca**



DAVID SLOAN WILSON
SUNY Distinguished Professor of Biology and Anthropology
Binghamton University

Monday, November 15, 2010
6:00 p.m.
George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place

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General Seating
For more info or accessibility assistance:
416.946.5937 or email events@artsci.utoronto.ca

How does the experience of the religious believer differ from those who regard themselves as secular? Professor David Sloan Wilson argues that both can be understood in terms of secular and religious meaning systems which can help us construct new meaning systems adapted to solve the problems of modern existence.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Avez-vous pensé à une carrière en enseignement en immersion française?

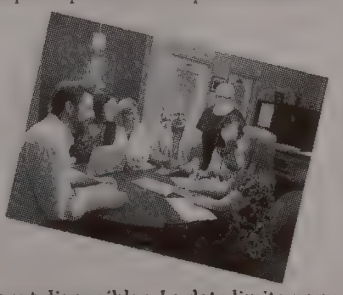
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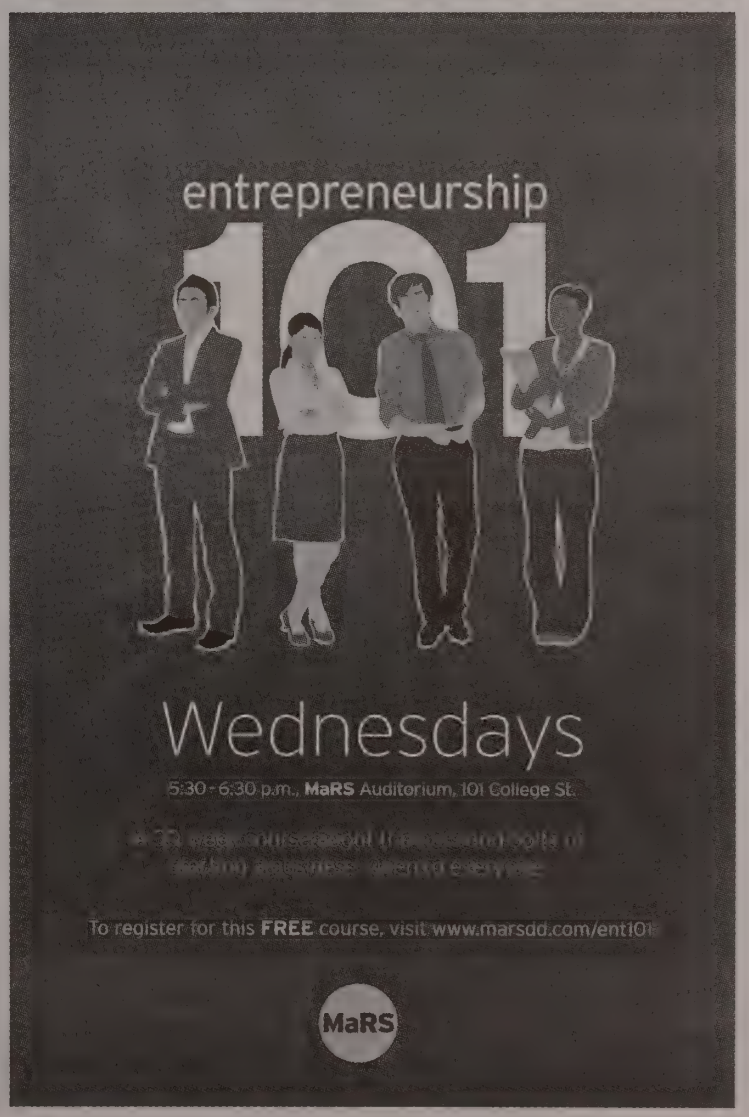
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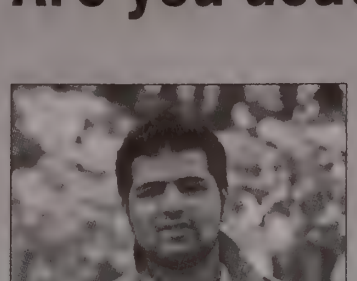
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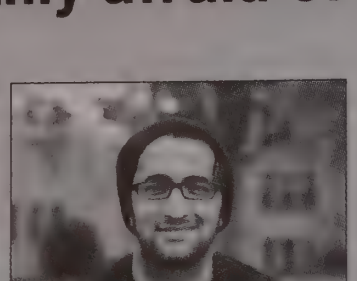
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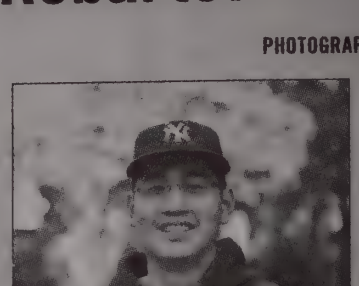
Jay

3rd Year Business and Environmental Studies,
"I try to avoid it. It looks like a federal penitentiary and the entrances suck!"



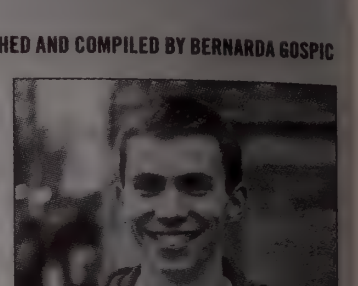
Latif

4th Year History and Political Science,
"I have a problem with the smell — it's reminiscent of a locker room in a seniors' rec centre."



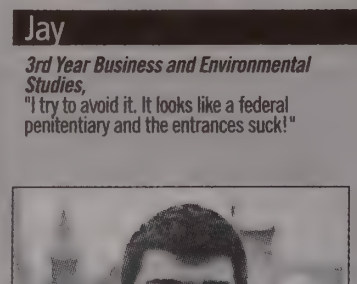
Tim

4th Year English and History,
"It's dark, gloomy, and everyone looks depressed. I stay away and stick to Gerstein or Graham... there are a lot of Asians there."



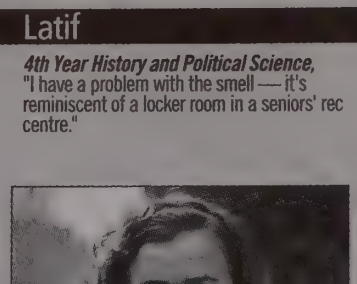
Riley

1st Year Computer Science,
"Not really. It's just a library, not a giant killer peacock."



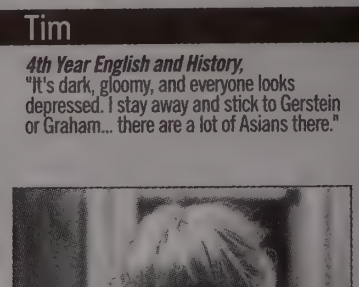
Gianni

3rd Year Criminology,
"I avoid it like the plague."



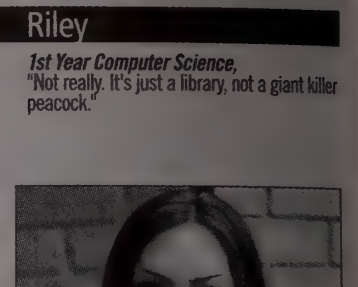
Martina

1st Year Life Sciences,
"It's my home away from home!"



Katrina

1st Year Commerce,
"Who's Robert?"



Helena

Graduate Student,
"I spent my entire undergrad there. Am I traumatized? Yes. I cringe whenever I hear the name."

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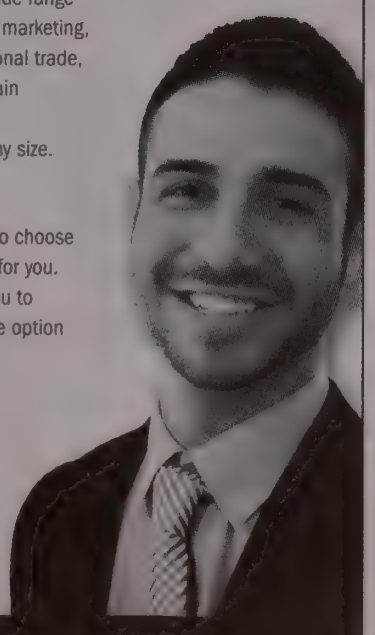
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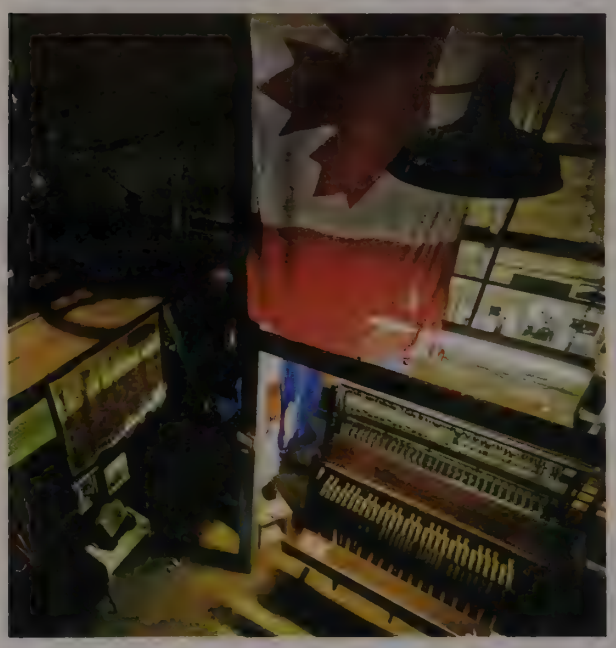
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THE IVORY TOWER: U OF T'S SECRET SPACES

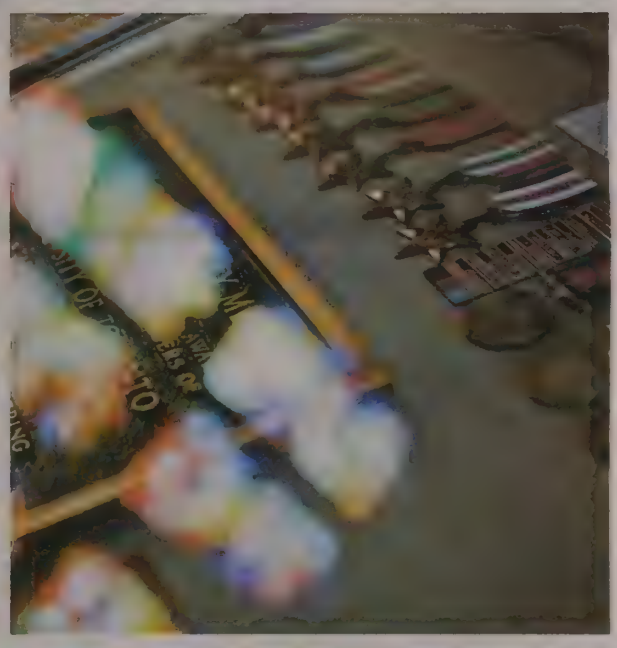


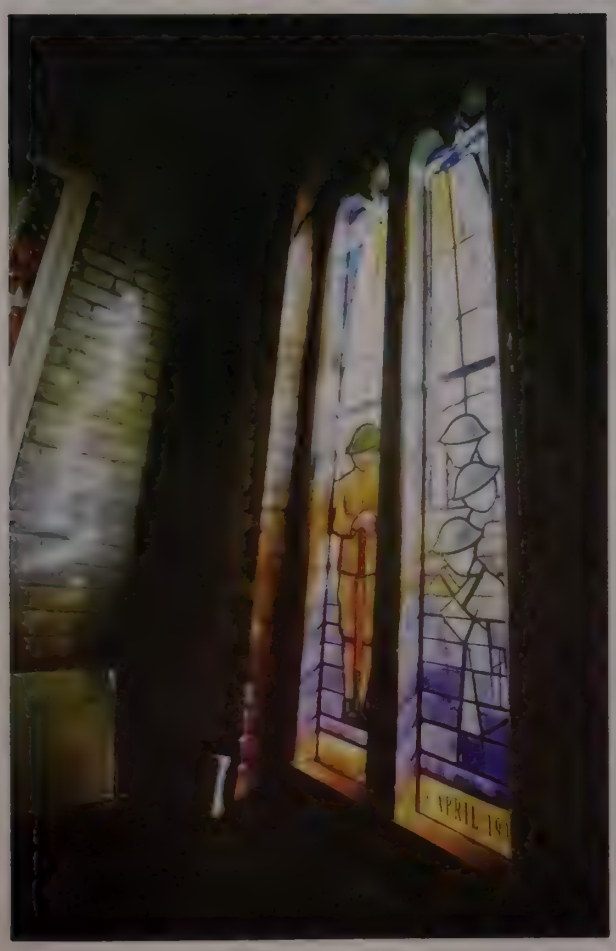


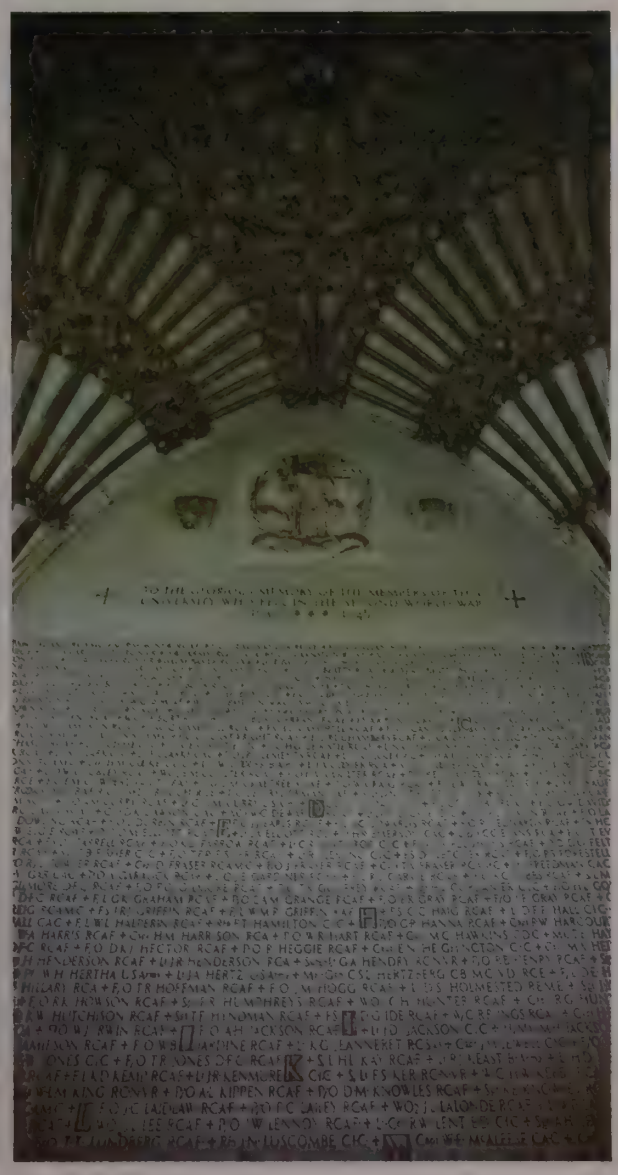




The Varsity visits Soldiers' Tower in preparation for Remembrance Day.
Photos by David Pike









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'PUBLICATIONS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

to them and sort of asked what was going on with that," apparently receiving $500 in "emergency funding" shortly after.

Still, Gray maintains the "question is, why has there been a shift in UTSU policy that hasn't gone through the board of directors?" He argues there is "no accountability as to how it shifts, they're not really answering to anybody, just changing UTSU policy." He added that "Corey is in an appointed position, so it is not a democratically elected position, so I'm kind of weirded out as to how they've done this."

> **"The problem is that once you start giving out a lot of publications funding you become a beacon for publications..."**
> **— Corey Scott, UTSU VP Campus Life**

In fact, the process for funding clubs is formally delineated, and according to Scott, has not been varied from in this instance. Upon receiving a proposal, UTSU determines the funding for each organization first in the clubs committee — a nine-member unit with representation from UTSU and the clubs community. The figures the committee agrees on, based on the application funds granted in previous years and amount available that year, must then be ratified by the board of directors before being granted.

"So what we did, what I did last year, was count the amount of funding that was allocated to all the publications who had specifically requested funding for the publication. So that's not including like The *Muslim Voice* which is funded by the MSA, or other clubs that are housing magazines. I counted up that number, I counted up the number from the year before, and kind of figured out a good even point between that, and then we added a little bit extra even to that, so that's just kind of our informal number." Though the *Globalist* funding has yet to be ratified, Scott maintains the unofficial figure "hasn't gone down from last year."

"We've tried to foresee as much as possible this year," said Scott, "and I think that for a couple of the publications funding has gone up, and for some of them it's gone down. the *Globalist*, not officially, has gone up a little."

Confusion on UTSU's publication policy may stem from Scott's plan to create a formal policy for publications funding this year. As of now, publications are treated like all other clubs, and Scott hopes "to create a term of reference so publications know [how much funding they can expect] at the beginning of the year."

"The funding is just not there to cover these huge costs, these realistic costs, these costs that kind of just can't be avoided," said Scott, citing a substantial growth in the number of groups applying for funding over the past two years, with the amount available — roughly $160,000 — staying constant.

"So we just had the concern that there were a lot of these executives going into debt, with the UTSU's hands being tied behind their back because the funding's just not there. So earlier in the year I talked to several of the publications, and talking about the idea of setting up a publications funding, so there's a set amount of funds that would be put aside [...] specifically for publications, but also so that we could create a policy around the set way to fund publications," said Scott.

"The problem is that once you start giving out a lot of publications funding you become a beacon for publications, so if we give funding to the *Toronto Globalist* and then *Footprint*, *Chinese Magazine*, *Green Health Discovery Magazine*, *Urbane*, all these different magazines that are operating on campus which, you know, deserve funding, will come to UTSU and also ask for funding, but if you give $1500 to the *Globalist* and then there's like six other magazines also applying next year because they heard about it. That's like, $9000 out of the budget there, and it just becomes a lot tighter and a lot harder to decide."

Scott maintains that this policy has yet to be enacted, and will be the result of extensive consultation with publications, likely in January or February.

"We do want to create a really good policy that is built by publications, and that has those opinions and those experiences within it, so that it works for everyone, but that it also doesn't set up a false hope for exorbitant funds to cover the really high costs," said Scott.

'J-SCHOOL' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

has to jump right into this and do [it], or it's just not going further."

He said the idea came about through conversations with his colleagues in the joint undergraduate journalism program between UTSC and Centennial College.

"They're on a strong path forward for undergraduate education, and it struck me that there might be a different but complementary path forward for graduate education — one that starts with older students who already have a specialty they wish to cover," said Steiner.

Before working in public relations, Steiner freelanced during his undergraduate degree and later worked at *The Wall Street Journal*, where he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He said he looks forward to returning to journalism, but stressed the program is just a proposal and that approval and accreditation would take months.

"There's a lot to happen between now and then," he said. "I'm really struck and very moved by the interest people are showing, and we have to get the details right."

CYCLING

Bike boxes take front seat

City-installed road space for cyclists has been met with mixed feelings

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY STAFF

The City of Toronto installed the first roadway bike boxes at the Harbord Street and St. George Street intersection to increase safety to cyclists.

Bike boxes are square-shaped spaces marked in front of the stop bar at traffic intersections. Cyclists enter the box through a bike lane on the right, and stop in front of cars at a red light. At bike box locations, both cars and bikes are not allowed to turn right on a red light.

Once in the box, cyclists signal their direction if they are turning and drivers must wait until all cyclists clear out before moving on a green light.

The bike boxes, currently being piloted at only one intersection, are expected to be expanded to more locations this year. The boxes are meant to stop cyclists from being side-wiped on the curb by right-turning cars.

"I think bike boxes are a great idea, and when properly used, they are one more thing that cyclists in Toronto can utilize to increase safety," said Alexandra Legum, the president of U of T Cycling Club.



Bike boxes have been installed at St. George and Harbord. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

"A lot of red-light-running stems from the internalized belief that as a cyclist, it is important to get out of the traffic as quickly as possible as method of self-preservation."

ROAD USERS CONFUSED

Toby Bowers, the coordinator of Bikechain, said both cyclists and motorists are not observing the rules at the moment.

"The problem associated with the boxes that we have observed so far is that there has [been] little public education, with motor vehicles still stopping at [the] wrong line and cyclists still lining up along curb," he said.

U of T student Eric Okawara is a driver and a cyclist. As a driver, he admits he is not fully aware of how to use bike boxes. And as a cyclist, he said he is not 100 per cent comfortable because "drivers are not sure how to approach these bike boxes."

Okawara said a part of his concern is also that drivers from outside of town would not know what bike boxes are.

BIKE LANES BEFORE BIKE BOXES

U of T student Jia-Yun Karen Cao said she believes bike boxes make roads safer for everyone, but added that they have limitations.

"Bike boxes are only useful if there is a bike lane already," she said.

"Everyone pays taxes that go towards road construction and maintenance, the fact there is an insufficient amount of designated lane space for bikes means that cyclists are directly subsidizing motorists."

Cyclist activist Hamish Wilson agrees with Cao.

"Introducing bike boxes ahead of basic network continuity is another example of how unevenly we lurch to better biking," he wrote in *The Toronto Star*, adding that bike lanes must first be continued to all stop bars and missing gaps between lanes need to be filled.

Early Thursday morning, The Varsity spotted a fake spray-painted bike lane on Harbord Street. The stencil used to make the lane was still on the ground.

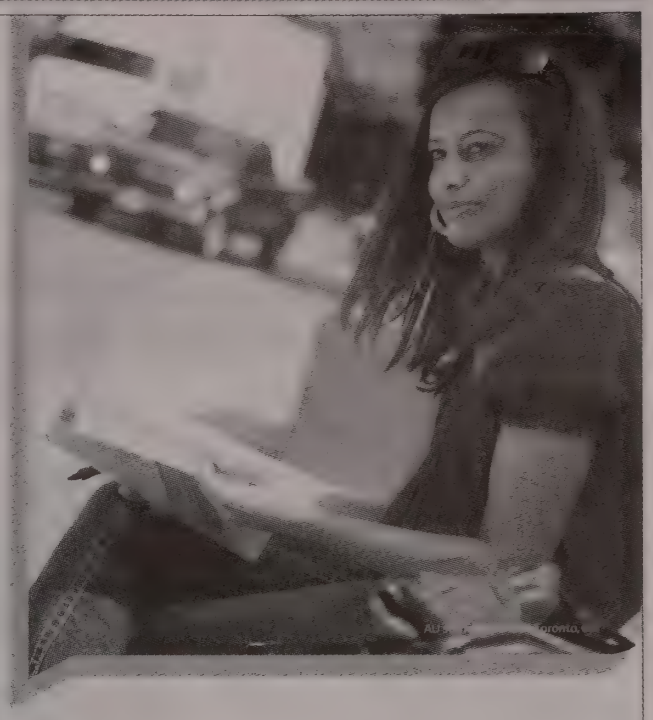
Bowers said the Harbord Street and St. George Street intersection was selected for the first instalment of bike boxes because the area is famous for bike traffic. The boxes would be harder to implement at intersections like College and Spadina because there are more traffic lanes and streetcar tracks, he added.

"Multiple locations were approved by city council, and we're just waiting for the paint to be put on the ground."

BOXES COULD BE IMPROVED

Bowers said the transportation subcommittee of the Sustainability Advisory Committee at U of T did an analysis of bike boxes and made suggestions to improve them:

1. There is no reason why bicycles cannot turn right on a red light; and therefore, there should be an exception for bikes indicated on the signage.
2. There should be a mark separating the left turning lane and the through lane inside bike boxes.
3. The inside of bike boxes should be filled with a different colour to "highlight the infrastructure as novel to road users."
4. More public education is needed to ensure that both cyclists and motorists know how to use bike boxes properly.

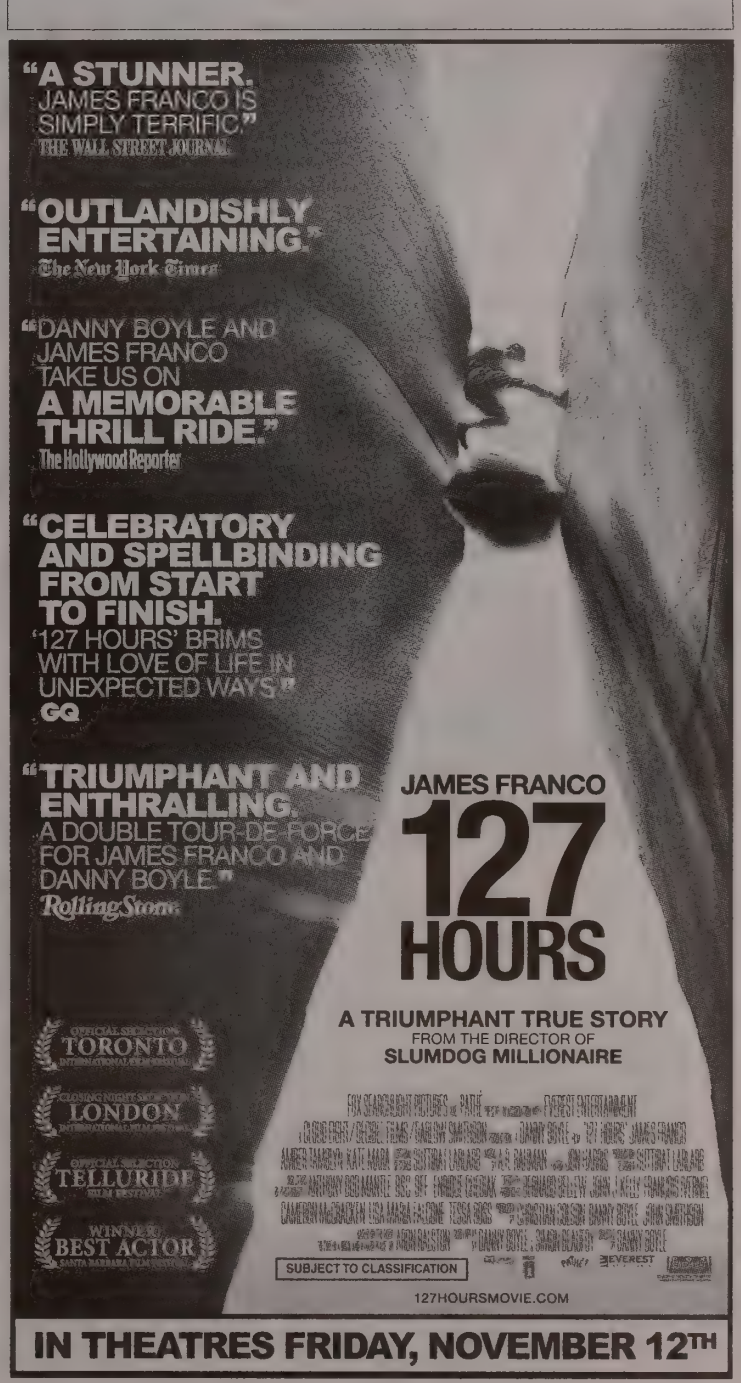


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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Trinity event raises funds for soldiers' families

Student run program aims to raise 2 million in next four years

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Last Monday Bill Graham, Trinity College chancellor and former defence minister, and Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie, chief of transportation for the Canadian Forces, participated in a discussion titled "Canada's Military: Where We've Been and Where We're Going."

Hosted in the Trinity College Combination Room, the event was organized by the Canadian Hero Fund, a student run charity who aims to provide assistance to military personnel and their families. The fund's current '11 for '11 Campaign is trying to receive personal donations of eleven dollars leading up to Remembrance Day. The organization's broader goal is to raise $2 million to support scholarships for children of fallen soldiers.

The event began when Hero Fund Director Michael Ball introduced the speakers. Before the two speakers began their discussion, a video clip for the Hero Fund's 11 for 11 Campaign was played. "This November let's remember our fallen soldiers," said a voice-over at the end of the video. "But let's also remember the children who lost their heroes."

The introductory video also included a song by Canadian band The Trews entitled "Highway of Heroes," a song which Ball says has been a big success. "Kids want to sing it at their assemblies. The song has really made Remembrance Day more relevant for young people. It's about the soldiers who are dying now. Not just World War 1 and 2 — it brings a new relevance to young people for Remembrance Day."



Andrew Leslie (left) and Bill Graham (right) spoke about the realities of today's military. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Leslie began the talk by explaining the increased importance of education in combat situations. "It isn't the time, in the middle of a fire fight to have an academic discussion on whether you should move right or left," said Leslie, who added that the new complexities of war require a higher level of education. "There are life and death situations [out in the field] every day. Educations helps one deal with these sorts of problems."

"We promote education in the armed forces," said Leslie. "We have many soldiers off getting [their] masters or are part of doctoral studies." He added that attendance at the Royal Military College has increased in recent years from 600 to 1000 students. "To be an officer, one needs a degree [...] this has changed the field for the better. It has changed our culture for good and it has made us [the army] better prepared for complex situations."

The conversation then moved towards the importance of the reserves. "Half of the armed forces is made up of reserve forces," explained Leslie.

"Reserves have a sense of being the poorer brother to the system," added Graham, "But as far as I can see, without the reserves the system wouldn't work."

Graham added that budget concerns will be a major issue for the military. "After returning from Afghanistan, we will need to keep a high budget for the new threats such as arctic and cyber-threats."

"There's a price to pay for nationhood; there is a price for security," added Leslie, who reaffirmed the need to keep the budget consistent after Afghanistan.

Discussions briefly shifted to the legitimacy of the war in Afghanistan when Graham asked Leslie if the conflict was worthwhile. "If in mid-2002, someone had told me that Canada would be in Afghanistan close to 10 years, I wouldn't have believed them," said Leslie. "The type of fight was not as horrendous as Korea or Vietnam but is more complex; to the drug trades, to the conflicts between ethnic tribes [...] once again education is clearly important to dealing with such complex affairs. It has changed Canada and the armed forces for the better. The intensity of the impact of Afghanistan has changed Canadian soldiers and we will be prepared for whatever happens next."

The Canadian Hero Fund raised enough money last year to provide a scholarship to a psychology student at the University of New Brunswick.



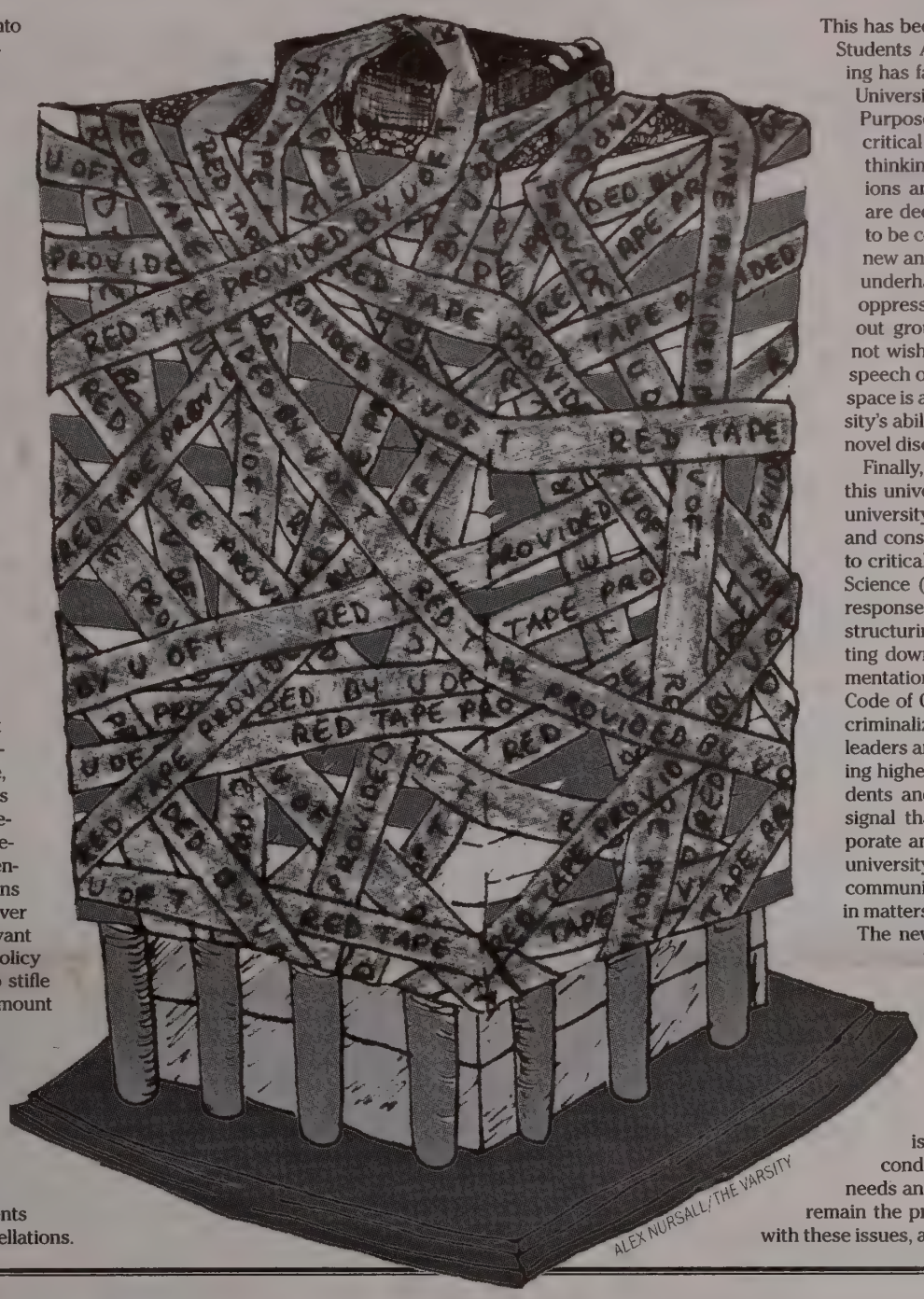
SPACED OUT

MARIA CICHOSZ *explains how the university's new space-booking policy further marginalizes campus community groups*

On October 28, 2010, the University of Toronto Governing Council passed a new policy concerning the temporary use of space on campus. This policy made changes to existing booking procedures, many of which already presented severe difficulties to student groups attempting to access campus space. The new policy makes it even more difficult and expensive for clubs, campus, and community groups to access space on campus. Changes to the existing policies, such as increased booking fees and charging groups for undercover police presence after an event, have passed without proper consultation, effectively giving the university the right to cancel a space booking at any time without prior notice. As the latest installment in a series of undemocratic and repressive actions enacted by the university over the course of the year, this new space booking policy necessitates the posing of three questions: who is this university for, what is this university for, and where is this university going?

To ask who a university is for seems redundant. After all, are universities not built to facilitate the learning needs of students? No university could exist without a diverse and vibrant student community. However, given U of T's actions in the process of implementing this plan, it seems the university is being organized around the needs of administrators and bureaucrats. The parties most affected by the new space booking policy are student groups, clubs, and organizations. The university did not consult or even notify students that a new policy was being drafted, voted on, or implemented. Furthermore, when a number of students from various campus groups organized a rally in front of Simcoe Hall and demanded that their needs be considered in the implementation of this policy, they were initially denied entry into the Governing Council meeting. These actions demonstrate that the unanimous disapproval of over 150 recognized student groups and unions is irrelevant to the Governing Council. The convenience of this policy to administrators, who are now better equipped to stifle "radical" student events, also seems to be of paramount importance.

What is this university for? Based on the actions of administrators surrounding the passing of this new space policy, it is certainly not for critical thought, novel approaches, or free speech. It is clear from the new policy that groups whose events are deemed controversial will be most affected by these changes, as they will face unexpected bills for undercover police placed at their events for "safety" purposes and sudden booking cancellations.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

This has been the case in the past for groups such as Students Against Israeli Apartheid, whose organizing has faced multiple obstacles. According to the University of Toronto's Statement of Institutional Purpose, the university aims to foster "radical, critical thinking and teaching." How can such thinking and teaching occur when only the opinions and organizing of certain students groups are deemed acceptable? If the university claims to be committed to encouraging the formation of new and "radical" ideas, it is hypocritical for it to underhandedly stifle these types of ideas through oppressive space booking policies that single out groups whose opinions the university does not wish to be associated with. Constraining free speech on campus by restricting student access to space is a policy that ultimately impedes the university's ability to serve as a place that fosters free and novel discourse.

Finally, it is important to ask in which direction this university is heading. These actions mark the university as an increasingly repressive, closed, and conservative space. Such actions include cuts to critical programs within the Faculty of Arts and Science (blatantly glossed over in David Naylor's response to student concerns about academic restructuring in The Varsity's October 25 issue); shutting down the campus during the G20; the implementation of flat fees; and a review of the Student Code of Conduct occurring at this time which will criminalize dissent by targeting outspoken student leaders and organizations. Measures such as charging higher fees for the use of campus space to students and "market rent" rates to external groups signal that the university is becoming more corporate and profit-oriented than ever before. If the university is to act as a corporation rather than a community, it should at least let students have a say in matters that affect them.

The new space booking policies and related actions should be a cause of significant concern for all students. Though they appear easy to ignore when one is not engaged in campus-based organizing or clubs, these changes are part of a larger trend. The university is becoming more like a corporate, repressive entity focused on the needs of its administration, and less like an open community conducive to free speech and centered on the needs and rights of its students. If students wish to remain the priority of this institution, we must engage with these issues, and ensure that our voices are heard.

Facebook is watching you

Facebook's new "See Friendship" feature is another victory for over-sharing over privacy

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Recently, without notification, Facebook made another change that has vastly increased the over-sharing prevalent in social networking. It's innocently called "See Friendship," and it makes stalking on Facebook even easier than it was before. You may not have it on your account yet, because it is still in the process of being phased in. However, regardless of whether you have it yet, it should be a matter of some concern.

The feature allows you to see the entire Facebook relationship between two friends, or one of your friends and one of his/her friends who hasn't enabled certain privacy settings. Basically it replaces "See Wall-to-Wall" and adheres to whatever privacy settings users have for that feature, but it's much creepier. "See Friendship" makes a page with a randomly selected photo of two friends, all of their wall postings, shared photos, events they both attended, comments on each other's statuses, mutual friends, and mutual "likes," with the option to "See All," going back to the beginning of when they started to share on Facebook. If that isn't enough, on the right side there are a few friendships ready for you to view, or, if you're particularly curious or bored, you can type in two names to see any Facebook friendship you desire.

I am definitely a chronic Facebook user. At first I resisted joining, finding the whole thing way too creepy. Then one especially dull day at work on the 45th floor of the BMO building got the best of me, and I decided to see what it was all about. A few years later I am as dependent on Facebook as anyone else. Part of me would like to quit, especially after this latest addition, but then I'd miss out on all of the advantages I'm sure you are well aware of. I exercise my right to have a locked-down profile through the privacy settings Facebook allows and go about my business. Then sometimes I find myself looking at wedding pictures of people I don't even know, and I think: "Is this really what Facebook should be used for?" The answer has got to be no.

Why do we want to stalk people over the Internet? Does the fact that it's so easy make it acceptable? If you were sitting around your living room with friends and glanced out the window to see a bunch of people watching you, you would probably be freaked out. Yet Facebook allows us to do just that, and now with the option of seeing everything two friends have shared, in all its Internet glory.

Granted, privacy settings allow us to only share what we want to share. This "See Friendship" feature won't give your friends new access to the FB existence you have, but it puts it all in one overly convenient place, which you may or may not appreciate. And it was done sneakily. Where is the notice explaining what it is, and where is the "opt-out," Mark Zuckerberg? I feel violated.

What about people who have fairly lax privacy settings? Or what's recommended by Facebook?

U of T Computer Science Professor Graeme Hirst points out that "it seems to be a useful feature for stalking people who are friends of friends (e.g. an ex- and his or her new special friend.) [Although] the information is technically 'public,' it can be a creepy kind of hearsay nonetheless. The way to opt out is to be careful about what you let friends of friends see."

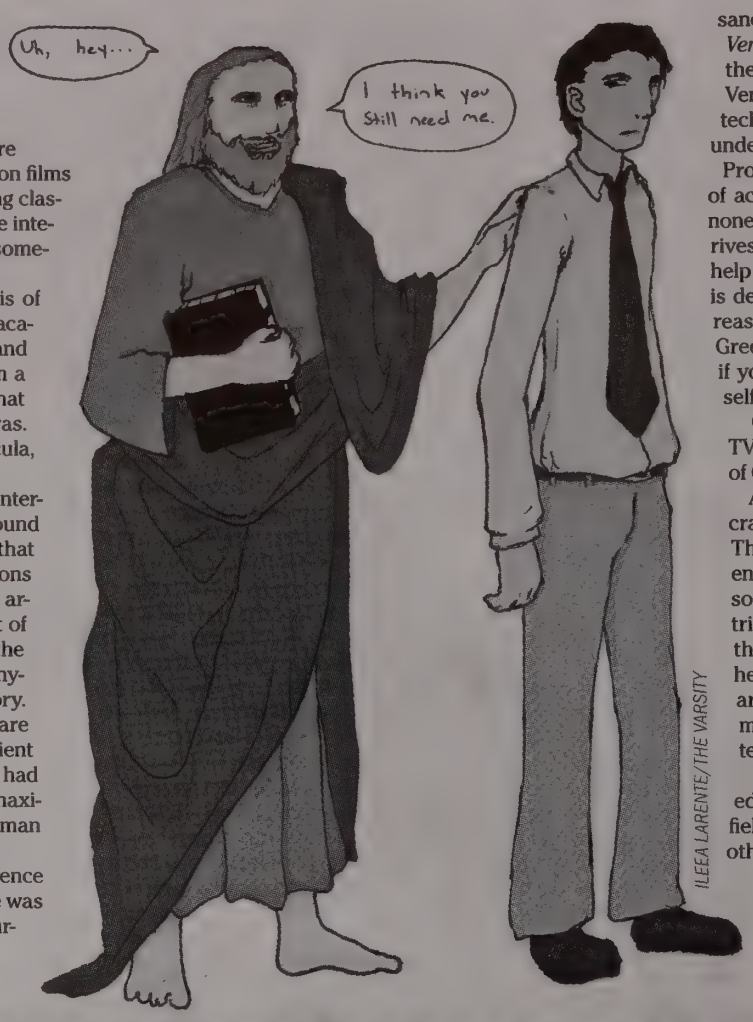
The biggest issue is that this is just another move on Facebook's part aimed at making more information available to the public and third party developers so the company can earn more money. Applications such as Farmville have shared user information and send IDs to external companies, although FB has stated the situation is resolved, for now.

You may recall a new tool in December 2009 that made more information available, by reverting accounts to a default privacy setting until users reviewed and re-set their controls. In response to complaints, Canada's Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart, launched her second investigation of Facebook. It was completed in September when the commissioner released a statement saying, "Overall, Facebook has implemented the changes it promised following our investigation. However, our work with Facebook is not over." Neither should yours be. This latest development serves as a reminder that Facebook privacy may be an oxymoron, so be careful what you share.

The benefits of classical education

Why reading ancient Greek and Roman texts can broaden your mind and your anecdotes

Brigit Katz and Alex Ross
VARSITY STAFF



ILEEA LARENTE/THE VARSITY

In *Die Hard*, the antagonist, Hans Gruber, shows off his classical education with this memorable line : "And when Alexander saw the breadth of his domain, he wept, for there were no more worlds to conquer." Aside from providing action films with quotable dialogue, there are numerous benefits to being classically educated. It's difficult to argue that classics should be integral to every person's education without sounding at least somewhat pretentious, but we'll try anyway.

For centuries, classical studies were considered the basis of higher education. Greek and Latin were the language of academia and the works of philosophers, scientists, authors, and artists from the ancient world were taught to children from a young age. It would have been unheard of to not know what transpired at the Battle of Thermopylae, or who Pericles was. Classical studies have fallen out of vogue in modern curricula, but this should not be the case.

Many foundational problems in philosophy, psychology, international relations, mathematics, and even science can be found in the works of Greek and Roman authors. Did you know that Greek philosopher Zeno's paradoxes were the first intimations of differential calculus? Or that you can find one of the first articulations of realist political theory in Thucydides' account of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta? Also, the Greek historian Herodotus was the first person to write anything that even approaches modern conceptions of history. The list goes on. Essentially, many of the courses that you are currently studying touch on ideas first considered by ancient thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero. Notably, the Greeks had an early form of atomistic theory and one philosopher, Anaximander, even suggested 25 centuries before Darwin that human beings were descended from other creatures.

The classical civilizations have also had a tremendous influence on the humanities. The main inspiration for the Renaissance was the classical world. The flourishing of art and literature during this period looked to Greek and Roman models. Knowing the mythology, philosophy, and artistic trends of the ancient world can add to the appreciation of post-Renaissance art. For example, Boticelli's famous painting *The Birth of Venus* is based on the mythical story of the same name. Even the pose of Boticelli's Venus is based on the pose of an actual Venus statue found in Rome. Being aware of the mythology and technique that inspired the artist can lead to a more nuanced understanding of the emotion behind the painting.

Proficiency in Greek and Latin is no longer an integral part of academia. However, studying these classical languages can nonetheless be beneficial. Since most of the English language derives from these sources, knowing a bit of Greek and Latin can help you understand key concepts better. For example, "logic" is derived from the Greek word logos, which means speech or reason. Psychology is then taken from a combination of two Greek words psychos, which means self or mind, and logos. So if you're studying psychology you're studying the logic of the self or mind.

On a lighter note, there's a reason why so many movies and TV shows are based on events of the ancient world: the history of Greece and Rome can be very entertaining.

Ancient history is replete with amusing anecdotes about the crazy antics and strange beliefs of prominent personalities. The Roman Emperor Nero, for example, used to force audiences to sit through his musical performances for so long that some feigned death so they could leave. Incidentally, he also tried to murder his mother three times. The philosopher Pythagoras forbade his followers from eating beans, because he thought they resembled gates to the soul. Ancient sources aren't as dry as you would expect them to be either. The Roman poet Ovid famously wrote a handbook on the very esoteric topic of how to pick up women.

Clearly, there are significant advantages to being classically educated whether you do it for a career in the ancient history field or for your own edification and entertainment. But what other reasons are there engaging in classical studies? Why should one explore the faded but not forgotten worlds of Athens and Rome? Our final and most convincing argument? Mark Zuckerberg, the inventor of Facebook, studied classics in high school and university, and look where he is today. As Virgil says: "Audentes Fortuna iuvat" — Fortune favours the bold.

IRKS & QUIRKS

Why graduating from university sucks

Alex Nursall
VARSITY STAFF

I'd like to talk to you today about something that most students must face during their university careers. It's a stage of life that is tough, frightening, and occasionally completely humiliating. I don't come here to lecture or to preach, but I've come to warn you about the hardest part of school: graduation.

When you first escape from the confines of university, you go through all the stages of loss: sadness, anger, arousal, heavy drinking, poor tattoo choices, and acceptance. At first, you may feel confident that your petty degree will garner you a place in society, but by the time that mid-August rolls around and you've just tequila-shotted away your last remaining bit of OSAP, suddenly it hits you: Oh God, is this what the real world is like?

In one abrupt swoop, you're in the real world. There are no more mornings where you can choose to skip your 10 a.m. Plants and You BOT200 course in order to sleep off your Jägerbomb-induced hangover. No more vaguely cheesy cafeteria food. No more days spent napping at the back of a 300 person class, sure that your mildly attractive yet completely overworked TA would never notice the puddle of drool that is threatening to encroach on your perky neighbour's MacBook. You are in the real world now, and you are its bitch. Hate your job? Too bad, the job market is hell, and God forbid you want to work in journalism. Better take that job working as a secretary at your uncle's law firm, lest you have to return back to the service industry and weep bitter tears deep into your expensive degree. Sure, there are always the few who leave university to not only get their dream job, but also somehow find time to save the world, make six figures, and have scads of hot, knee-burning sex with other money-making, world-saving fools. You will come to realize that these people are idiots, but only because you are not one of them, and you'd probably eat your own nipples for the chance to quit bartending and move to a sassy downtown condo where you can alternate between buffing your various awards and dating that brunette in English class you were too nervous to talk to.

There are some things that are nice about graduating and being without a real job. You can drink in the afternoon generally without consequence; you can read for fun again; the word "midterms" no longer make you break out into a cold sweat; you can carry your degree around in your wallet and use it to pick up at clubs. ("Oh my god, you have a BA in classics? God, that's sexy.") Also, you eventually figure things out and understand how to network and find some job you like and some friends whose lives don't revolve around what library they're going to go to next, but those first few months can really suck the will to live right out of you.

But the major downside to being out of school is that it isolates you. Suddenly, you're the only person who has nothing to do on evenings, and everything your friends do and talk about seems to pertain to a world you're no longer part of. Not to mention that suddenly all your friends in masters or PhD programs suddenly seem like even bigger tools than before, lauding their esoteric areas of study around while you try to work off the eyestrain from your copyediting job. Yes, you may have a job, but they are working towards bigger and better things. They are still in school, but better.

I have to back-track a little: no matter how bad it seems, you'll survive. You'll get a job, get laid, eat better, and you'll never have to look at Robarts again. But there's always the day where you look out the window, ready to throw yourself against the glass screaming, "Stop the real world! I want to get off!"

LETTERS

Re: Welcome to Fordland, November 1

It's not because I'm a Ford supporter (I'm basically the opposite), but this really is a badly-written article. What's your argument? This comes off as if you just sat down at your computer and rattled off of vaguely-connected ideas about the election, then threw in some earnest but ultimately completely out-of-touch-with-political-reality Marxist theory.

"Four years of class war?" Really? I'm a pretty fervently against Rob Ford as well, but the reality is four years from now, Toronto isn't going to be all that different than it is now, and the same would be true of a Pantalone-led Toronto. It's not like Rob Ford is going to (or would even be able to) turn Toronto into Houston, and it's not like Pantalone would (or could) have turned Toronto into Walden Two. I don't want to appear condescending, and I really appreciate that you care so much about this stuff (I'm glad someone does), but this article just comes off as naive.

Grant Heaslip

Re: Point/Counterpoint: Is education a right?, November 1

Your facts are vague and incorrect. Employers hire who they feel are the best candidates. Obviously, not everyone is the best candidate. Just because you go to school does not mean you are better than people at other schools or deserve a job over someone who has more experience. You earn no "right" to a job by going to university.

I graduated, got a job as an investment banker, and work 90 hour weeks. I don't think hours are a problem for people who have professional jobs. Yes, I may be biased as a 22 year old making over $100K, but I worked hard for where I am and would not want my employer to hire more people and dilute my wage or status at work.

How can someone realistically expect to go to university, spend four years drinking and doing an Arts or Social Science degree and expect to pay it off in a few years? If you are going to spend the money, get a degree that has a short payback period. Find a happy medium — something that interests you and pays you enough (whatever is enough for you and that is different for everyone) and don't complain about the debt level. There are cheaper and more expensive schools, so you have your say given our educational system is quality across the country.

James Blakie

Re: What's that in my food — Aspartame, Nov 1

You are correct that artificial sweeteners are no way to lose weight. In fact, aspartame is given to mice to induce diabetes in scientific studies! But the dangers of aspartame in particular are not limited to carcinogenicity and migraines — aspartame has been shown to cause neurological problems, and can play a role in the development of such diseases as Mulptiple Sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimers and other neurological diseases.

Lisa M.

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Jon Stewart's Moment of Zen

The Varsity's Washington D.C. correspondent **MEGHAN LAWSON** reports from Jon Stewart's March to Restore Sanity and examines the phenomenon behind the movement

PHOTOS BY KEEGAN BURSAW

If you haven't seen the sci-fi horror flick *The Faculty*, you're not alone. Not much is memorable about the 1998 film save for its colourful cast of characters, including Usher, Salma Hayek, Elijah Wood — oh, and *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart.

Before he took centre stage in Washington D.C. for the Rally to Restore Sanity on October 30, a clip of Stewart's turn as a high school science teacher in the B-rated film was played for the crowd gathered on the National Mall.

No doubt included simply for a good laugh, the clip pinpointed a contrast with Stewart's current cultural stature.

Before the sky-high ratings and presidential interviews, before the best-selling books and award show hosting gigs, Stewart was working as a busboy and making the rounds in run of the mill horror films and romantic comedies. Along with bit parts in *Half Baked* and *Big Daddy*, Stewart also hosted a series of forgettable shows on MTV and Comedy Central in the early 1990s.

So how does a guy who seemed doomed to play the role of comedic wingman wind up inspiring thousands — most estimates put the number well over 200,000 — to show up for a day of engagement in America's capital?

One rally-goer's hand-painted sign said it all: "It's a sad day when our politicians are comical, and I have to take our comedians seriously." Disenchanted with political and media elites in America, many have turned to Stewart and his self-described "fake news program" for the most honest portrayal of what's taking shape in their country.

But an ability to cut through hysterical punditry isn't the only thing the 47-year-old New Jersey native has going for him. His fearless, razor-sharp wit doesn't hurt either. The particular brand of satire honed by Stewart and *Daily Show* correspondents attracts an average of 3.5 million viewers who tune in live and online at comedycentral.com. Only Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly pulls in a larger audience.



"Satire is all about challenging the status quo, and that's what he's doing, both in response to the media and to the political system," explains Professor Lauren Feldman, who works in the School of Communication at American University in Washington, D.C.

Feldman devotes much of her research to determining how less-traditional sources of political communication, like late-night comedy programs, shape the public's political perspectives. "You can achieve something with satire that you can't do with other forms," she says. "Satire assumes that the audience is on the same level as the satirist. It doesn't talk down, it doesn't pander."

Since taking over the fake news desk of the *Daily Show* in 1999, Stewart has spent much of his airtime lampooning fellow commentators. O'Reilly and fellow Fox News broadcaster Glenn Beck are frequent targets, but so are decidedly less conservative commentators, like former CNN anchor Rick Sanchez. This persona of an outsider to the media establishment is a key part of Stewart's appeal — and his credibility.

In fact, when asked which journalist they most admired for a study by the Pew Research Center in 2007, Americans ranked Stewart number four. The likes of CNN's Anderson Cooper, CBS's Dan Rather, and NBC's Brian Williams nabbed other top spots.

According to Nikki Schwab, a political columnist for the *Washington Examiner*, Stewart has the ear of so many because he personifies the increasingly marginalized political moderate. "Stewart tries to make the point that most of the country, they're not the pundits that are in D.C. They're not the Glenn Becks that are freaking out about the end of the world," Schwab told The Varsity.

"His show is always about media criticism. In recent years, it has increasingly become a call for more reasoned political discourse," echoes Feldman.

On October 30, that call to reasoned discourse — to "taking it down a notch" as Stewart put it — struck a chord on the National Mall.

A great deal of ink has been spilled over the size and motive of the crowd at the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. To be sure, the number far exceeded the 60,000 estimate listed on the rally's permit application to the National Park Service.

While NPS officials refused to provide any numbers, other third-party organizations used aerial photos to peg the crowd size at around 215,000. The same group determined that the Rally to Restore Honor, the brainchild of Glenn Beck, drew about 87,000 this past August. Ridership on the D.C. transit system set a new Saturday record, with more than 825,400 passengers packing into Metro trains on October 30. Compare that to ridership on August 28, the day of Beck's rally, which clocked in at about 510,000 riders.

By any account, Stewart and fellow funny-man Stephen Colbert managed to coax a tidal wave of supporters into partaking in their highly-publicized, three-hour variety show. As predicted, one of Stewart's main demographics attended in full force: college students.

"Younger on the whole, more politically knowledgeable, more interested in politics, higher levels of education, more left-leaning," are the criteria Feldman uses to describe the demographic.

"It's going to be the constituency that is Jon Stewart — the Obama voters, the young people, the more affluent and educated types," Schwab forecast before the Rally. From South Carolina to Vancouver, from Illinois to Ottawa, young people reached the Mall by train, bus, and carpool, some even being forced to camp out because of a shortage of accommodation in the District.

Alex Lougheed, a recent graduate from the University of British Columbia, journeyed by both bus and train for 20 hours to reach D.C. from Ottawa. Asked why Canadians like himself were in attendance, Lougheed responded that "American politics are kind of Canada's biggest pastime. We have this curiosity about American politics because America is the great experiment of the modern world."

However, it wasn't just college kids, but also costume-clad seniors and stroller-pushing families, that became part of the Million Moderate March.

Jan Richmond, 70, left Chapel Hill, North Carolina, at 4 a.m. to attend the rally. "The main reason is to send a message that I'm upset about things," she explained as she stood waiting for the headliners to make their first appearance. "It's extremism in general that's upsetting to me," said friend Paula Clark, 65.

As predicted, one of Stewart's main demographics attended in full force: college students.

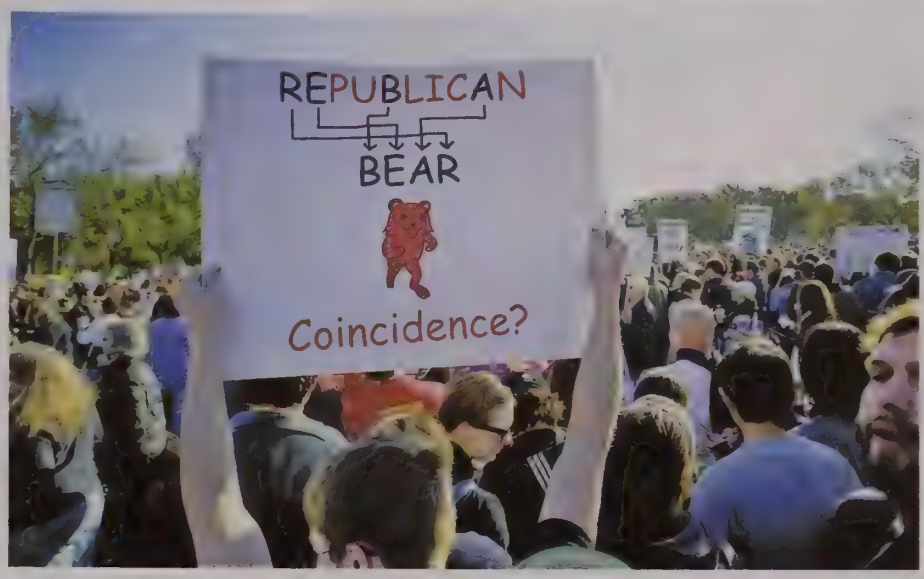
Jason, a lawyer from Virginia, shared similar concerns, but took more direct aim at the conservative Tea Party movement. "This focuses on what's ridiculous in politics, and there's so much of that going on right now," he said while sporting a t-shirt emblazoned with the words "Republicans for Voldemort." "I'm looking to counteract the energy of the Tea Party with a more rational and perhaps progressive message."

According to Feldman, many rally-goers shared this intention. "What was motivating a lot of people to show up was to be counted, and to have their count exceed what was at the Tea Party rally," she said in an interview following the event. "I sensed not necessarily animosity towards the Tea Partiers, but definitely a need to be heard alongside them."

Others were there simply to witness Comedy Central shtick firsthand. "We just want to have fun," said Daphne Polichuk, a student who journeyed down from Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec. Polichuk and her fellow road-trippers showed up wearing banana costumes and carrying signs with slogans like "Sanity is a-peeling."

But much of the ironic garb and signage faced criticism in media analysis. "Hipster Woodstock celebrating political apathy," is how *Washington Examiner* columnist Gene Healy characterized the event. *Washington Post* op-ed writer Anne Applebaum called Stewart's rally a "gloomy development" for anyone who takes the label of political "moderate" seriously.

And over at left-leaning blog the *Huffington Post*, UCLA professor Bob Samuels lamented that Stewart's "type of humor undermines American politics by turning everything into a joke and a source of mockery."



QUOTES OF THE DAY

"The underlying tone of this is extremely serious, that we as a nation need to get our shit together"
Kate Donnelly, a rally-goer from Connecticut

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."
Université de Sherbrooke student sporting a banana costume

"Jon Stewart is trying to represent the voice which is unheard and unspoken within United States culture"
Recent UBC grad Alex Lougheed, 23

"There is a message here as well, and that message is simply: media, up your game."
Alex Lougheed

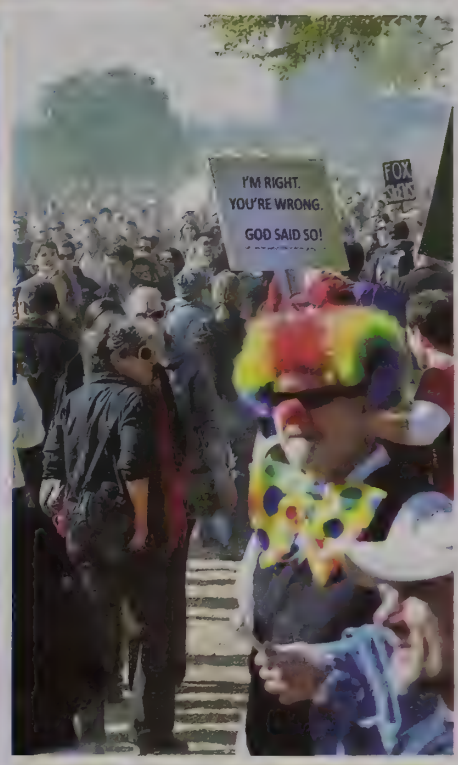
"We have the same frustration as the Tea Party does, but we have a rational reaction."
Jason, a lawyer from Richmond, Virginia

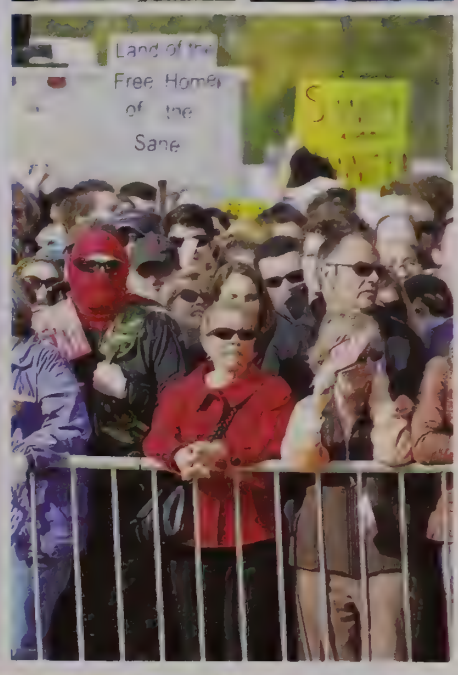
"Colbert could punch a member of Congress and his die-hard fans would still love him"
Washington Examiner columnist Nikki Schwab on Stephen Colbert taking the joke too far

"The recognition that we're all cool still, that the country hasn't totally gone to shit"
Colton Jackson, a rally-goer from Illinois, on what he was hoping for from the rally

"I'm just fed up with a lot of things"
Jan Richmond, 70

"This is not really any different. To the National Park Service, this is just another event on the National Mall that has been approved."
Terry Adams, public affairs officer for the National Park Service







While supporters celebrated both the medium and the message of Stewart's rally, these and other critics decried its ironic, not-altogether-clear goal. Even Stewart himself asked, in his closing monologue, "What exactly was this?"

The more striking question for the future media landscape is what exactly does this mean for Jon Stewart? In the rally's aftermath, can Stewart still safely sit on the sidelines as a "fake" news anchor, or has he thrown himself into the ring of political activism?

According to Lougheed, Stewart is still constrained by his jokester persona. "He's not really in the best position to be that voice either because he's a comedian, he's there to make jokes, he's there to ridicule the status quo."

For her part, Feldman takes issue with the distinction between entertainment and politics. "Why shouldn't an entertainer or a comedian be able to talk about serious political issues?" she asks.

"What [the rally] really symbolizes is push-back against this need among certain members of our political and media elite to try force this very rigid distinction between entertainment on the one hand, and reasoned politics on the other."

In the rally's aftermath, can Stewart still safely sit on the sidelines as a "fake" news anchor, or has he thrown himself into the ring of political activism?

Reviewing Stewart's track record over the past decade, the Rally to Restore Sanity is only the latest in a series of attempts to appeal for moderation — and to hold the media accountable. Take, for example, Stewart's now-famous 2004 appearance on CNN's debate program, *Crossfire*, in which the comedian called out the show's "partisan hackery." Within six weeks, *Crossfire* was cancelled. Another example is Stewart's 2009 criticism of CNBC's irresponsible financial reporting, which ultimately led to an on-air face-off with *Mad Money*'s Jim Cramer.

The "bipartisan" label attached to the rally by Stewart and Colbert has also drawn fire. "They were not issuing a call to go out and vote for specific candidates. They weren't promoting a particular ideology," points out Feldman. Still, she notes that "by and large, the people there tended to be left-leaning."

Beck, who also claimed his Rally to Restore Honor was apolitical, faced similar criticism. As Schwab notes, "we know who watches [Stewart] and we know who watches Glenn Beck. The fact that either one of them thinks this is bipartisan is kind of a joke."

"Jon Stewart is trying to keep a message that is 'apolitical.' It's an impossible endeavour," echoes Lougheed. "To try to claim that of something of this stature and this size, and the fact that a lot of people listen to him and believe what he says, is very naïve."

While not necessarily endorsing any candidates, Feldman predicted that the rally could push apathetic Americans to the polls. "If anything, it's going to motivate people to go and vote who might have otherwise not voted," she said the day before America's November 2 midterm elections.

If one considers Stewart's target demographic, the sweeping victory by the Republicans — who recently picked up 60 seats, giving them a majority in the House of Representatives — suggests otherwise.

The Rally to Restore Sanity is largely what you make of it, and plenty did — both on the right and the left. What Stewart really seems to have accomplished is to provide a voice for those who speak but don't scream, those who agree to disagree. While certainly overstepping the arbitrary entertainer-commentator boundaries of the media establishment, Stewart only reinforced his role as one of the few watchdogs left on television.

Standing on the National Mall before more than 200,000 admirers — or at least curious onlookers — Stewart himself declared, "I feel good. Strangely, calmly, good." Maybe he was inspired by the sheer number of supporters, maybe he felt compelled to voice a shred of hope in desperate times, or maybe he too was reflecting on how far he had come since his role in *The Faculty*.

Whatever it was, Jon Stewart had finally reached his own moment of Zen.



Headlines under the microscope

DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Science journalist Ben Goldacre sat down with The Varsity's **ED PARKER** *to talk ill-tempered reporters, anti-vaccine conspiracies, and intellectual S&M*

As an award-winning journalist and author of the UK best-seller *Bad Science: Quacks, Hacks, and Big Pharma Flacks*, Ben Goldacre is surprisingly modest about the scale of his "hobby." Indeed, between unpicking the headlines over the latest miracle vegetable and tackling the dangerous claims of anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists, it is a mystery how he finds the time for his day job as a practising doctor.

Certainly, his task to "expose bullshit in claims from Big Pharma, from quacks, from government reports, and from dodgy media scare stories" is no small undertaking. But in spite of this ferocious game plan, Goldacre appears to be driven more by fascination than a mission to get things banned. "I don't think this stuff is evil," he assures me. "I just think it's really interesting."

It is the flaunting of the term "science" that really gets Goldacre going. He is happy to let the work of psychics or religious healers pass him by — "it's pretty obvious what's going on," he says.

Instead, he focuses on those who feign expertise without the evidence to back it up: the pill peddlers and quack nutritionists who invoke pseudoscientific terminology to give unmerited substance to their claims. As Goldacre puts it, "When you label yourself as 'science' [...] then I'll take you at your word, and I will examine the evidence for your claims."

Indeed, Goldacre's description of the scientific method is as impassioned as it is eccentric. "It's like consenting intellectual S&M: people want to have their ideas challenged and criticized, because that's what science is all about."

It is the unwillingness to take on this sort of criticism that Goldacre finds constantly in quacks, not to mention the reporters who happily churn out the latest story on miracle cures or detox footbaths. In Goldacre's experience, journalists are prone to having "proper, outright tantrums when you write a very gentle piece pointing out how they got something clearly and unambiguously wrong. And I think that demonstrates how unhealthy that community has become."

> **"[Science is] like consenting intellectual S&M: people want to have their ideas challenged and criticized, because that's what science is all about."**

While Goldacre clearly relishes the chance to pick apart rogue scientific headlines for his own intellectual pleasure (he is a self-proclaimed stats geek), when it comes to the realm of anti-vaccine conspiracy theories, there is a sense that something greater is at stake. A point that he is quick to emphasize is the notable absence of scientific evidence in the way these vaccine scares play out. It appears to be specific cultural and political factors that drive the mistrust of vaccines in each individual country.

"The thing that really fascinates me is how every country [...] has its own idiosyncratic, unique vaccine scare," says Goldacre. "In 2001 in the UK, we had our big scare that the MMR [or measles, mumps, rubella] vaccine causes autism, [...] but it didn't really happen anywhere else in the world. [...] Meanwhile, in France they had a huge scare that the hepatitis B vaccine causes multiple sclerosis, but I wouldn't be surprised if I was the first person to tell you that."

To Goldacre, these inconsistencies are highly revealing. "If vaccine scares were built on scientific evidence, then you would expect them to happen at the same time all around the world... but they're not. What they are is responses to interesting local cultural, social, and political phenomena; and that's why they respect local cultural boundaries like that."

While this may sound like no more than an intriguing social comment, our propensity to give way to these vaccine scares has actually put global health at risk. Nowhere is this more true than in Africa, where infectious diseases remain a major killer. Goldacre cites the dismaying example of the WHO's global polio eradication campaign in 2004, which was on the brink of success until a vaccine scare kicked off in northern Nigeria. Today, this preventable disease remains endemic in four countries, accounting for 1,604 cases of childhood paralysis in 2009. It is in these tragic circumstances that the dire consequences of scientific misinformation are most apparent.

Given the significance of his subject matter, Goldacre's description of his book as "basically an epidemiology textbook dressed up with some bum jokes," is somewhat self-effacing. At times, you could almost see his work as a call to arms: a rallying cry for those who are no longer willing to tolerate the "bad science" that is so rife in the media.

"If we had higher expectations and if we doggedly point out when people get stuff wrong, then I think naturally we can provoke journalists into being more reliable. And what I would really encourage people to do is, wherever you are in the world, when you see stories that are obviously wrong: start a blog, write a letter to the newspaper, [...] offer to write an article for them. [...] If they refuse to correct things that are genuinely and unambiguously wrong, complain to their managing editor. [...] Complain to whatever the press regulator is locally. Contact another newspaper and see if you can get them to take a piece mocking the other newspaper's piece.

"Never underestimate the power of pointing out to people the extent to which they've fallen short of their own stated goals. And I think, for the most part, people with integrity welcome it."

Mountain mystery

U of T researchers uncover why would-be first Mount Everest climbers never made it to the top

Afton Arlana Chadwick
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It's common to wonder where scientists find the inspiration for their research. For U of T physicists G. W. Kent Moore, John Semple, and Dev Raj Sikka, it was a nonfiction bestseller that led them to solve the mystery of the first would-be Everest climbers.

Into Thin Air was a documented account by author and mountaineer Jon Krakauer about a disastrous storm on Mount Everest in 1998 that left nine climbers dead. After reading about it, Moore, Semple, and Sikka became interested in how barometer readings can predict storms ahead of time.

On June 8, 1924 the now famous George Mallory and Andrew Irvine attempted to reach the summit of Mount Everest — only to never return. They were last seen at 12:50 p.m., high on Everest's Northeast Ridge, and disappeared shortly after. Moore, Semple, and Sikka have always wondered what really happened and have dedicated much of their efforts to finding out.

Based on recently discovered weather data, the storm documented in *Into Thin Air* was preceded by a drop in barometric pressure of about 10-14 millibars (this indicates that the climbers were, in fact, climbing into very thin air). Researchers now know that the storm consisted of winds moving at 100 kilometres per hour, low temperatures, and poor visibility — in other words, all-around blizzard weather.

On the day that Mallory and Irvine were ascending in 1924, the barometric pressure drop was significantly higher, at 18 millibars, likely making it a more turbulent storm than in 1996.

Determined to solve this much-debated mystery, Moore visited the Geographical Society in London, England, in hopes of finding some clues that could help them understand the deaths of these climbers. He stumbled upon daily barometric pressure readings taken from the base camp on the Tibetan side of the mountain on the day of their climb.

The data were published as part of an Expedition Report in 1926, but were never analyzed. This changed when Moore and Semple published and analyzed the data in the August 2010 issue of *Weather*.

With those readings, along with temperature measurements and a sea-level pressure map, the researchers found that there was likely a storm during Mallory and

SEE **'EVEREST'** – CONTINED ON NEXT PAGE



JENNY KIM/THE VARSITY



WONDERLAND in space

Mystifying missions: the majestic march to Mars

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

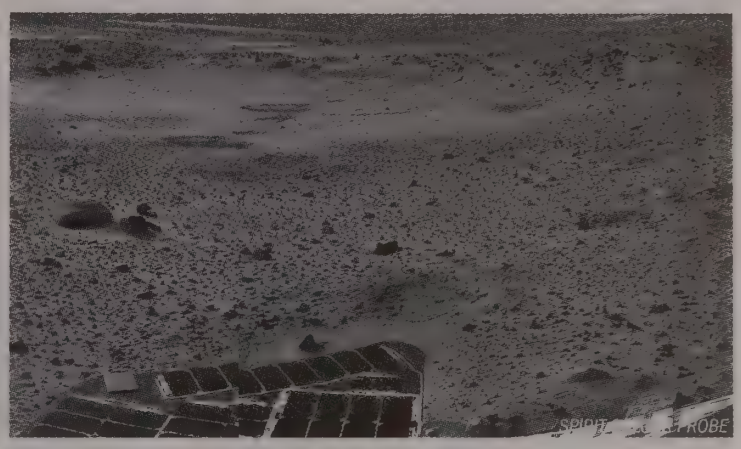
Across the sands of an infinite red desert treads one of humanity's most ambitious scientific endeavours. It is the embodiment of innovations in engineering, which strive to uncover all that our beloved neighbouring red planet conceals: the Mars mission probes.

While there have been numerous missions to Mars, including flyby and orbiting space probes, the landers and surface rovers have provided the bulk of the information on the planet's geochemical makeup. Within its sandy skirts, the red planet shelters several unsuccessful Soviet missions, along with two inactive American robotic-arm space probes, and its currently active Spirit and Opportunity rovers.

The first rover to successfully reach Mars was Sojourner, which travelled aboard the American Pathfinder Mission. The mission successfully landed in the valley of Ares, an area suitable for landing despite its high rock content. The mission's intricate landing system consisted of supersonic parachutes and rockets: the impact was cushioned by large airbags, resembling an inflated ball composed of multiple smaller spherical cushions. The airbags lessened the impact by allowing the probe to bounce until it reached a complete stop. After reaching a halt, the protective airbag "petals" unsealed, allowing the rover within to land on the Martian surface.

Sojourner conducted its geological research and analysis by converting solar energy, thanks to its mounted solar panels. This method allowed the rover to reach a maximum speed of one centimetre per second. While this speed may certainly not win any Formula 1 Grand Prix, it is certainly nothing to sneeze at for a Martian rover. Considering the rocky environment in which Sojourner had to work, anything above its tortoise-like speed could have caused serious damage. As with most American landrover probes, the Sojourner outlasted its programmed mission, transmitting information for a total of three months rather than the expected two weeks.

Sojourner was followed by the robotic geologists Spirit and Opportunity, which landed on Mars in January 2004. Unlike their predecessor, which was limited to exploring distances no farther than 500 metres from the Pathfinder station, the following two missions were free to roam the Martian surface, in order



to conduct extensive geological and atmospheric observations.

While this had obvious benefits, Spirit and Opportunity needed to combat unknown Martian territory, which Sojourner did not experience in the close vicinity of Pathfinder. The combination of the unfavourably sandy Martian environment and the unchartered territory resulted in the loss of manoeuvrability of Spirit in spring 2009. Since NASA could not dislodge the rover from the soft Martian soil, Spirit was converted to a stationary research platform, detecting the planet's rotational vibration. The presence of this vibration would indicate the existence of a liquid core.

The unfavourable Martian environment also continues to pose threats to the rovers' ability to garner the necessary energy through their solar panels. The fierce and frequent Martian dust storms impede sunlight, potentially damaging not only the panels themselves, but the rover as a whole.

The high-resolution images sent to Earth by the active twin rovers provide not only photographs of Martian terrain, but also detailed microscopic images of the rocks and soils analyzed. Similar to Sojourner's findings, the rocks examined by Spirit and Opportunity contained high silicon content, but lacked hydrogen. Additionally, the physical characteristics of the rocks suggest that most were either remelted and recomposed, or shaped by previous floods. Moreover, bright patches of soil, which contained high levels of salt, alluded to the past presence of water on Mars.

Despite the astonishing successes of these unmanned robotic missions, future explorations may bring subsurface explorers, as well as more sophisticated space vehicles to collect and return rocks and soil to Earth. Current speculations also include the possibility of sending one-way manned mission to Mars. While such a mission would drastically reduce the overall costs, the ethical aspect has yet to be fully considered. Regardless of what the future holds, the success of the previous landrover missions has stirred a profound alacrity in planetary research, and may one day be viewed as the beginning of future planetary colonization.

Trucking away from the geological analysis of Martian rovers, next week we will look at a luminous spectacle in our first segment of Afoot Affairs. Until then, keep your eyes on the sky for November meteor showers.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Sodium chloride!

You've definitely heard of sodium chloride — commonly known as salt — and chances are you add it to your food all the time. Though it is the oldest known food additive, and has been a component of our diets since 2000 BC, it is currently one of the most controversial things we consume on a daily basis.

For optimal health, the National Academy of Sciences recommends consuming approximately 1,500 mg of sodium each day, and no more than 2,300 mg — which is equivalent to about 1 teaspoon of salt. The results of the 2004 Canadian Community Healthy Survey show that 85 per cent of men and up to 83 per cent of women exceed this amount. The average Canadian consumes 3,092 mg of sodium each day. This is understandable considering that an average six-inch submarine sandwich alone contains 1,650 mg of sodium.

This is worrisome because high salt intake is associated with high blood pressure, which is a major risk factor leading to stroke and coronary heart disease. These conditions are currently the leading causes of death worldwide. Reducing our society's sodium consumption is important not only from a health perspective, but also from an economic perspective. Reducing Canadian sodium intake by 1,800 mg could result in direct health care savings of $1.38 billion each year, plus an additional $2.99 billion in indirect health care cost savings.

One of the roadblocks towards reducing sodium intake is overcoming the many functional properties that sodium serves in foods. For instance, sodium is important for preservation since it inhibits microbial growth, thus prolonging shelf-life. The greatest challenge associated with sodium reduction in food is the change in taste. Studies have shown that salt can be reduced by 29 per cent without a detectable difference in the taste of the food.

Other attempts to reduce salt have been through the use of "flake/dendritic" salt, which is chemically identical to sodium, but shaped differently. The change in shape allows it to impart a stronger flavour, and thus enables processors to use a smaller quantity. Scientists are also experimenting with sodium chloride substitutes such as potassium chloride.

Sodium has had a rich history: it was once as valuable as gold, and wars have been fought to win control over it. Today, people's love for salt is bittersweet. While it is an essential component of our food, limiting its usage could prevent 23,500 heart attacks each year. While reducing the sodium you add to your food via a salt shaker is a good idea, this is only a small step that individuals can take towards lowering the sodium content of their diets. Since the largest sources of sodium are processed and take-out foods, addressing this problem will require commitment from the food industry.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Scientists uncover hidden oasis on the moon

Generally, destroying an expensive, intricate space probe is the last way one would expect scientists to reach a vital discovery. But last year, NASA did just that. The Lunar Crater Observation and Sensitive Satellite mission was sent on a collision course with a crater to find out more about the existence of water on the lunar surface. The probe's successful meeting last October and its results were published in the journal *Science* on October 21.

Hidden in perpetual darkness at -232 degrees Celsius, the Cabeus crater is unusual for the high levels of hydrogen detected in the atmosphere surrounding it. Thanks to this anomaly, scientists working at NASA had suspected the crater's soil might contain high concentrations of water. The recent data from the collision estimates that each ton of lunar soil contains roughly thirteen gallons of water — an oasis on an otherwise dry, barren moon.

These results are significant for future space missions in the solar system. Water from the Cabeus Crater could be used for a lunar base or as a fuel source for rockets. Both these outcomes would be ideal because the lunar gravitational pull, which is six times weaker than the Earth's, would make it a cheaper launching pad for space missions.

— KEEGAN WILLIAMS
Source: The Toronto Star

'EVEREST' – CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Irvine's ascent that interfered with their climb.

"We determined that during the Mallory and Irvine summit attempt, there was an 18 millibar drop in barometric pressure at Base Camp," they wrote in a *National Post* article entitled "Into (very thin air)."

The barometric pressure is essentially the weight of the atmosphere above, Moore told The Varsity.

"There is about 80 per cent of the oxygen at 6,000 metres as there is at sea level, which feels like running on a treadmill and breathing through a straw," says Moore, adding that barometric pressure determines how much breathable oxygen there is at a certain altitude.

The peak of Mount Everest is located at about 9,000 metres above sea level. Climbing at such high altitudes is dangerous if not done at a good pace and if climbers do not take the time to properly acclimatize, explains Moore. Anything above 7,000 metres is called the "death zone" because the conditions are so harmful to your body.

"When there is a drop in barometric pressure, it's as if the altitude is increased by 500 metres a day," he says.

A leading cause of death for mountain climbers is cerebral edema, a condition caused by low oxygen levels and quick altitude changes. This condition involves the accumulation of excessive water in the brain.

Moore believes the climbers would likely have encountered the storm and turned around, never making it to the summit. Mallory's body was found in 1999, but Irvine's is still out there somewhere.

Moore is an avid climber who has climbed as high as 6,000 metres above sea level. However, he says he has no interest in attempting to climb to the summit of Everest.

There are, on average, 6 deaths every year on Mount Everest. Perhaps some of these can now be avoided using the storm predictions from barometric pressure readings.

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Jamming in Bellwoods

The music video series featuring the best of up-and-comers in Toronto goes legit

Emily Kellogg
A&E EDITOR



Mike Juneau (left) and Kyle McCreight sipping coffee in Trinity Bellwoods Park. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Torontonian musician and comedian Maylee Todd stands stately in the middle of Trinity Bellwoods Park, strumming an acoustic guitar. Around her, lackeys in skin-tight fluorescent and metallic spandex wave ribbons and dance in an interweaving circle. Dave Monks of Tokyo Police Club delivers a couple of songs solo, and takes some time out to show off a ladybug that's just landed on his guitar case. Ruby Coast perform an acoustic set with raw vocals and melancholic harmonies. In the short time since Live in Bellwoods launched last August, the music video series has featured Toronto favorites such as Born Ruffians, Dinosaur Bones, and The Balconies performing stripped-down acoustic sets in various spots across the sprawling West Queen West Park.

The series began as the brainchild of the boys of Humble Empire, a self-described media organization that dabbles in producing music videos and making t-shirts. They also host HumbleMania, an event at The Ossington every other Wednesday night that features the premiere of the video and a live performance. Mike Juneau and Kyle McCreight, the twenty-something cofounders and creative team behind Humble Empire, sit down shivering in the November air at a picnic table in the middle of the park to talk shop and the state of the Toronto music scene.

"It started out with me filming a friend of mine, Chris White, in the park with a guitar. I happened to have my camera on me," McCreight says, his hooded sweatshirt shadowing his face. "We decided it was a lot of fun, so we just got some of our friends to get involved, and it took off pretty quickly."

"It was lucky because our first [performers] were Dinosaur Bones, Born Ruffians, and Tokyo Police Club. For the Toronto scene, that's a pretty good start, and got us some attention right away," Juneau continues. "It started out for fun, and now that it's become something, and people are watching it and enjoying it, we're more aware of what it can be. It's kind of about building a community of bands in the city."

Though the initial performers were largely friends of friends, during this past summer, 19 bands — coming from places as varied as Texas and Iceland — have performed sets in the park. But at the end of the day, it's all about Toronto.

"Every couple years there's a new hash of great young bands who are starting to come up — like right now, Dilly Dally's coming up, Nicholas Doubleyou's coming up. All of these bands starting to play shows and get attention really quickly. [...] Dinosaur Bones got big really quickly a couple of years ago and before them it was the Born Ruffians. [...] It starts to be about more than just playing for your friends," says Juneau.

"But the thing is that you can be relevant today and tomorrow you're not," says McCreight. "It's definitely a tightrope walk."

Juneau and McCreight recently filmed four bands in the park: Nicolas Doubleyou and the B-Squad, Catl, Inlet Sound, and Mothers of Brides. The videos' releases will be staggered to correspond with HumbleMania, which features the premieres of the videos and an original acoustic set from a Toronto standard. Last week featured a solo performance from Dave Monks of Tokyo Police Club.

"It's really important to me that the bands who come out to play, play a different kind of set. So it's not just the same thing you would see if you go to the Horseshoe [Tavern]. Maybe they play a stripped down set, maybe they play something that's not in their set list — ideally, it's another side to their music," says McCreight. "I guess the next step is really beginning to take yourself seriously as an artist," Juneau explains of the duo's decision to take on more produced music videos. Earlier this summer they produced, editied, and directed Tokyo Police Club's "Wait Up (Boots of Danger)" official video — in which a bunch of dogs break into a pool and having a pool party, while the band jams inside.

"That was a drunken brainchild coming from our talks of the summer and what we wanted to do this summer," says Juneau. "I was just talking about how all I wanted to do was hang out at pools and play with dogs. I pitched it to Dave [Monks] and he was into it. And all of a sudden, we were shooting with 15 trained dogs, trying to get them to look like they were partying."

"I mean, I guess it's time to get legitimate. We're even getting business cards now."

HumbleMania at The Ossington starts at 10 p.m., Wednesday. $2.

Movies of the Asian persuasion

This year's Reel Asian Film Festival includes kung fu AND bathroom humour

The Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival is Canada's largest Asian film festival, showcasing East and Southeast Asian cinema from Canada, the U.S., and around the world. Several of the festival screenings take place at U of T's own Innis Town Hall, and if the festival's close proximity to campus doesn't persuade you, what about the discounted student pricing? Throw in some karaoke and Asian-pop psychedelia parties, an industry series, art gallery receptions, and filmic responses to the question "What is your Chinatown?", and you have a full week of entertainment to distract you from the ten months left before that other monolithic film festival returns... you know which one. Here is a preview of Reel Asian's 2010 roster, so make sure you catch the rest of this cultural dynamite when the festival gets underway November 9 to 15.
– DAMANJIT LAMBA



BI, DON'T BE AFRAID

The primary concern of *Bi, Don't Be Afraid* is not really Bi or his fear: the boy is more puzzled by the strange adult world of frustrations and lies, diverting himself in ice factories and grassy fields. Other films embellish childhood imaginations as a coping mechanism for stress (*Pan's Labyrinth*) or make light of the dark for the child's sake (*Life is Beautiful*). However, first-time director Phan Dang Di does not shy from the sad lives of unfulfilled men and women in Hanoi, letting Bi prance obliviously in the Vietnamese sun. His mother (Thi Kieu Nguyen) waits for her husband Quang (Ha Phong Nguyen) to stumble home drunk every night, quiet and unaroused by her caresses. Bi's aunt Thuy (Thuy Hoa) is unmarried and obsessed with one of her students. A May-December relationship unfolds between Quang and his teenaged hairdresser, who playfully rebuffs his advances. Putting a strain on the whole family is Quang's father, a retired diplomat who returns home in a stretcher — in Quang's opinion, the only way he would have returned to Vietnam.

It's melodrama, and it's not melodrama. Most conversations are carried out casually over house chores, like excerpts from the films of Ozu. Phan has been criticized for graphic eroticism, but here the sexuality is slow building, oozing as the film paces sedately through its plot. Meanwhile Bi, played with great depth by Thanh Minh Phan, watches wide-eyed. He does not reflect much on all the misspent lust, and neither do the adults who, good or bad, ultimately go to bed with unhappiness.
– ALEX GRIFFITH

GALLANTS

In a (rare) quiet moment of *Gallants*, Master Pong (Chan Wai-man) remarks, "It's not the time of fights and fists anymore. It's the time of packaging and promotion." *Gallants*, nostalgic yet urgent, has both the fists and the packaging: the film is steeped in veteran Hong Kong talent but injected with syringe after syringe of snappy, postmodern style. It's probably more of a celebration of kung fu movies than a kung fu movie, albeit one yearning for a revival of the Bruce Lee era.

Exposition is given liposuction by writer-director duo Clement Chang and Derek Kwok. No time is wasted introducing well-dressed loser Cheung (You-Nam Wong), a real estate agent assigned to negotiate leases in a remote village, where he meets Tiger (Leung Siu Wong) and Dragon (Chen Kuan-tai), aging brothers waiting for their master to awake from a 30-year coma. Leung and Chen both rose to fame during the 70s, as did Chan, famous for his Triad roles, and Meng Lo, another Shaw Brothers alumnus. Cheung's apprenticeship to Dragon and Tiger takes a back seat when Master Law (Teddy Robin) wakes up. Robin — another veteran — is clearly having fun: he walks into a strip club, holding a cigar taller than himself, only to find his favourite girls have entered retirement. When the Law club decides to take on Pong's team at the tournament, the elements are there (pupils, underdogs, betrayals, duty) but the heart of kung fu isn't. All the animated flashbacks and cartoonish sound effects don't mask the nostalgia in this film — and in the Hong Kong industry in general — for a youthful, vibrant martial arts genre. – AG

GOLDEN SLUMBERS

Golden Slumbers tells the story of a naïve, jovial delivery man named Aoyagi who gets caught up in a Lee Harvey Oswald scenario when he is framed for the murder of the Japanese prime

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Ogio Pinot Grigio (2009)
$8 at the LCBO

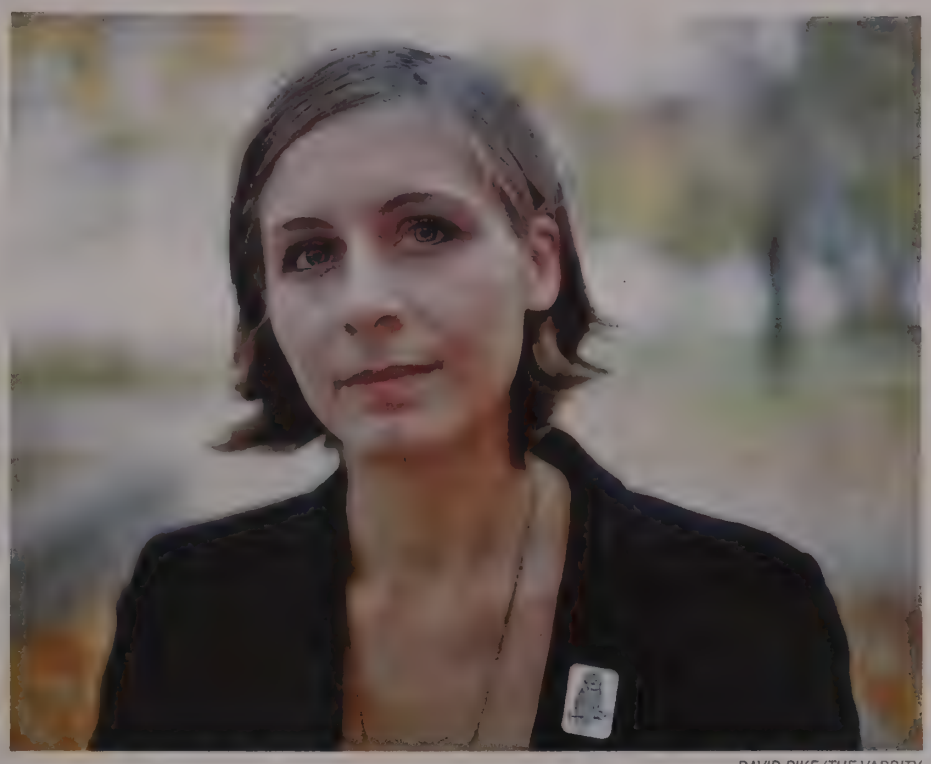
Who would have thought you can get a bottle of wine from Italy for under $10? It seems like you can't even send a greeting card to Europe for that amount, but the Ogio Pinot Grigio proves that mediocre wine can come in cheap packages! The wine boasts fresh lime, lemon, and orange flavours, and pairs nicely with fish or salad.

It has a very light body, and the lemon tones are very evident, overpowering any other flavours or aromas. As a whole, this wine is fresh and vibrant, but disappointing if you are not a fan of the lemony fresh tones normally associated with cleaning ingredients. The best part of this wine is that it looks expensive: with an Italian origin and a gorgeous bottle, it's a great wine to bring to a party, or on a visit to your partner's parents' place for a fancy dinner.

Ages and stages: *The Rehearsal*

Eleanor Catton on her darkly comic, experimental novel: 'Self-consciousness is so brilliant.'

Jade Colbert
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Eleanor Catton freely admits she's got her second (and third) book on her mind while the world catches up on her first.

The Rehearsal, which details the reverberations of a sex scandal at a girls' school, was published in Catton's home country of New Zealand in 2008, but was not in Canada until this year. Originally written as a dramatic monologue in which the actor would play both the perpetrator and the victim in a student-teacher relationship, Catton shelved the manuscript after it failed to receive a grant, and only picked it up again when she realized its devices might be more interesting in novel format.

The novel, which became her Master's thesis in the creative writing program at Victoria University of Wellington, has three main settings: the high school; the private studio of a saxophone teacher who acts both as confessor and manipulator to her students; and the nearby drama institute where the first years write and perform a play based on the scandal. The plot follows two interwoven storylines: that of the girls who take saxophone lessons, and of Stanley, a student at the institute.

Though a novel, the style is highly theatrical (characters often speak in a declamatory fashion, they are sometimes referred to as actors, and lighting and stage directions are written into the narrative) to the point where it's sometimes difficult to tell what is real and what is staged. This, says Catton, was entirely her point.

The experimentation has not won everyone over — early reviews were especially polarized — but in the two years since its initial publication it has garnered growing acclaim. Winner of the UK Society of Authors Betty Trask Award, as well as a finalist for the Guardian First Book Award and longlisted for the 2010 Orange Prize, *The Rehearsal* has been translated into several languages. Catton, now 25, is currently in the running for the Dylan Thomas Prize, the world's largest monetary award for young writers.

Eleanor Catton lives in Iowa City, where she attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop and currently teaches creative writing. She is at work on her second novel.

The Varsity: *I'm interested in the kind of reality you were trying to represent in this book.* The Rehearsal *is a very psychological novel, almost fantastical—*

Eleanor Catton: Yeah.

TV: *—in that each of these characters is almost speaking directly from their consciousness, even within these shifting identities of the teenagers. What were you aiming at?*

EC: When I started writing it, I was 20 and I was doing an honours year in English that was mostly concentrated on drama. I was reading a lot of theatre manifestos, reading a lot of plays in text form — I wasn't a theatre student — and I got really interested in gender theory and performance theory. Particularly gender theory: the idea that selfhood is a performative space, it's a form of acting, and the way we accept power in the world has to do with the way we wield our bodies. I was always interested in this theoretically, and *The Rehearsal* grew out of those ideas. I started with a kind of obsession or theoretical fascination and everything else kind of came out of that. I didn't begin with a character or begin with plot or anything.

TV: *That's an interesting way to start writing a novel, with theory as opposed to a character or voice.*

EC: That's just the way I think, though. I feel the most passionate about the context. There's something about abstraction that really grabs me, and then filtering that down through the physical — that's just the way I do it. When the book first came out in New Zealand, it was criticized pretty unanimously for being what they called "all head and no heart." It annoyed me a little bit, because the way I approach my heart is through my head, and the way that I approach my head is through my heart, so I thought that was a duality that didn't really apply to my way of thinking.

TV: *It's a strange criticism, because your characters seem to feel very deeply. They seem to almost be seeking this emotional bruising.*

EC: Well, even from my experience, the difference between me being an undergraduate student at 19 and reading *Mrs. Dalloway* for the first time, and just being like, my heart is broken in two. You know? Like, I would go outside and weep. [laughs] Every student has the excesses of being young, and young people have this longing, I think, that does change as you mature. So much of growing up is making sense of this trauma that happens to you. All of a sudden your body starts doing these crazy things. I think people forget about that sometimes: that their despair is actual despair. I mean, it's ridiculous because it's disproportionate, but they can't see the disproportion. That is as extreme to them as anything has ever been.

TV: *So when the saxophone teacher says, "This is just a rehearsal for your real life —"*

EC: Yeah, but I think she's being disingenuous when she's saying that. She's just trying to say something punchy. I don't know if I really believe that. What's really interesting about that is every possible identity is available — at least in the form of it's visible — to teenagers growing up. They know what these roles look like. You can watch any relatively crappy high school movie and you'll see these roles being enacted — the goth one, the jock, or whatever. They can see how to perform these roles, and all they need to do is take the image and apply it to themselves. But in this way it's not really like a rehearsal at all, it's more like what they're doing is accepting that an image of something is the truth, that it is possible to become the arty one just by dressing and acting right. I think the idea of a rehearsal is that the truth is still waiting. High school — well, school in general — is this kind of safe, closed environment where you can try on these particular selves, and if they don't work for you, you can shift them and go on to the world. But I feel like it's weirdly the other way around nowadays. Or maybe it's not just the other way around, but it's like an echo chamber or hall of mirrors or something.

TV: *But it can also be a disguise.*

EC: Yeah, but that's funny, though, because I do feel that there is a shift into disguise. But there is a sense that when we look at teenagers, we see them as unformed or — there are still a number of possibilities available to them, which was really cool for my purposes, because that makes them immanently theatrical. They're able to become anything, they're still not fixed in their role. The main reason I had for using teenagers at all was I feel like when you hit 12 or 13, that's the age when your self-consciousness sets in. Self-consciousness is so brilliant because it makes you an audience of yourself, it makes you a critic of yourself. Teenagers are so amazingly hyperaware of social situations.

TV: *They're almost outside their own bodies.*

EC: Right. Which is theatrical again, which I enjoy. [laughs] Enjoyed.

TV: *The plot in* The Rehearsal *is pretty barebones: there's the sex scandal and then there's the repercussions of that. Each of these repercussions is so small — on the scale of someone not being allowed to sit with someone else in class, for instance. Within an adult world, that's really miniscule, but it's totally epic when you're 15.*

EC: I was interested in that idea of revisiting this one moment again and again, which is the moment of the sex scandal, which doesn't really happen in the book but is given life again and again because these people's thoughts keep returning to it, orbiting around it. What I was interested in doing there was bringing it back to this idea of reality. For all of these girls in the high school, the affair wasn't a reality to them. They weren't present. They weren't chosen.

TV: *They seem almost offended that this experience can't be their own.*

EC: But the thing is, on the stage, you can make it your own, because the fact of your body is there in front of the audience — you are present. And even if all you're doing is narrating, your body is still there. What I wanted to do was use these layers of theatricality to bring intimacy closer to the girls, because even if they're just talking about it, it's making the reality of that event theirs, in a way.

TV: *Do you find it different writing now having gone through two creative writing programs?*

EC: I don't think that anything's really changed. I feel more stubborn now than I did, which is kind of saying something, because I was always quite stubborn I think. [laughs] But I know now how to hold my own. If somebody says, "Hey, how about in this story you change from past to present tense?" or something, I'll just be like, "No." The most affecting and valuable conversations I've had with colleagues have been the kinds of conversations where somebody says, "In your story, I didn't like this person and I needed to," or like, "In your story, you tricked me, and I didn't think that you should have tricked me." It's not technical. It's more about hearing from somebody's mouth, in somebody's own words how they responded to what you wrote. That's interesting.

This interview has been abridged for print. For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

minister. The film is more concerned with the psychology of the main character and the unexpected individuals who come to his aid rather than with action sequences that are commonly employed to fill narrative space. Aoyagi is easy to root for from the start, as his unwavering trust in individuals proves to be a salient factor in his survival. The Beatles song "Golden Slumbers" is a thematic device that ties the film's characters together, as Aoyagi and his friends use their memories of school days filled with fireworks and hijinks, to give this unexpected hero more time to figure out an exit plan. The song reinforces the importance of memory and maintaining relationships with those you care deeply about. Although one's attention can be stretched thin by the numerous subplots, *Golden Slumbers*' satisfying ending is tinged with elements of both sadness and joy, a refreshing departure from the majority of on-the-run capers. **– DL**



THE MOUNTAIN THIEF

The Mountain Thief chronicles the ordeals of Julio and his son Ingo in the town of Payatas, Philippines. Julio has lost his wife to the war in the southern Philippines, and now his best chance for survival is selling scraps of odd metal at the largest garbage-collecting settlement in the world. Director Gerry Balasta shot the film at the actual dumpsite and was able to cast real-life scavengers thanks to an acting workshop he conducted when he first began working on this project. None of the characters are at peace with their life: Paula, Julio's love interest, collects images of far-off locations and hopes to leave the shanty-town someday; Julio is waiting for the war to end so he can go back to the south with his son Ingo; Ato, the village villain, begins competing for leadership of Little Hope when it is revealed that the village leader is ill. Julio's son, Ingo, who is portrayed by an actor who suffers from an actual vision impairment in real life, was the most captivating actor in the ensemble as he was able to see beauty in the mountains of trash that the characters were trying run away from. The creative narrative structure of *The Mountain Thief* allows for crucial events to be represented from various points of view, giving greater significance to the interactions between the characters. The non-professional actors give impressive performances, not having to look far for inspiration, and Balasta's ability to create fluidity and suspense with interchanges between the past and present make *The Mountain Thief* an educational and absorbing experience - **DL**

TOILET

Featuring an all-Canadian cast and set in Toronto's west end, *Toilet* follows three incredibly dissimilar siblings who have to deal with the cultural barriers that get in the way of having any significant relationship with their silent yet perceptive *baa-chan* (grandmother) after their mother passes away. Ray, an engineer who sees life as something you just have to get through, decides to live at home with his siblings, Lisa and Maury, until they can get a handle on day-to-day life. Lisa is simultaneously interested in prose and air-guitar, while Maury suffers from severe anxiety and hasn't left the house in four years. Ray gets frustrated when his new living arrangement impedes on his systematic lifestyle, and his grandmother shows no signs of opening up to the family. When Ray notices that *baa-chan* lets out a heavy sigh every time she uses the washroom, he becomes obsessed with finding out why such a daily routine is the only thing that elicits any kind of response from her. As the film progresses, the initial caricature-like quirks of the characters, reminiscent of Wes Anderson personalities, fade away to reveal relatable individuals and a de-mystified *baa-chan* who wasn't as cookie-cutter as the three siblings originally thought. A charismatic cast, a cute cat named Sensei, and Naoko Ogigami's craft with the camera make *Toilet* a top-of-the-list festival entry. – **DL**

NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

U.T.S.U.

University of Toronto Students' Union
Local 98 ■ Canadian Federation of Students

This meeting is open to all full-time undergraduate students enrolled at University of Toronto-St. George and University of Toronto-Mississauga.

Thursday December 2, 2010
Registration begins at 5:30pm
Meeting begins at 6:00pm
Multi-Faith Centre rm. 108

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Questions can be directed to Rolli Adenmosun, Vice-President Internal and Services (vpinternal@utsu.ca), or Adam Awad, President (president@utsu.ca). Telephone: (416) 978-4911.



New NHL rule has roots at U of T

Concussions likely to be reduced now that head shots are illegal



ALEX MERSAL/THE VARSITY

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The NHL's latest headache won't be coming from the University of Toronto, that's for sure.

Official NHL Rule 48: Illegal Check to the Head, has been implemented to reduce incidents of concussions thanks to research from U of T.

Under the guidance of Professor Paul Comper, who is a neuropsychologist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and an NHL Players Association consultant, PhD student Michael Hutchison — a member of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health's concussion research group — conducted a video analysis project that studied the kinds of hits that cause concussions in the NHL.

Is an average of 75 concussions per season an acceptable number?

According to Comper, "The League has felt rather bombarded by the issue for the last four or five years, so we proposed a project whereby we could give them objective information on how concussions happen."

Comper and Hutchison had tapes for 199 of the 260 reported concussions sustained in the NHL between October 2006 and January 2010.

"There's no particular position that is at greater risk, and it's pretty much an even distribution between open ice and along the perimeter of the ice," said Hutchison. "The general pattern was the fact that, not surprisingly, hits to the head caused the majority of concussions in our samples and we found that there seemed to be more from the lateral side."

The research also found that concussions occur quite often when the player doesn't have the puck.

"There seems to be a time of vulnerability; whether they've just shot it, whether they've just passed it, or they're just about to get it. That speaks to the fact, for educational purposes and awareness, that [the causes of concussions are] not necessarily vicious acts," said Hutchison.

So how do you alter the behavior of the players without fundamentally wrecking the competitive nature and the physicality of hockey?

"The NHL certainly sets the tone for conduct for contact hockey," Comper stated.

In March, Comper and Hutchison travelled to Boca Raton, Florida for the NHL's annual general managers' meeting to share their findings. Afterwards, the League drafted its first rule against illegal checks to the head, which is now in force.

"We gave our information to them and said: here are the general circumstances under which many of these injuries could happen, and therefore [this information] suggests that a percentage could likely be preventable," said Comper.

"We were just one piece of the puzzle," added Hutchison. "There were a number of different factors at the same time. There was more research coming out from the sports related concussion community, there was more public attention to the fact, and it happened that once we were done wrapping up our video analysis, there were major events in the league where people were seriously injured and it all just pointed in the same direction."

On March 7, the night before the general managers' meeting, Boston Bruins Marc Savard suffered a Grade 2 concussion during a game against the Pittsburgh Penguins after taking a hit to the head from Matt Cooke.

It helped their case "in a tragic kind of sense," said Comper. "It heightened awareness more than anything else."

Comper and Hutchison were also invited to the prestigious Mayo Clinic's ice hockey summit. Action on Concussion took place in Rochester, N.Y. on October 19–20. There, they presented their video analysis findings to physicians, peers, and the public.

"The consensus [of the clinic] was that all contact to the head should be eliminated in sports," said Comper. "The approach that Mike and I have taken all along is baby steps.

"We are of the opinion [that] to say all contact to the head should be banned or eliminated from hockey is not realistic."

Although the exact long-term effects of suffering concussions are still unknown, according to Comper, "There is an association between brain changes that are thought to be due to trauma and repetitive head blows."

He believes that what we don't know about head injuries might be equated to the harmful effects of smoking that were unknown to people before.

"Fifty years ago everybody smoked, including doctors, and it wasn't such a big deal. Now there's this realization that smoking causes cancer and we sit here and say 'How could they smoke 30 or 40 years ago?'

"We don't want to be there in 30 or 40 years with head injury, which is why there is all this proactive research going on right now."

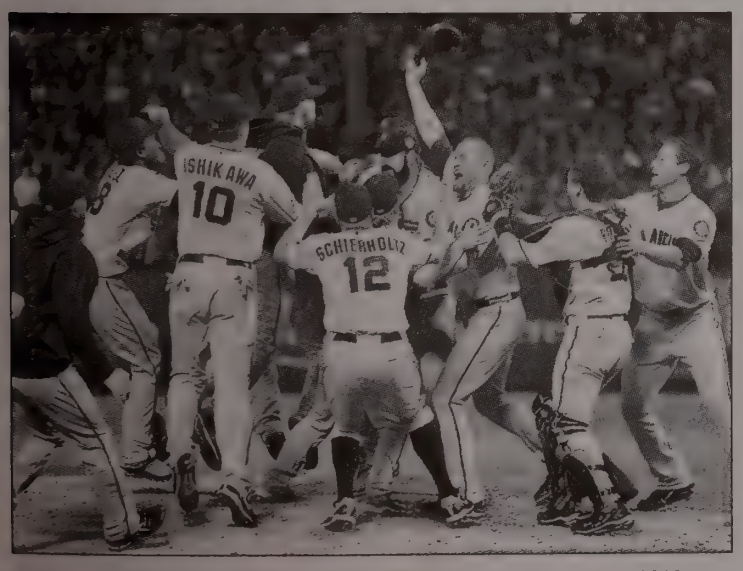
So what's next for the duo?

"It would be nice to look after the fact and say, was there an effect to this? Was it beneficial? Has the mechanism maintained throughout this time? Has there been a reduction in the frequency?" said Hutchison. "You have to now monitor and evaluate the potential effect of this change."

A good sport

Getting WILD

Are expanded MLB playoffs upon us thanks to a new wildcard option?



Maybe the San Francisco Giants wouldn't have had to wait from 1954–2010 to win a World Series if baseball's playoffs were more inclusive.

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Less than a week after the final out of the 2010 World Series was recorded, it feels like baseball's offseason is already in full swing. A flurry of managerial hirings and firings have kicked things off, and some big-name free agents are already thinking in dollar figures.

The MLB has alluded that expanded playoffs could be upon us in the near future and, for the better, will affect the sport profoundly.

Commissioner Bud Selig acknowledged during a World Series news conference that he likes the idea, and the players' union is also receptive. Selig indicated that while he doubts it will be decided in time for 2011, it's not out of the question just yet.

Compared to other sports, baseball's playoffs have long been an elite affair. A mere eight out of the total 30 teams make the playoffs each year, and many teams begin the season knowing they have no hope of making it.

The model being discussed right now would add one extra wild card team to both the National League and the American League. A total of five teams from each league — meaning ten in total — would then make the playoffs: three division winners, and two wild cards.

Potentially, the two wild cards will play a short best-of-three series to begin the playoffs, with the winner then moving on to join the other three teams to play a Division Championship Series and a League Championship Series, as is currently done.

An extra playoff spot means more meaningful games late in the season for more teams, thus increasing revenue and viewership. Fewer teams would begin the season with no hope of making the playoffs and there would be more do-or-die games on the last weekend of the regular season.

Traditionalists object to changing the game in any way and feel there is strength in baseball's elitist playoff system. However the same objections were raised about both the implementation of an eight-team playoff in 1995 and the creation of the World Baseball Classic tournament several years ago. Both moves have been great for the sport.

While a best-of-three series following a 162-game regular season does seem a bit silly, it's the best available option. Teams refuse to shorten the regular season to allow for earlier and longer playoffs, and Bud Selig does not want the World Series to continue into November. The expanded playoffs might not be perfect, but would be a very positive change. Here's to hoping for it.

Blood, sweat, and tears



U of T steals the title in the OUA Final Four showdown

By Roberta Bell & Alex Nursall
PHOTOS BY ALEX NURSALL

As dusk fell over York Stadium on Sunday night, the star player of the York Lions handed the University of Toronto Varsity Blues men's soccer team the 2010 OUA title in a dramatic shootout, sending them onto next week's CIS championships not just as the hosts, but as the provincial victors.

The OUA Final Four tournament for the Blackwood Cup took place on November 6 and 7. The playoffs were Toronto-heavy this year, and out of the four teams vying for a spot in the CIS championships (set to take place at the University of Toronto's Varsity Stadium from November 11–14) the only non-Toronto-based spot went to the Western Mustangs.

This was the first time that all the Toronto universities had made it into the finals together, including the underdog Ryerson Rams, who snuck in during their quarterfinal win after an upset that knocked out the favored Carleton Ravens.

The rivalry between the University of Toronto and Western was nothing new, as the teams had previously faced each other in the OUA finals in 1996 and 1998, with Western taking the gold on both occasions. The teams were evenly matched coming in, with the Blues and the Mustangs ranked 5th and 6th respectively in the CIS standings.

The Blues last won a CIS championship back in 2002 and have won more national golds than any of the other three teams competing on the weekend.

The Varsity Blues entered the finals holding the number one spot in the Eastern Division and the number five spot in the CIS. While the team had been consistently strong throughout the regular season, their OUA quarterfinal match on October 30 against Queen's was a fight to the very finish, with the Blues scoring two goals in the final minutes of the game to seal the win.

"I could've checked into the hospital [after that game]," said Blues Head Coach Anthony Capotosto. "It was a very nerve-wracking game, and we scored two goals in an eight minute span right at the end. Not the position we wanted to be in during a quarterfinal game, but we'll take the result."

Although the team was slightly shaken after the tough match, Captain Darragh McGee saw the strength in the Toronto players.

"I think a lot of the guys are excelling, and I think that confidence is the highest it's been since I came to Toronto three years ago," said McGee. "I don't think there's any doubt on the squad that we're going to do it, and that's not confidence talking, that's genuine."

The Western Mustangs are no strangers to the limelight either. Rock Basacco, the current head coach, is a 15-year veteran to the team and has helped to lead them to OUA gold six times since 1996.

The match between the two teams started off with a bang. Blues striker Mario Kovacevic scored the first point of the game within the first four minutes, although the goal was later retracted after Kovacevic was called for goalie interference.

After Blues midfielder Dylan Bams scored the first official goal of the game later in the first half, the game kicked into high gear.

"We were more comfortable with that lead, and we knew that the game was going to open up that much more," said Blues striker Alexander Raphael.

Unfortunately for Western, their perseverance didn't pay off, with the Blues scoring two more points to win the game 3–1 in the end. Western was however able to get a single goal towards the end of the game, denying Toronto a shut out.

"I thought we played well in terms of passing of the ball," said Capotosto. "But I thought we soaked up a little bit too much pressure in the second half and so we got away from things a bit."

When asked about the Blues chances against the Lions if they were to meet up in the final on Sunday, Raphael said, "York's a team that's similar to us. They keep it on the deck and they move it quickly. Whichever team is more organized and whoever wants to battle harder is going to take that game."

York entered the tournament as the favourites to win. Coming off a 12-game winning streak, the Lions were expected to dominate the Ryerson Rams in their semifinal game.

The previous match-up between the two teams had led to a 7–1 victory for York, and while the Rams were ranked third overall in the West Division, they had failed to place in the CIS top 10. York was ranked second in the country coming into the semifinals.

The Lions were confident heading into the game, and Head Coach Carmine Isacco predicted a "battle down to the final four. Nothing's a given, and we have enough to get it done but that doesn't mean we will. Ryerson's a good team. We're going to have to be at our best."

Isacco was sure of what the team's plan was going to be though: "Our strategy is to go out there and win the game. That's it."

The Rams, however, were coming in on the high of their best season in 40 years. Having not placed higher than fourth in the province since 1968, the Rams were expected to face a tough game against the Lions.

Coach Ivan Joseph is only in his second season coaching the Rams, and while the team has improved since his entrance, they were still seen as disadvantaged against the storied York team.

The match-up between the two teams played out with a fevered energy, and with the Rams pressing the whole way through. While the York team had a strong presence on the field, they spent most of the game in a back-and-forth battle against the Rams players, who refused to go down without a fight.

By the time Ryerson midfielder Adrian Mancini finally scored the first point of the game in the middle of the second half, the crowd was barely able to contain themselves. With the Rams fans screaming their praises and the Lions fans hurling abuse at the referees, the game looked like it could be an upset in favour of the underdog Rams.

"I don't think there's any doubt on the squad that we're going to do it, and that's not confidence talking, that's genuine."

But as the minutes ticked on, the Rams appeared to lose some of their edge, and after midfielder Ashkan Mahboubi was given a red card for an infraction, the Lions quickly picked up momentum and scored two goals within the last five minutes.

"I think the 10-man down was definitely a factor. It's unfortunate. You play York at home, things don't always go the way they're supposed to. Sometimes it goes your way, and sometimes it doesn't. Today wasn't a good day," said Joseph, gesturing towards his furry black boaters cap, "Maybe it was the hat."

Despite the loss, Joseph didn't give up hope, and as he looked ahead to the Rams now-determined bronze medal game against the Mustangs said, "I'm hoping we can build our spirits up, and get ready. It's an emotional roller-coaster, but if we do our job, we'll be ready to play."

There was a lot riding on this year's bronze medal game, which is usually a relatively low key event. While it's typically the top two finishers in the tournament that advance to the CIS championships, as this year's hosts, the Varsity Blues automatically get a spot.

As the Blues were slated to finish either first or second in the tournament after their semi-final showing, the team that won the bronze medal game was to take one of the spots usually allocated for the title-chasers.

The game got heated quickly, and by the end of regular playing time, the end was nowhere in sight. The two first-half goals, scored by the Rams' Kevin Souter and the Mustangs' Niko Mavrikos respectively, were all that made it onto the scoreboard.

Playing two men down in the second half thanks to a pair of red cards, the Rams stuck it to the Mustangs.

"The second half, when [the Rams] had their two men taken out, changed the game," said Basacco. "Sometimes you think it's easier, but it tends to be a little more difficult."

As the clock ticked away in the first half of overtime, Mustangs striker Pat Mroczek put their second goal of the game on the scoreboard, and the Rams seemed to be near the end of their surprising playoff run.

It was a last-minute attempt on goal from Rams defender Markus Molder in the final seconds of stoppage time that tied things up 2–2, and sent the game into a shootout round.

The Rams miraculous underdog story failed to continue beyond York Stadium as defender Jason Morgan lobbed a crucial shot over the crossbar. Joseph was nevertheless presented with the OUA East Division Coach of the Year Award after the game and wasn't disappointed at all.

"To come back two men down and take it to PKs, that's a testament of this team's character," said Joseph. "I feel real proud."

As for the Mustangs, they're "going to take this win and bring it to nationals," according to Ryerson's choice as Western Player of the Game, goalkeeper Andrew Murdoch.

Twenty minutes later, the Varsity Blues and the Lions — both ready to join the Mustangs in the CIS championships — set off on a significantly less eventful chase for the Blackwood Cup and 2010 OUA title.

The first half kept the fans in their seats, and when the referee blew the whistle, the scoreboard hadn't moved. While the second moved at a relatively faster pace, it was still nil-nil at the end of regular playing time.

After playing out a frustrating overtime period, it was ultimately U of T who stole the show in an intense shootout round.

"We played a tremendous game, had a tremendous win, and I'm so very proud of our players, our team, and our staff," said Head Coach Capotosto. "We've been on the receiving end of some bad losses in finals in the past. Today's our day."

THE BLUES WILL HOST THE MEN'S SOCCER CIS CHAMPIONSHIPS NOV. 11- 14 AT VARSITY STADIUM.

Game 1: U of T vs. Western



The University of Toronto Varsity Blues men's soccer team stuck it to the Western Mustangs 3–1 Saturday morning at York Stadium to advance to the OUA final the following Sunday afternoon.

U of T set the tone of the game just four minutes in, when midfielder Ezequiel Lubocki sent a corner kick out to striker Mario Kovacevic, who headed it into the net. Kovacevic, however, was called for interference and the goal was disallowed.

It wasn't until the 41st minute of play that Varsity Blues midfielder Dylan Bams opened the scoring as he converted a pass from second-year midfielder, and the OUA East Division's Most Valuable Player, Darragh McGee.

The Blues 1–0 lead over the Mustangs going into the second half meant that there was no mercy out on the field.

According to Mustangs Head Coach Rock Basacco, the turning point in the game came when the Blues star striker Alexander Raphael lined up for a penalty shot after Mustangs defender Paul D'Amario fouled Blues defender Michael Brathwaite in the box as he was driving towards the goal.

"I sent Braithwraite down on the wing. I knew we'd either get a cross in and finish like that, or he was going to draw the penalty, which he did," explained Raphael. "As soon as that happened, I stepped up, sent the goalie the other way, and put it in the back of the net."

A lob-shot from midfielder Jagger Hassan got the Mustangs on the board, but because it came only minutes after Kovacevic got the Blues a third goal on a breakaway, the moment was bittersweet. The game wrapped up with a score of 3–1 Toronto.

"You have to give credit to Toronto. They played very well," said Mustangs Head Coach Rock Basacco.

Game 2: Ryerson vs. York



In an intense do-or-die match up, the York Lions men's soccer team proved why they were ranked number two in the country as they slipped by the Ryerson Rams 2–1 Saturday afternoon at York Stadium in the OUA semi-final.

The game was intense from the get-go and didn't let up until the final minutes of play, as the teams battled for control of the field. Going into halftime, the scoreboard hadn't moved at all.

Although it was Rams midfielder Adrian Mancini who stepped the game up a notch and opened the scoring in the 60th minute of play, it was the red-card given to Ashkan Mahboubi after his second infraction in the 77th minute that gave the Lions the advantage over the now 10-man squad. Only five minutes later, Lions defender Jamaal Smith was presented with a yellow card for hitting the sideline referee.

With just five minutes left in regular time, the Lions' Adrian Pena turned the entire game around when he sent a penalty kick into bottom left corner of the net. Fourth-year defender Gerard Ladiyou sealed the win for the Lions in the final minute of the game when he beat out the Rams defense and scored a surprise goal, making the final score 2–1.

"We didn't expect it that soon after, but we would have went into overtime with a man more for 30 minutes, so we knew it was coming," said Adrian Pena, the star striker of the Lions and the Most Valuable Player in the OUA West Division.

"I thought we played really well. Unfortunately it doesn't always work out your way," said Rams Head Coach Ivan Joseph. "It's never about what's best, it's can we play to our potential, and we did today."

Game 3: Western vs. Ryerson



Putting an end to the Cinderella story that was the Ryerson Rams men's soccer team, the Western Mustangs stole the OUA bronze by one goal in a shoot-out Sunday morning at York Stadium.

With a berth in the CIS championships at stake, neither team showed any mercy and, as a result, the referee handed out more than just a handful of cards.

Ryerson opened the scoring when midfielder Kevin Souter blasted the ball into the back of the net in the 10th minute. Western, unable to penetrate the Rams defense earlier in the half, tied it up with five minutes until the whistle thanks to a goal from striker Niko Mavrikos.

At halftime, the score was tied 1–1, and the next 45 minutes brought nothing but a slew of cards for the Rams.

While the initial was a yellow dealt to Rams defender Dimitri Karopoulos in the first half, the next five included two reds and knocked the Rams down to nine men going into overtime.

The first 15 minutes brought a goal from Western striker Pat Mroczek, and as the clock counted down the final moments of the second, the 2–1 win was just within Western's grasp.

It was in the last second of stoppage time that the Rams seemed like they might actually pull off the biggest upset of the soccer season. As Rams defender Markus Molder sent the ball barreling past Mustang goalie Andrew Murdoch, the referee blew the whistle, and the game was miraculously tied 2–2.

In an intense shootout, the final blow to the Rams came when defender Jason Morgan, who broke down immediately after, shot the ball over the crossbar and gave the Mustangs the CIS berth they had been hoping for.

"It's finally nice to get a win and a chance to get back to nationals. We haven't been there in a couple years and its been a long wait," said Mustangs Head Coach Rock Basacco.

"We're looking forward to [CIS]. This was our goal from the beginning of the year," added Mustangs midfielder Dan Frankel.

And as for the Rams, "They fought, they came back hard, and I'm really proud of their efforts," said Head Coach and OUA East Division Coach of the Year Ivan Joseph.

Game 4: York vs. U of T



The last game of the OUA Final Four tournament ended in shoot-out victory for the University of Toronto men's soccer team against the York Lions at York Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

As the two teams struggled to dominate the field for the majority of the first half, it became evident that this game was one of possession, and it wasn't until the 36th minute that fans got to see some action.

Blues midfielder Darragh McGee was booked after a dirty tackle on Lions midfielder Selvin Lammie inside the box, and his standout teammate Adrian Pena lined up to take the shot.

"When I step up I'm very confident," said Pena earlier in the tournament. "I just tune everything out, and make the PK."

That wasn't the case for the star striker this time — U of T goalie John Smits dove to block the ball as it flew across the grass towards the bottom left of the net.

At the end of the half, the teams were locked in a nil-nil draw for the OUA title.

In the second half, the Blues created scoring chance after scoring chance, but Lions goalkeeper Sotiri Varlokostas was up for the challenge. As the game moved into injury time, neither team had managed to make it onto the scoreboard.

Overtime brought drama for the Lions. Pena was given a yellow card for kicking Blues star Raphael on the ground, while his teammates D'Mello, Lammie, and Badat missed back-to-back-to-back opportunities to wrap up the game.

As anticipated, the game was the second of the day to move on to a shootout round. The Lions opened with a surprising miss from Branko Majstorovic, but Varlokostas kept his team in the game when he deflected the next shot from the Blues' Geoffrey Borgmann.

It was a combination of a shocking tip-of-the-toe save by Smits, and another less than mediocre shot from Pena, that finally ended the Lions bid for tha OUA title, and gave the Blues their first since 2002.

"In the shootout, that's when I'm most calm actually," said Smits, who was honoured by the York squad as Blues Player of the Game. "When my teammates were out there taking the PKs, I wasn't worried for a second."

The Blues are set move on to the CIS championships next weekend, but Head Coach Anthony Capotostos admitted he hasn't thought that far ahead yet.

"We're looking forward to the tournament and it puts us in great position as the OUA champions," said Capotostos.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

DEBATES:

Are Billionaires Dangerous?
The Hart House Debates Committee presents "Are Billionaires Dangerous?," a formal debate on the resolution "be it resolved that billionaires are a menace to society," followed by an address from writer Linda McQuaig. McQuaig is currently a columnist at the *Toronto Star* on themes of her current book, *The Trouble with Billionaires*.
- ***November 10th at 7 p.m.***
- ***Hart House, Debates Room (7 Hart House Circle)***
- ***Free!***

FORUMS:

ArtScienceCamp
ArtScienceCamp is an intense but informal gathering of artists, scientists, engineers, architects, designers, and many others. It will serve as a great opportunity for networking with professionals in the fields of both arts and science, as well as a forum for students to share current ideas and projects.
- ***November 12th and 13th at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.***
- ***Hart House (7 Hart House Circle)***
- ***Free, but must register at artsciencecamp.eventbrite.com***

FUNDRAISERS:

Sugar Shack
The Gamma Phi Beta Sorority will be holding an all-you-can-eat candy and sweets event, with all proceeds going towards funding for the Girl Guides of Canada. Last year, they successfully raised enough money to send four girls for a summer of camp experience, with another girl partially. Once again, your gluttony could benefit mankind.
- ***November 10th at 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.***
- ***Gamma Phi Beta (26 Madison Ave.)***
- ***$5***

LECTURES:

Anti-Semitism in Canada, Real and Imagined
Dr. Michael Keefer will speak about the attempt to limit freedom of speech in Canada. He will offer a historical outline of anti-Semitism in Canada as well as question the ignorance of some parts of Canada's history.
- ***November 9th at 7 p.m.***
- ***OISE, Auditorium Room G162 (252 Bloor St. West)***
- ***Free!***

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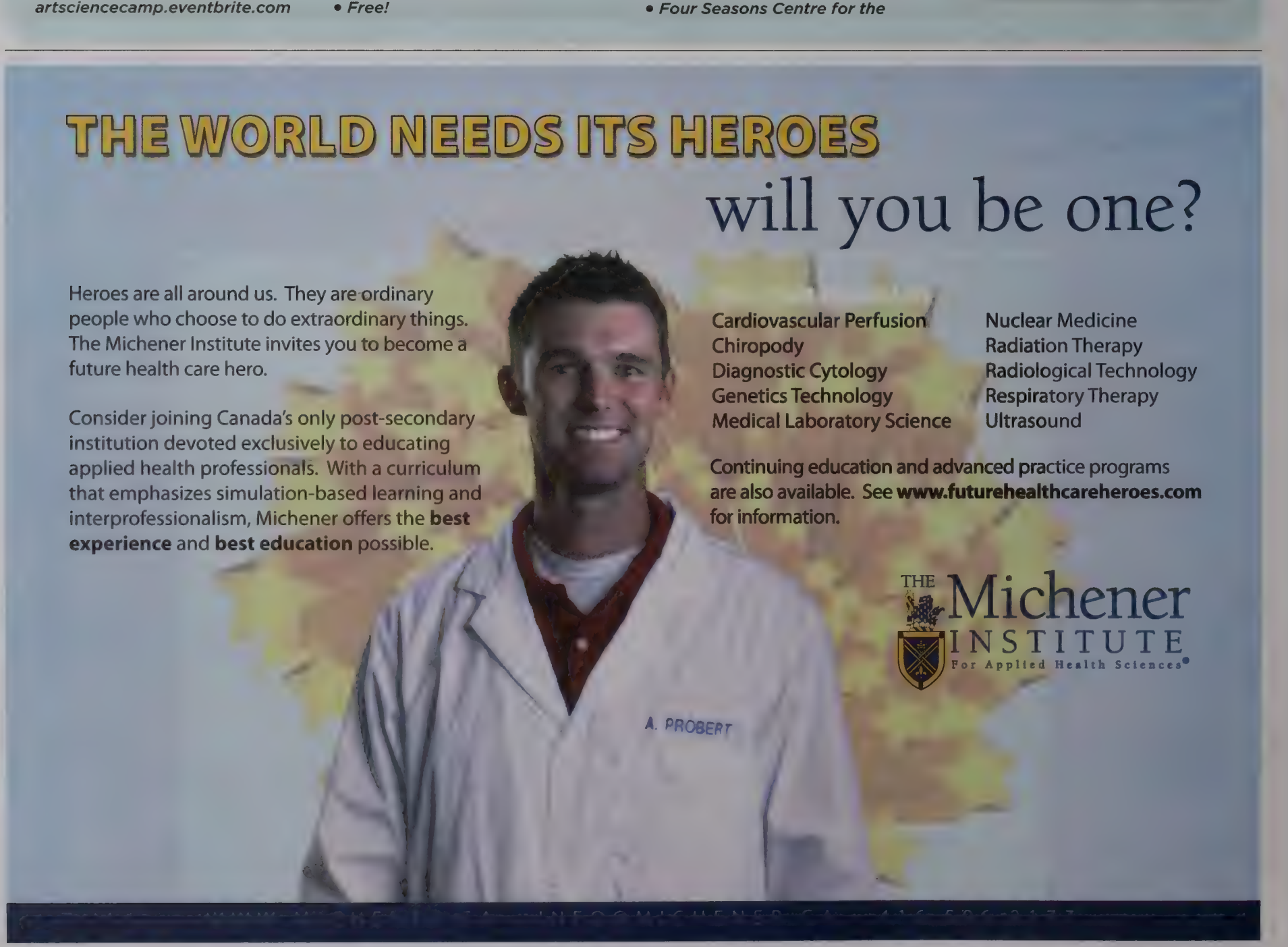
24 Hours of Standup
Hot Box's Pat Thornton performs 24 straight hours of standup comedy to raise funds for A Dare to Remember and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Last year, the event raised over $5,000 for the charities. The money raised will go directly to support the transformation of sub-Saharan Africa.
- ***November 15th at 6 p.m.***
- ***Comedy Bar (945 Bloor St. West)***
- ***Donations encouraged***

SHOWS:

Cinderella
James Kudelka's critically-acclaimed adaptation of this classic fairy tale kicks off the National Ballet's 2010/11 season. His modern approach brings forth some of the darker and more comedic elements of Cinderella's story, with inventive choreography and stunning visuals. A good way to decompress from midterm madness.
- ***Starts November 11th at 7:30, until November 20th***
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The State of New York v Peter Pan
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- ***November 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th at 8 p.m. (6 p.m. on the 14th)***
- ***Bread and Circus (299 Augusta Ave.)***
- ***$10***

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Abode, domicile, flat — whatever you'd like to call it, this is the production team at home. To see what home is to other people, turn to pages **11**, **18**, and **28**.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR


PHOTO BY DAVID PIKE

When attempting to describe the theme of the magazine to writers or interested friends, I found myself asking question after question: How do people remember their childhood home? How do people define home? And by that same logic, how does home define them?

Home is something personal yet simultaneously universal. Nevertheless, its essence remains difficult to pin down. When pressed to say something concrete about what we wanted to accomplish with the magazine, all I could do was explain that we hoped to capture the elusiveness of home.

I believe this is elucidated by the tremendous diversity in the subjects covered and the stories told in this magazine. Some stories are bleak. Will Sloan's introspective "Home Again" details what happens to a familiar place when it's neglected. This is balanced with Joe Howell's lighthearted look at fraternity culture, culled from a series of exploits and hijinks experienced during his summer spent living in a frat house. Tom Cardoso's history of Toronto's grand experiment in alternative living — the infamous counterculture icon, Rochdale College — is fascinating, and Alex Ross' examination of the role of the funeral home in Western society is an insightful meditation on a topic that we are naturally averse to discussing.

Perhaps one of the more unexpected topics here is Erene Stergiopoulos' exploration of the damage that a bedbug infestation can inflict on a person's psyche. It's remarkably topical, considering the epidemic that Toronto is currently facing, and will have you fearfully checking your mattress before you go to bed tonight.

I could go on for an entire page about the quality and creativity found inside. All the stories deserve high praise, but I'm running out of space and superlatives, so I'll leave you with this thought: if the contents of these 28 pages make you stop to examine or rethink your conception of home, even if it is just for a few minutes, then this magazine is a success.

Welcome home.

Sean MacKay
Features Editor, 2010-2011









HOME AGAIN



by ***WILL SLOAN****, photos by* ***DAVID PIKE***

"How are you feeling? Are you getting a lot of rest?" my mother asks my grandmother.

Grandma talks slowly, deliberately. "Oh yes. I was just having a nap."

"You're talking very well. We heard you had a few strokes."

"Oh yes… just a small one, last… I can't remember if it was May or June."

"But Tom said you had a few strokes."

"Oh, maybe one or two… I can't remember. They were very small."

"Well, you're talking very well. Do you take speech therapy?"

"No."

"No?"

"No. They tried to get me to take it, but I said, 'No way!'"

"Well, it's amazing how much progress you've made on your own."

"I have a nurse who comes to the house every day, and I talk to her."

Grandma squints at me. She had an eye operation last year to stop the blindness, but her vision is fuzzy. "You're so tall!"

I smile. "Oh yeah, I guess I am…"

"How tall are you now?"

"Six foot zero. Just made it."

"And you have curly hair!"

"Ha, yeah, yeah, that kicked in sometime around… grade nine, I think?"

"It's just like the hair I used to have."

"Well, that's not all. If you look carefully, you'll see I'm starting to get some flecks of grey."

"Are you now?"

"Yeah. The barber said I look like George Clooney, but I think he was being sarcastic."

"Your hair is so curly…" Grandma slowly points at me and looks at Mom. "Who does he look like?"

"Well…" Mom is silent. "He's a mixture of everybody." A longer pause. "He looks a lot like Tom, actually."

Grandma smiles. "Oh, that's wonderful."

It's strange to see her like this: frail, hair frazzled, IV line and oxygen tubes connected. She always seemed so big, so forceful, so in control. It's strange, too, to see her in a hospital bed, or anywhere away from her house in Weston, her domain for decades.

She looks so old. She'll be 89 in December. Time flies. We haven't seen her in ten years.

• • •

"That's quite a cast you've got," says Mom. "I see you paid the extra money and got the purple one."

"Oh yes."

"When I broke my ankle I just went with the white plaster." Mom laughs. "Saved me fifty bucks!"

"That's right, you did have a cast, didn't you?"

"And it hurt. You broke your arm going down the stairs, right?

"Yes, just a few steps from the bottom."

"You must really be feeling it."

Grandma shrugs. "No… I can hardly feel a thing."

"Really? Because the first two weeks really hurt for me. Don't you feel it in the night?"

Grandma shrugs again. "No… There really isn't much pain at all."

"You must be on some nice painkillers," I say. "I know how you feel. I actually had my wisdom teeth taken out last August…"

"Oh dear, that's awful…"

"Yeah, but they had me on some really nice codeine and stuff, so, y'know, I got through it." I laugh slightly.



"He had the operation on Tuesday, and was back in Toronto by Friday," says Mom.
"Yeah. Actually, Grandma, I'll tell you something that's kinda neat. On that Friday after the operation, I did an interview with Adam West. Y'know, from the old Batman show?"
"Batman? Oh, gosh…"
"Yeah, remember I used to watch that at your house? Every day, at three o'clock."

• • •

Superficially, Weston is a neighbourhood, located at Weston Road and Lawrence Avenue, just north of Eglinton, and part of the former City of York, but for as long as I've known it, it's been a town unto itself. It had everything a small city needed: a "downtown" (right at Weston and Lawrence) with shops and offices and franchise restaurants; residential streets that functioned as suburbs; an arena, a Santa Claus Parade, big parks, local celebrities, a country club, and giant bridges over the Humber River you had to cross to get in and out.

It was also where I spent much of my childhood. My parents were born in Weston, one day apart in the same hospital, and lived just blocks away from each other when they started dating. It was also where they decided to start a family, and for a time in the early '90s we lived on William Street, a few blocks away from both sets of grandparents.

Then one day, Weston started showing some cracks: a few too many drug dealers, a few too many prostitutes, a few too many shootings. We moved to Etobicoke when I was three, but Mom started her law practice in Weston, and we remained part of the community. Mom was in the Weston Lions Club, and I was in the Weston Minor Hockey League. We went to Weston Little Theatre, I wore my hockey gear in the Santa Claus Parade, and every year we went to the Weston End-of-Summer Blast, where there was face painting and cotton candy and plenty of inflatable bouncy castles.

And there was Grandma, in her little house on Holley Avenue. Every Sunday we would see the extended family there for dinner, and until about second grade, I went there every day after school.

• • •



"So, how have they been treating you here, Grandma?"
"Oh, you know. There are so many bad nurses. And the doctors here can be such… goofs!"
"Now grandma, be nice…"
"I've never had any problems with doctors," says Mom. "I mean, sometimes they have to have their backs up against the wall to figure something out, but they've always come through for me. Like when I was at Toronto General."
"Oh yes, I heard about that," says Grandma. "What was it that happened?"
"Well… Basically, I came in and was about to drop dead in front of them…" — Mom laughs — "…and under pressure, they figured out that what was really wrong with me was I had adrenal insufficiency. So, they knew about the very rare primary pulmonary hypertension, but they didn't realize I had an adrenal problem until I was gonna die, and that you can treat it with two pills!" They both laugh slightly, then silence.
"I have this wonderful nurse named Josephine, who comes to the house and takes care of me every day, and she's the best nurse I've ever had," says Grandma. "She's Filipino, you know."

"I was never allowed to play here — too dangerous, Mom said. There's an overflowing garbage can, and a lot of litter, and some scattered bits of clothing; no one else is here."

"Well…" Mom looks down.
"Tom mentioned you've had a lot of nurses coming to the house, right?" I say.
"Yes. I've had a lot of them, and if they don't do what they're told, they're fired."
"Still ruling the place with an iron fist, eh?" I say.
"Well, Tom is very good to keep hiring all of them, isn't he?" says Mom.
"Oh, your brother has been so good to me," says Grandma.
"Yes, well, Tom is the best," says Mom, looking down.
"Yes… yes, he is…"

• • •

"Oh, hello Ted, come on in," says Grandma, looking at the door. Mom and I turn around, then look at each other, then look down.
"Mum, I don't think that was Ted," says Mom.
"Oh… I thought it might be Ted…"
"He'll probably come. He might still come."
"I had a dream yesterday night that all my children were together in England. Isn't that strange?"
"Mm-hmm," says Mom.
"Nobody ever seems to come for that old woman in the other bed. Thank God that hasn't happened to me. I have people who visit me."
Mom and I look at the ground. "That's right, Grandma, we're here."

• • •

"Ca$h Converters." "Cheques Cashed." "We Buy Gold." "Money Mart." "Tax-Stop Financial Services." "InstaLoan." So many of these, side-by-side at Weston and Lawrence. When did they spring up? I don't know. When was the last time I've been here? High school, maybe? Things have changed.

A lot of dollar stores. A lot of little supermarkets. A lot of donut shops. There's a Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits where the Burger King used to be. The Central Restaurant is under new management, and now they have Karaoke Thursdays.

"Omely's Nails." "Shalom Beauty Supply." "Ola Hair Spa." "Lori Hair & Nail Spa." "Ira's Beauty Salon & Spa." "Supreme Beauty Centre." So much beauty. So many faded Farrah hairdos in the windows.

What do I recognize? There's the big Hakim Optical sign above the "Weston Mini Mall." Big, '80s eyeglasses. There's Ward's Funeral Home, where I saw my Grandpa for the last time. Here is the ratty building where Mom started her law practice. The hallway still smells the same. She was across the hall from a "Manicure Boutique," quote-unquote, and sometimes helped the girls get bank accounts and birth certificates. At least that place is gone. Now it's another law office. Weston has a lot of law offices.



I walk to Holley Avenue and go to the playground. I was never allowed to play here — too dangerous, Mom said. There's an overflowing garbage can, and a lot of litter, and some scattered bits of clothing; no one else is here. I walk further along Holley, and I see it: Grandma's house. It's smaller than I remember. That gate used to tower over me. It used to feel like the backyard went on for miles.

Why did I come here? What did I think I would find? I hate being here. I hate this place. I want to go home.

• • •

"Well, we should probably be leaving you to rest."
"Oh…" says Grandma. "We did a lot of catching up, didn't we?"
"Uh-huh."
"Yeah, it was nice seeing you, Grandma. I gotta get back downtown to finish an essay."
"Oh, okay. Do you live downtown?
"Yeah, actually, I live in an apartment near Trinity Bellwoods Park."
"Yes, they don't seem to stay in residence after second year," says Mom.
"Around that time we all figure it's time to start growing up, y'know?"
"Do you have a nice apartment?" asks Grandma.
"Well, it's kinda small, but, y'know, it's home. Anyway, we really have to get going."
"Okay," says Grandma. "Bye."
"Goodbye."

Home, interrupted

A tale of little bugs, big beds, and how three homeowners came to feel homeless

BY ERENE STERGIOPOULOS
PHOTO (AND MATTRESS): DAVID PIKE

"One night I slept in the car," says Frank, chuckling. "I stayed up until late, and I got a pillow and a sheet that I'd sort of cleaned. And I snuck out at 3:30, because I thought if my neighbours saw me, they'd think I was crazy. And I got maybe two and a half hours in the car. But I was so happy in the car! Because I thought: I'm safe."

Frank is a physician and a homeowner in Toronto's well-heeled Forest Hill neighbourhood. About a month ago, he discovered bites on his skin, along with what he believed to be bedbugs on his daughter's mattress. Since then, he's spent over two thousand dollars on pest control bills, and has thrown out the contents of his garage and basement.

The trauma of getting bedbugs is something you can't quite understand until you've been there. It's an experience that teaches its victims just how much they rely on their homes for a sense of security. "It's like your house becomes your enemy," says Frank.

At present, after ten days of being bedbug-free, he explains, "Now I come home, and I'm not scared of my house. I don't have to take off all my clothes, wash them, dry them. I'm leaving the sheets on the bed.

"I got rid of my bed, by the way. I threw it out."

For Michelle, it's a similar story. Michelle is a social worker who rents an apartment with her boyfriend. In July, she started noticing bites on her skin. After months of hyper-vigilance and "feeling like a leper," Michelle reports that they haven't seen signs since early September.

"I started to not want to go home," Frank explains. "I wouldn't go home until 9:00. Then I wouldn't go to sleep. It's kind of irrational, what happens with sleep: what's the worst that can happen?

"It kind of felt like you were in the middle of moving. So, if you can imagine that you've packed all your things — but you still have to live there for two months. [...] I feel like for two months, we didn't have any break from it. It was exhausting. There was this feeling that the house is in chaos: we're living in chaos, we're living in limbo."

That kind of chaos has felt pretty close to home these days. Quite literally, in my case.

For the past three weeks, my mother has been living out of her basement. The space down there is strewn with sealed Ziploc bags of clothes and shoes, while spray bottles stand guard at every doorway. The eerie smell of antiseptic haunts the house where I grew up. My mother, too, has bedbugs.

The Internet is abound with stories of horrific bedbug encounters: bites, extermination woes, and even attempted suicide. For anyone who's just trying to get a few tips on getting rid of bedbugs, the online landscape is astonishingly macabre.

Bloggers detail their fumigation efforts and failures, while commenters flock to every post, offering words of support to their fallen companions. There's a whole online community of victims out there, waiting for the next one to turn up. Just reading this stuff makes me feel itchy. Already, this is not looking promising.

"What happens is that once you start to go online, the people who are online are so distressed that you get a pessimistic view of eradication," says Frank. "People are saying, 'I've had six treatments, and I still have bedbugs. I'm going crazy. What do I do?' And people would say, 'Hang in there, bit by bit, day by day.'"

Perhaps it's the bleak picture depicted online that has created such a stigma around having bedbugs. The futility of repeated eradication attempts, paired with a close-knit support network, make bedbugs seem more like a chronic disease than a household pest.

"It's like you have cancer," says Frank.

"If you read any advice, you [know you] have to put all your clothing in bags and wash them," Frank continues. "You have to get rid of anything where bedbugs might be. And you start becoming suspicious of anything. And so, I spent three or four days packing everything up. I got rid of all the contents of my garage, all the contents of my basement. I threw out fabric, chairs. Because I thought, 'They could be anywhere, I've got to eliminate it.'"

For many bedbug sufferers, home is no longer a place they can go to feel comfortable. Without that space, which most of us take for granted, where exactly do you go?

"I started to not want to go home," Frank explains. "I wouldn't go home until 9:00. Then I wouldn't go to sleep. It's kind of irrational, what happens with sleep: what's the worst that can happen? You get bitten, and it's itchy. But it feels different, it's like you're being invaded. And it's very hard to feel like sleep is secure. So I would stay up until 3:00, 3:30, until I was exhausted. And I wouldn't sleep in the bedroom. I took everything out of the bedroom, I wouldn't even go into my bedroom. I started sleeping on the couch. So I slept on the couch for a while, and I thought, 'This is okay.' And then I felt like I was bitten again. And I thought, 'Where do I sleep?'"

That's when Frank finally decided to look for his long-lost Z's in the car that night. At least there he could feel safe.

Yet it's not only sleep that's affected, Michelle explains. "I don't think I realized how stressed I was by the whole thing. I got that it was tiring: 'So I'm now going home every day and everything I'm wearing to work, I'm putting in the laundry.' I've ruined a few articles of clothing. I threw things out. I had these really nice boots, and I found a bedbug in one, and I thought, 'I'm not keeping this,' — and I threw them out. There was a lot of spontaneous 'All I want is to not have to deal with the bedbugs.'"

But it is only upon entering my mother's house, for the first time since her discovery, that I begin to understand her sudden and potentially psychotic preoccupation with these bugs. The worst part is, that state of mind is surprisingly contagious.

After a mere three bites, my mother has already packed up all the clothes in the house to have them washed. Her existence revolves around getting rid of bedbugs, at all costs. She has started vacuuming incessantly, and unleashes pesticide into every corner of the house on a regular basis. She now jumps at the sight of lint on the carpet, and often feels she has bugs crawling on her skin — a condition that psychiatrists call "delusional parasitosis."

What exactly is it about bedbugs that is so unsettling to people? Biologically speaking, bedbugs don't carry disease. Aside from the fresh peppering of bites every morning, they can't harm you physically.

Within the first three minutes of my visit to my mother's house, I'm ordained into the cleaning rituals she has now perfected. I'm not allowed to put anything on the floor, and can't leave the house wearing the same clothes I came in with. I also quickly come to discern that all objects — especially carpets — must be treated with utmost suspicion.

Upstairs is the epicenter of the infestation: my mother's bedroom. I'm actually afraid to go in. It's around this point that I start realizing how ridiculous all of this is, but I can't help it.

What exactly is it about bedbugs that is so unsettling to people? Biologically speaking, bedbugs don't carry disease. Aside from the fresh peppering of bites every morning, they can't harm you physically. Yet for some reason, they are able to tear a person's world apart, making them mistrust the place they rely on to find security.

"[Bedbugs] somehow seemed creepier than other things, like a flea," Michelle speculates. "You know it's not easy to get rid of, and that while you're sleeping, they're biting you, and they're multiplying by the second. This is how they survive: they're feeding on you. But you don't see them. So it's a bit crazy-making from that perspective."

Even though months have passed since the experience, Michelle is still wary. "I'm hoping it's come to an end. But I haven't put my clothes back in the cupboard. So I'm not convinced, clearly. I'm a bit nervous about doing that, even though I know it looks like things are okay, and we're not getting bitten. So we're still living like that. It's still kind of hovering. Just this week, I've had a few times when I've felt itchy. And I had forgotten how I was completely consumed by that."

For those still consumed in the eradication effort, things are even worse.

As I'm cleaning out a downstairs closet with my mother, I see her suddenly jump up. She picks up something small and dark in her fingers, and asks me to look at it. It's a pebble. She asks me whether I'm sure it's not a bug. I'm positive, I say. Even so, she sprays down the spot with half a bottle of pesticide.

I've told my mother about my concern with all the pesticide she's been pumping out all over the house. I'm pretty sure this stuff is more dangerous than the bugs themselves. All she does is answer dryly, "I'd rather die of pesticide than have bedbugs in my house."

Unsurprisingly, one of my greatest fears over the past weeks has been whether I too will get bedbugs. When a friend of mine called to tell me she'd found a relatively widespread infestation at her house, I spent the rest of the day inspecting my apartment for any signs of bedbugs. Every spot of lint I found put me in states of panic which, in retrospect, I find laughable. But even now I still avoid putting my belongings on the floor. I never leave clothes on the bed and can't help holding a particular aversion to fabric seating.

It's difficult to say when things will finally be over, when things will return to normal. After an infestation, when does your house start feeling like home again? Can you ever get that feeling back?

"Oh no, it doesn't feel the same," says Frank. "I think I'll be able to get back to it, but I think it'll take several weeks. It is like a traumatic event, where you have reminders of it. No, I think it takes a while to recover."

Frank grins as he muses over the seemingly irrational stress that threw his life into chaos not long ago. "I'm laughing about it now, but boy, when it hits you, you feel kind of homeless."

WANDERING BANDS

NAVI LAMBA moderates a roundtable discussion with a diverse group of musicians and discovers how constant touring affects a person's idea of home

Touring is an integral part of being a musician. Given the substantial drop in record sales during the past ten years, touring is how most musicians make up for losses in revenue. But we're not here to talk about the digital revolution, we're here to talk about something far more personal — the homesickness that bands may suffer from while they're on the road. What role does home play for bands on tour? How does it affect their relationships? How do they cope and adjust to the changes?

PARTICIPANTS:

Sandy Miranda, *Fucked Up*
Sandy Miranda (aka Mustard Gas) is the bassist for Toronto's punk rock pride and joy, Fucked Up. The band took home the 2009 Polaris Prize for their album The Chemistry of Common Life.

Anna Barie, *These Are Powers*
Anna Barie is the lead vocalist for the noise dance trio These Are Powers. Hailing from Brooklyn, Powers are known for their ability to blend diverse genres and musical techniques.

Maya Postepski, *TRUST*
Maya Postepski is the percussionist for Toronto band TRUST. She also drums for Katie Stelmanis and performs solo as Princess Century. Though they haven't been together for long, Toronto audiences recognize TRUST as a powerhouse in the electronic scene.

DJ Dopey
With his consistently innovative sound, DJ Dopey has quickly risen to the forefront of turntablism. He has had the pleasure of performing alongside Gang Starr, Kardinal Offishall, Kid Koala, DJ Q-Bert, and DJ Jazzy Jeff.

Mike Duffield, *The Diableros*
Toronto's Mike Duffield is known for his drum work with the Diableros. Although the band has undergone numerous line-up changes, their work has garnered them international critical acclaim.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

These are people that spend little more than 24 hours in a given city, for anywhere from six weeks to two years, with very few breaks. We may forget that these people also have families, friends, and homes. As exciting as touring is, the novelty of cramming a group of people into a '93 Ford Taurus wears off relatively quickly.

Q. *Some musicians have described being on the road as quite the arduous affair, being away from friends and familiar places. Do you find it difficult?*

Anna Barie: There's something inherently lonely about travel, even when you're traveling with a group of people. I always feel like a sailor in a way, like you're at sea for a while and you kind of come into port, and then you see all these places, and meet all these people. You take as much away from it as you want to but in a way you are always a stranger, and you're always a visitor. You're always on the outside looking in, even when you go places where you know people and have friends. It's kind of interesting — you do it for a while and it's like you're a roaming tribe, meeting other bands on the road. It's funny, [how] we go halfway around the world and we end up playing with bands we know from Brooklyn, and it's really special.

Sandy Miranda: The most difficult thing about being in a band and touring is being in tight quarters with five other people at almost all times. My band — myself included — are a moody bunch, and while it helps that we've known each other for a decade or more, that fact can make things quite tense as well. The [intra]-band dynamic is difficult. We know how to push each other's buttons and will often push them freely — a practice that I, personally, am moving away from, in the hopes that I would be left alone and free from the psychological torture we often place on one another.

Maya Postepski: I love getting away from the 'daily grind.' It helps you distance yourself from everything that is normal and lets you re-evaluate things and appreciate stuff you overlook. It can be really healthy to get away from people, even people you love more than anything… Seeing the world is the big perk of touring, and at the end of a day of sightseeing or driving through a country, you get to show the locals what you're good at. It's amazing to have a really fun show in a place like Luxembourg — hanging out with locals and chatting in broken English/German/French sign language. And that's what you'll always remember. I don't really see what's difficult about that. I mean, there are bad shows, yes. There are frustrations on the road sometimes, yes. But I think touring is supposed to push your boundaries a little bit. It's like all your emotions get heightened and you're really living and doing what you love. It's incredible.

Mike Duffield: It really depends on a lot of things. If you are traveling in a van with enough room to stretch out, have relatively short drives and decent food and coffee is along the way, then I'd rather do that than anything. Without these things, I think it really gets just exhausting quickly. Oh, and you also have to be good about having empty pockets… and infrequent bathing. I personally haven't had any nightmares, but I sure know some people who have!

UHHH, THIS MY SHIT, THIS MY SHIT

Q. *Musicians may look to non-material (memories or familiar spaces) or material goods (journals) to cure their homesickness. How do you combat homesickness?*

Sandy Miranda: I always travel with everything I need to live for at least a month. The crucial things I bring are my computer, which enables me to work from anywhere, and a digital and film camera, to capture some of my experiences.

Mike Duffield: I really just need to get some alone time every day — bring a couple books, drink lots of water, and try to find a place I can stretch for a bit. Sitting in a van in one place for a long time wreaks total havoc on your body like nothing else.

DJ Dopey: In the past I've kept a journal and have written letters to my loved ones — even if I didn't end up sending them — but I hardly do so anymore. I just find that it's gotten a little easier these days, especially with all the technology — Skype video chat or iChat. Even if I'm halfway across the world, getting that five minutes every few days to chat face-to-face with the ones you love really makes a difference.

Anna Barie: When we visited Kensington Market it reminded us very much of home. It's probably one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Toronto that we've seen.

Maya Postepski: Passport, iPod, sunglasses, sleeping bag, towel, earplugs, journal, GPS, lots of underwear, the least amount of clothes possible, and whiskey… I try not to connect too often, I used to call people more from the road, but now I don't even bring my cell phone. I like being on a ferry to Denmark without having to check who is texting me. It's a time to really disconnect. Yes, there's always backstage time to do emails and all that, but I don't like to have a phone with me that I'm always checking.

LET'S GO HOME

Q. *When you return from a tour, do you become more appreciative of the city you live in?*

Maya Postepski: Yes and no. Toronto has a lot of pros, it's my city and I love it. But it's a bit scuzzy and the architecture kind of blows after you've been in Scandinavia for a little while… sometimes I hate it when I get back from tour, waiting for the streetcar forever, and not having a clock telling you when the next one is coming is annoying. I think Swiss people are very spoiled. I took trains in the middle of nowhere, and they were on time, to the second. That's something I like a lot. But there's also a lot of good things Toronto has that other places need to work on — ahem — cultural diversity.

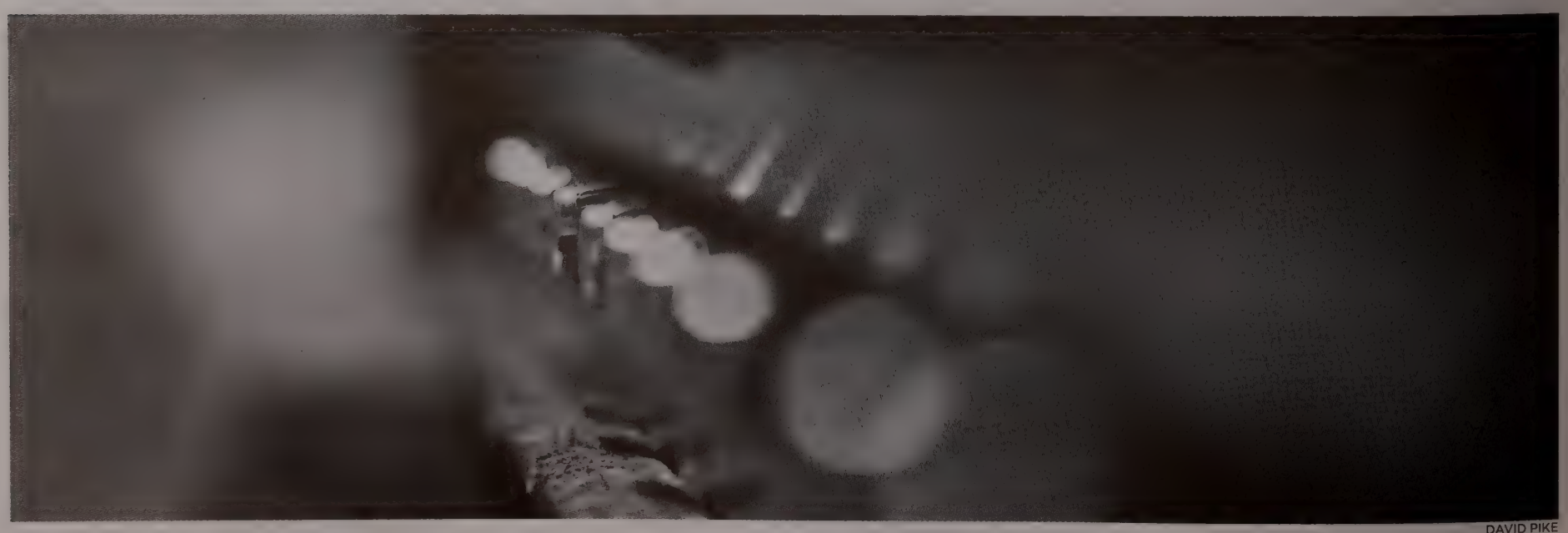
Sandy Miranda: I am always happy to come home. I may not feel like I will when I go away, and it's true that when I go away, I always look for ways to extend my trip. But when I fly into Pearson, and peer out the window to look at the city where I was born and grew up in, I am thankful to be home. Out of all the cities that I have visited in my life — and there are nearly hundreds, as beautiful or exotic as they may be — Toronto really is one of the most livable cities in the world.

Mike Duffield: For the most part, it's home.

DJ Dopey: Yes! I always did love Toronto and after touring the world, I still feel like it's one of the best places to be.

NO PLACE LIKE IT

Something important to consider is the impact that rock 'n' roll mythology has had not only on fans, but also on musicians themselves. The romantic assumption that life on the road is a drug-fuelled sex romp is — in most cases — a bit of a stretch. Cultural identity and familiarity end up playing a larger role than one may imagine. Whether it's a diverse neighbourhood, or interactions with locals, this is when you become the most conscious of where you are from.



DAVID PIKE

Examining Toronto's arrival cities



TOM CARDOSO

As the world becomes permanently urban, how do our perceptions of home change? The Varsity speaks to *The Globe and Mail*'s European correspondent, **Doug Saunders**, whose new book explores this question.

BY DYLAN C. ROBERTSON

Within the last 50 years, a vast portion of the world's population has moved from rural areas to urban dwellings. As people participate in these ongoing global migrations, humanity experiences success, disruption, and a shifting perception of home.

Doug Saunders is a Toronto-raised journalist and European bureau chief for *The Globe and Mail*. His weekly column explores key background concepts behind international events. In September, Saunders' first book was published.

Arrival City: The Final Migration and Our Next World is a manifesto that combines scholarly work, data trends, and personal encounters. The book focuses on people migrating from a village to an "arrival city;" a transitive place where families temporarily settle to establish themselves economically and socially before integrating into the mainstream population.

Saunders studies migration across the globe and finds patterns in whether people successfully establish themselves and how they affect the countries they live in.

The Varsity spoke with Saunders by phone from his London office on the day of Toronto's mayoral election about universities, Toronto's arrival cities, and the changing meaning of home.

The Varsity: *Why did you write* Arrival City?
Doug Saunders: I'd begun to notice in my travels a pattern among the neighbourhoods usually beyond the end of the transit lines, where people were arriving from other places, mostly from rural or village migration. And I realized that these neighbourhoods were where the really important transformations are occurring in many countries around the world.

The large force of population transition is an abstract concept that we know is happening this century. It's manifesting itself in a certain type of neighbourhood. And I realized that you can strip these neighbourhoods down to their economic and social functions and there's a great similarity between them.

Whether they're a slum shack in Mumbai or an immigrant community in Los Angeles or in Toronto, if you take away some of the cosmetic aspects of them, you can find a set of functions. If you can strip it down to those functions, you can find out that when things go wrong in those neighbourhoods, it's usually because one of these functions has been impeded in some way.

I realized there was no instruction manual for these sorts of neighbourhoods, there's nothing explaining how this works. There's some excellent work in scholarly literature, in social sciences, in economics, and so on, that explains parts of it. But I realized there was a need to write a guidebook that explained how these places are supposed to work and how to make them work.

TV: *Have you been following the mayoral election?*
DS: I'm not allowed to vote at this point because I've lived out of Canada for too long, but I've been following it with some frustration.

TV: *How well do you think the candidates understand arrival cities?*
DS: There's an understanding in some branches of Toronto's administration of how to make these neighbourhoods work. The redevelopment of Regent Park, using value-capture models where you move in middle-class condominium buyers and supermarkets and so on in order to create a revenue stream that pays for the redevelopment of social housing, is an excellent way to do things.

I spend a chapter in the book visiting Thorncliffe Park in eastern Toronto, which I looked at as an imperfect, fairly rough place, but in many ways a model for how to make a transitional city work in ways that understands itself as an arrival city.

Toronto's biggest arrival cities are not within Toronto as such. They tend to be in Peel region, sometimes in York region — in the great suburban expanses, in the west and north of Toronto. The amalgamation process fifteen or so years ago didn't go far enough. There needs to be a government that incorporates York and Peel.

Peel is probably the largest receptor of immigrants in all of North America. You could even point to sort of the high-rise neighbourhoods that encircle Pearson Airport as being the greatest landing pad neighbourhood in North America, not in quality but volume.

This is tragic because, with some exceptions, Peel and York regions are not places that understand themselves as arrival cities. They don't want to understand themselves like this, and they don't cater to voters who come from that constituency. I think a lot of Toronto's problems come from the fact that it can't govern its most important arrival cities.

It didn't help in this election to have a candidate [Rob Ford] going on that immigration was something they could stop, as if they could build a moat around Toronto or something. Toronto will be the second-largest immigrant city of North America after Los Angeles for the next twenty to forty years. That's a very safe assumption based on any possible circumstances.

So it will continue to be a city of arrival cities and I think there was a failure during the election campaign to discuss it on that level, although I suspect some of the candidates had a lesser degree of understanding.

TV: *You mention Thorncliffe Park in your book as an ideal arrival city —*
DS: It's actually not ideal. It has some things going for it. It's not a beautiful neighbourhood, and it's not entirely peaceful.

There are [metal detectors] when you go through the doors at an elementary school. It's sort of what you'd expect in a transitional neighbourhood. It has some model things in it in terms of how a neighbourhood can improve itself by understanding itself as an arrival city.

TV: *So, it's relatively well-managed.*
DS: Yes.

TV: *And what other arrival city areas in Toronto are well-managed?*
DS: The classic example is the first-generation arrival cities of the decades immediately after the Second World War when the final waves of Europeans, mostly from the South and East of Europe came in, and then large numbers of Chinese. Those are all immensely successful arrival cities without having any policy designed to do them that way.

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Death by Design

Toronto's grand experiment in alternative living

TEXT and photos by **TOM CARDOSO**

"When Dennis asked me if I wanted to go to Rochdale, I asked him about courses and policies. He said the students would make those kinds of decisions. Well, that impressed the hell out of me, so I said 'yes' right away. I guess that made me Rochdale's first student."

— Paul Evitts, Rochdale's first student and later a member of its Executive Council

Of all the nondescript high-rises that tower over Bloor Street, this one appears especially insipid. Known to some as 341 Bloor Street, Senator David A. Croll Apartments, or simply as "that building on top of G's Fine Foods." The concrete that graces its stark brutalist exterior hides a secret history, one sewn into the countercultural roots of downtown Toronto in the late 1960s.

Rochdale College, which began as an educational endeavour, fully embraced the satirical attitude that the younger generation had towards the established social and political norms of the 1960s. Born from a desire for education that didn't conform to existing power structures, students were encouraged to create their own courses and engage directly with their professors. (Rochdale later became famous for selling its degrees: a BA cost $25, an MA sold for $50, and a PhD for $100.)

Similarly, Rochdale had a thriving social community: it had a bar, convenience store, daily newspaper, security force, radio station, cafeteria, library, post office, and even a theatre troupe.

An idealist's pipedream, the college was planned as a massive social experiment. Housing roughly 840 people, Rochdale was a vertical village of anti-establishmentarians, iconoclasts, and dreamers. Students and teachers lived together, designing and teaching their own courses, all partaking in the community that the building offered. It was run like a small country, complete with executives, councils, and committees. Social norms were lax, with drugs becoming central to Rochdale's culture. To many students, it sounded like a modern Garden of Eden.

It was also an unprecedented, spectacular failure.

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In 1967, while Rochdale College was under construction, another alternative housing project was coming alive just 300 miles away. The brainchild of recent architecture graduate Moshe Safdie, Habitat 67 was a modular housing project commissioned for Montreal's Expo 67 world's fair. It was an ambitious project on several fronts; as Adele Weder puts it, Habitat 67 was to serve as "a manifesto for universal, affordable urban design," and was "Canada's first truly ideological government-sponsored architecture."

The project favoured the utilitarian and the affordable: 158 individual prefabricated concrete units, all piled onto each other asymmetrically, composed the core structure of the building (the original plans called for over 1,200 such units). The low cost of production was intended to keep the sale price of units low, and the tight arrangement of units was designed to foster a communal living experience through shared courtyards and open spaces; the stacking of units even meant that every person's roof was another's garden space. As Safdie put it, "for everyone a garden."

> "Soon, Rochdale became a drug haven. Speed became a major problem, with several overdoses reported, and a biker gang called 'The Vagabonds' distributing drugs throughout the building."

Still widely regarded as a modernist masterpiece, Habitat 67 was praised for its cubic design and use of concrete as a means of creating affordable housing solutions for low-income families. It is surprising to learn, then, that Habitat 67 has since matured into a semi-ironic mockery of the ideals it once espoused. A 1,200-square-foot two-bedroom unit costs upwards of $500,000, and Habitat 67 has become a home for Montreal's cultural elite.

After a few years running the project as a real housing venture, the government realized how truly expensive Safdie's proposal turned out to be. The enormous expenditure required for creating the individual units (when it came to producing concrete modules, the world just wasn't technologically "there yet") was added to the high maintenance and support costs for keeping the building going. Soon after the government sold all its Habitat 67 units and divested itself of the costs, real estate brokers snatched up most of the units. Capitalizing on the project's rock-star status in the architectural community, they began charging much higher rates aimed at high-income brackets, and it worked. Habitat 67 had been effectively and almost immediately gentrified, any semblance of its utopian, communitarian, low-income ideal now completely destroyed.

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Rochdale College seemed to similarly suffer from the idealistic excesses of the 1960s. Planned as a mixed-residential building, Rochdale included standard single and double rooms in its east wing and basic apartment-style rooms in its west wing. More experimental "ashram" units were built in the middle, and were composed of four double rooms and four single rooms, all sharing one kitchen and bathroom opening into the main lounge.

In the case of those living in ashram units, the college's reliance on self-governance meant that most responsibilities that would normally fall on the shoulders of landlords were downloaded onto the tenants themselves. As a result, those living in ashrams also ended up being the people most involved in Rochdale's alternative education program. The divided nature of those living in the building — that is, those who only used Rochdale as a living space and those who were fully immersed in the Rochdale educational experiment — ultimately led to a mutual animosity that would last for as long as the community existed.

Rochdale also suffered from a few serious design flaws. Most glaring was that "the shapes and sizes of individual rooms were determined for the most part by the structural grid system in the parking garage," as Howard Adelman, one of the principal founders of Rochdale College, explained.

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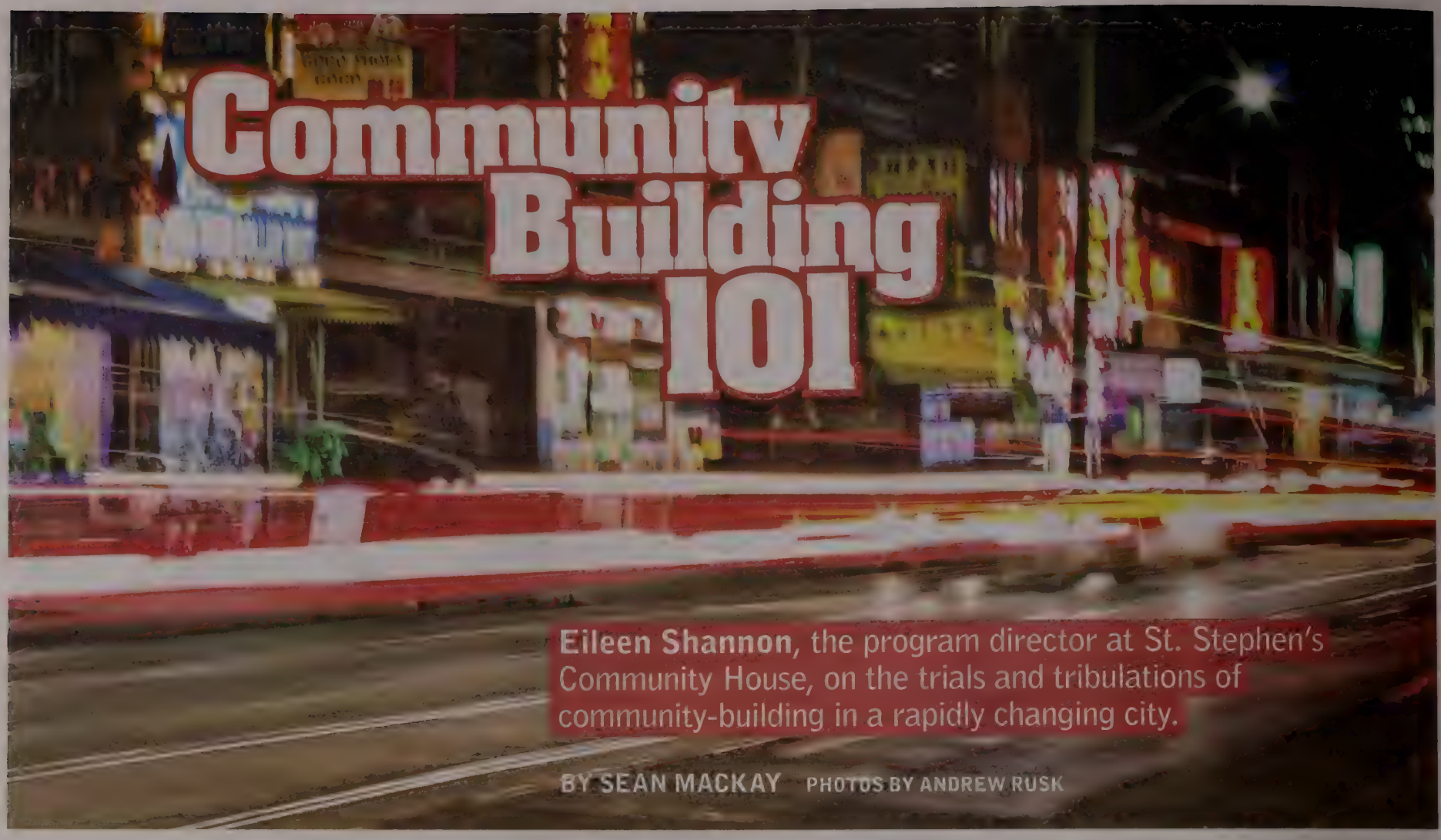




Laura Boles
Tri-Delta Sorority
3rd year student



Brian, Dormer, Garrett, Kevin
Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Students



Community Building 101

Eileen Shannon, the program director at St. Stephen's Community House, on the trials and tribulations of community-building in a rapidly changing city.

BY SEAN MACKAY PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUSK

While many recognize the value and unique character that Kensington Market adds to Toronto, few appreciate that the neighbourhood — surely one of the quirkiest in the city — is also home to a large number of new immigrants to Canada, many of whom face significant economic hardships in their new homes.

Students who walk through the Market may not pay much attention to St. Stephen's Community House, the large building that sits between Supermarket and Urban Herbivore on Augusta. But it doesn't sell vintage clothing or cheap pints of Mill St. Organic. What St. Stephen's provides to the community is something intangible, yet absolutely essential to thousands of people, building and strengthening the community itself.

The social service agency has been serving western Toronto neighbourhoods since 1962, and over the subsequent decades, it expanded outwards from Kensington in order to serve communities as far north as North York.

Eileen Shannon came to St. Stephen's Community House six years ago, bringing with her a wealth of experience gained from working with a variety organizations in Toronto, Europe, and Africa. As program director, she is responsible for seven programs within the agency.

The Varsity had the opportunity to speak with Shannon at her office in the Kensington Market location of St. Stephen's. She provided unique insights into the inner workings of the community development and social service organization, and how they keep up with the changing qualities of Toronto's immigrant and poor communities.

The Varsity: *St. Stephen's Community House serves areas of Toronto beyond Kensington Market. What services do you provide at the Kensington location, where are some of your other locations, and what services do they provide?*

Eileen Shannon: We have eight different locations in the downtown west and we have recently opened a new location for language classes in North York. Kensington is certainly our busiest site, but not our only site. We see ourselves as being based in Kensington; this is our home community and it's where we started. Our youth program is here, our homeless program is here, our language training and newcomer services' main office are here, and we have a small supportive housing program on the top floor.

There is a range of programs for newcomers, programs for adults and for seniors. Some of our services are providing for the immediate area, and other services take from a broader community base — throughout the western part of downtown. There's basically three program areas. One of them is employment services, which is located at Bathurst and St. Clair. We have licensed, fee-for-service child care in four different locations in downtown Toronto. We also have a cluster of community programs that include services for seniors, programs for the homeless, language training for newcomers, youth programs, conflict resolution resources, and wellness programs. The wellness programs include HIV prevention in the Chinese and Portuguese communities, and prenatal support for newcomers who are pregnant for the first time.

TV: *Toronto has changed a lot in the past fifty years in terms of immigration patterns. How has St. Stephen's been affected by these changes?*

ES: We've had to really examine the question of what our geographic base is. For example, one of the biggest strengths of St. Stephen's is newcomer services. English as a second language classes were one of the first services we offered, back in 1962. There's been a big demographic shift in Toronto and this area is no longer the first-stop for a broad range of immigrant groups that it was up until the '60s and '70s. The shift began in the '80s and '90s — more immigrants have been living in the suburbs. At this point, Chinese newcomers are the only significant newcomer group that is still living in this area. We've had to come to terms with the necessity of eventually seeing ourselves as less tied to this location, though we're still very committed to downtown Toronto.

TV: *Why are services like St. Stephen's so essential to community-building in Toronto?*

ES: The people who use this service find that it's not simply a service — we're not a supermarket where you just walk in and get what you need. It is also a community, a place where people make connections and can volunteer and build community by making friends and learning new skills. Both our youth program and homeless program have very extensive volunteer and peer development components. All of those skills that build strength in individuals, and build connections between individuals, [also] help to build community. For newcomers, for example, it's a sense of belonging and connecting as well as learning about their new country and different aspects of life in Canada.

If you think about newcomers from mainland China, they could move into this area and remain extremely isolated because they can get almost everything they need in their native language. So we help individuals to integrate and to become engaged. It helps to build the community at large. Take this building, for example — we have new immigrants coming in here, we have people who are homeless, and we have young people. And though we don't do much inter-program work, it's still a place where all kinds of people come in and out every day.



TV: *What are some of the challenges that you are faced with when trying to foster a community in the neighbourhoods that St. Stephen's serves?*

ES: Many newcomers are having difficulty and [are] living in substandard housing. When they do succeed and get through those first couple of years, when they're learning English, and finally get a job that is close to the skills they come to Canada with — they're moving out of this area. One of the challenges for us, as a city and as a community, is how do we retain the diversity of downtown Toronto?

What was very characteristic for a long time was not just the cultural diversity, but also the economic diversity of downtown Toronto. There had always been people who were well-off, students, new immigrants — it created an area of tremendous economic diversity, and I think this has been shrinking recently.

TV: *So do you believe its better for immigrants who have just arrived in Toronto to be living near the downtown core rather than in more suburban areas?*

ES: I don't think it's just better for immigrants, I think it's better for everybody. I think economic diversity makes a city better — mixed income neighbourhoods are healthier than neighbourhoods that are either very poor and very wealthy. It's well known that concentrations of poverty within cities are also concentrations of other social problems. I think it's healthier for our community, as in our whole city, to have this kind of diversity.

When you talk about community, what exactly do you mean by the word? Community can be very small but it can also be very large. I see the whole city of Toronto as a community. What happens in one part of it affects what happens in another part, and the decisions that are made at the municipal level will affect a community the size of Kensington Market. Kensington is an extremely unusual community — there really is no area in the city quite like it. So there are specific community issues here that only have an impact on us in this area.

TV: *Would it be fair to say that some communities within Toronto are becoming more homogenous and isolated?*

ES: I think we're certainly shifting away from diverse communities. Isolated? I don't know, I don't have the answer to that, but I'd say a lot of suburban neighbourhoods would say they're isolated for reasons like lack of transportation. There are many people who live in places like Jane and Finch [in North York] and Malvern [in Scarborough] who would never go outside of those areas. In our new site in North York, we've met some newcomers who have been here for more than a year who have never been downtown.

So there is that isolation — we're a very big city and people do live in their own neighbourhoods. While they may cross neighbourhoods to get to work, there is an isolation in the sense that those neighbourhoods are essentially foreign countries.

CO-OP CULTURE

By Betina Alonso



CLAIRE SERINGHAUS

A Brief History of U of T Co-ops

Students flock to campus co-operative residences looking for community involvement, friends, and cheap rent. Co-op housing, both on campus and in the surrounding area, is abundant. Most co-op residences are affiliated with the organization Campus Co-op — with the exception of Stephenson House, a co-op residence maintained by Victoria College.

Four U of T theology students founded Campus Co-op in 1936. Rochdale, the first co-operative residence, was built at 63 St. George Street and initially housed twelve men. The residents lived on the second and third floors of the house, while the Victoria College principal's office was located on the first.

Campus Co-op quickly expanded with the demand for cheap housing during the Great Depression, soon boasting five houses and 101 members. Co-op housing was made available to women in 1942, with the opening of the women's-only Webb House.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the organization was in decline, prompting the hiring of a Maintenance Property Coordinator. The residences were also in a state of disrepair. The federal government stepped in and subsidized half of the rehabilitation costs, allowing them to undergo extensive renovation to meet new fire regulations.

Co-op has an extensive history of community involvement, which includes accepting refugee students during World War II and the Hungarian revolt of 1956. The organization also subsidized costs for students who were volunteering abroad.

Currently, Campus Co-op accommodates about 300 students in five regional divisions scattered within the downtown area. There is an elected Board of Directors, with representatives for each division. Committees manage Co-op's day-to-day functions and individual houses often hold meetings to discuss living arrangements. Decisions on management, such as raising the rent, are discussed and voted on by the houses.

Stephenson House, the self-governed, self-regulating co-op residence at Victoria College, was founded during the same period, in 1940. Following his wife's instructions, Dr. Frederick Stephenson, an Emmanuel College Professor, housed students in his property. The house was sold to Victoria College under the condition that, if used for any purpose apart from housing students, the college would be responsible for setting aside $35,000 for a co-op residence.

Originally founded as a co-op living space for students with Christian vocations who served 'the public good', community involvement now takes precedence over Christian vocations in Stephenson. Accommodating ten students, the house is still home to a vibrant, involved community. However, its future remains unclear.

For many years, Stephenson House was an independent organization within Victoria College, and rent was reliably low. This year the house was moved from its original location at 63 Charles Street West to a neighbouring building. Students still have their rent subsidized, though they now have to fill out a separate application for a bursary. It is currently under the administration of the Victoria Residence Coordinator and priority is given to Victoria College students who are seeking a room in the house.

The Co-op Experience

Most residents speak highly of their co-op experiences, citing the democratic administration, the friends that they have met, and the opportunities for engagement it has afforded them.

Saman Rejali, a third-year student at U of T and current resident of Stephenson House, says her experience with co-op has been positive, particularly because of the co-op's reputation for accommodating residents who are highly involved in the community.

"Having smart, motivated people around you is really a great benefit of the house. I've learned so much in the past months from the other house members that I really wouldn't have been able to learn under any other circumstances. Because they're motivated to study, work, and basically put their full energy on the commitments they take on, it also influences me to try to reach my full potential," she explains.

Lindsay Denise, an OCAD student at Campus Co-op, praises the hall dinners, where she is able to socialize and meet fellow co-opers. "The food is a lot better than other places I'd visited, where friends of mine would basically have fast food as their meal plan program." Since Co-op employs full-time cooks, "you get home cooked meals that are pretty nutritious," she says.

Jenny Jin Hee Lee lived in Campus Co-op for a year. Among her favourite things about co-op were "talking to housemates at wee hours of the night just because I happened upon them, when I went to the kitchen to get a drink of water at 4 a.m." She describes the atmosphere with her roommates as very casual.

"People generously share things at whims, but everything is done fairly, and any big decisions are made through democratic meetings, wherein votes of the house members are counted."

"You just set the rules for the house and basically go from there," says Emily Horn, another current resident of Campus Co-op. "If you live in a house where everyone wants to party, there's lots of opportunity to take advantage. And if you live in a house where everyone likes to cook, you can hold some delicious potlucks. We do that at my place." Since there are no dons, Emily adds, students set the rules.

"I think that the co-operative business model for housing, or any industry, provides its members with a ton of benefits," argues Lindsay. "I experienced very practical learning and built up a vast amount of experience that I would never have accumulated in school, such as policy writing, conflict resolution, event planning, community development, and business skills."

Campus Co-op's concern for community involvement, as well as collaboration between members, still exists today. "There's an opportunity to develop almost any kind of skills you want when you live in a co-op, because you can initiate projects that benefit the members — maybe it's painting a mural, or gardening, or a newsletter," says Lindsay.

Make It Your Own

The state of the housing that is available at co-op residences varies, and because of most co-ops' autonomy, their condition largely depends on the residents themselves. The only exception is Stephenson House, where custodians clean the common areas.

"The living conditions in my place now were initially kind of gross," admits Emily. "The houses [of Campus Co-op] themselves are often quite nice, but the gross factor depends on who was, or is, living in them."

Lindsay had similar experiences: "The previous members who lived in the house I moved into left it in really bad shape. There was garbage piled to the ceiling in our kitchen, I couldn't believe how inconsiderate others could be."

Luckily for both of them, the issue was swiftly resolved. "I ended up giving the whole floor of the house I [lived] on a really good clean, and my roommates have been really neat and respectful. I think you can really set a precedent by setting a good example in a co-op house." In Lindsay's case, all housemates agreed to pitch in and do a general cleanup.

In Jenny's experience, houses "were roomy but old and creaky," and there were problems in the communal areas. "There was broken or torn furniture here and there, flickering overhead lights, old bathtubs, that sort of thing.

"The rooms were very large though, and I actually had a bathroom attached to my own bedroom, so I had it good."

Lindsay temporarily moved out of co-op in 2007. "The housemates I was living with weren't as interested in collective housing as I was, and therefore weren't as respectful of doing chores or keeping quiet hours, or just generally being respectful of each other." She moved back in 2008.

"Once I moved out, I learned that all of the same conflicts and costs exist when you rent from a private landlord, but outside of co-op there isn't a framework to deal with problems. Campus Co-op has organizational structures you can use to work through problems and conflicts, and staff that can help you navigate through them."

A SHORT HIS

Channelling Bill

Having authored a field guide to the universe, 2003's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson figured writing a book about a rectory in a quiet English village — his own home — would be a snap: "Here was a book I could do in carpet slippers."

Not so much, as it would turn out. As he explains in his newest effort, *At Home: A Short History of Private Life*, "Houses are amazingly complex repositories. What I found, to my great surprise, is that whatever happens in the world — whatever is discovered or created or bitterly fought over — eventually ends up, in one way or another, in your house. [...] Houses aren't refuges from history. They are where history ends up."

Here's just one room and what Bryson manages to say about it.

The heart of many a home: the kitchen.

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We forget about this because it's thrown with such abandon into the processed foods we eat — and, on average, we consume sixty times too much of it — but **SALT** 1 is actually essential to human health. It's one of those things that the human body can't produce for itself, and without it, our cells shut down. It's also "a hugely strategic resource," according to Bryson. Consider that for a single military campaign, Henry VIII had 25,000 oxen slaughtered and salted. That's a lot of salt. Meeting this demand required some heavy-duty travel. "In the Middle Ages caravans of as many as 40,000 camels — enough to form a column seventy miles long — conveyed salt across the Sahara from Timbuktu to the lively markets of the Mediterranean."

PEPPER 2 also drove men to the ends of the earth. The spice trade sparked the great age of exploration, in part, because the plants on which spices grew were just so darn picky. *Piper nigrum*, more commonly known as pepper, was originally limited to the Malabar Coast of southwestern India. Only nine islands had precisely the right volcanic soils to support *Myristica fragrans*, the tree that bears both nutmeg and mace — that's nine islands of the entire 16,000-island Indonesian archipelago. Cloves are the dried flower bud of an equally fastidious type of myrtle tree that deigned to grow in only six islets 200 miles to the north of the mace. It was like discovering the needle in a haystack. It's little wonder, then, that upon getting his hands on two of the Spice Islands, James I called himself "King of England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Polowy, and Puloroon." Hungry for a share of the profits (and given London valued nutmeg and mace for as much as 60,000 times their price in the Far East, who wouldn't want a share?) eighty British merchants banded together to form the British East India Company.

The desire to find a faster route to the east also drove explorers west. They didn't find what they were looking for, but it did alter the world map as well as what's on our dinner plate. Upon landing in the Caribbean, Columbus and his crew came across natives using two crops totally new to the Europeans: tobacco and **CORN** 3. On the basis of corn alone, we can tell that the Mesoamericans were incredibly inventive. Corn doesn't grow in the wild. It's entirely dependent on humans for survival. That's because corn has always been intended as a crop: it's the world's first genetically engineered food. To this day, no one is really sure how the Mesoamericans did it, or why. More amazing still, they developed

TORY OF THE KITCHEN

Bryson, **JADE COLBERT** investigates the rich history behind the most basic items found in our kitchens

a new ecosystem to go with the crop, creating grain fields from arid scrub. "They had to be created from scratch by people who had never seen such a thing before. It was like someone in a desert imagining lawns."

When Columbus brought aboard the maize from Cuba, he began what has become known as the Columbian Exchange: a great transfer of foods and materials between the Old and New Worlds. Local cuisine was never the same again. "Imagine Italian food without tomatoes, Greek food without eggplant, Thai and Indonesian foods without peanut sauce, curries without chilies, hamburgers without French fries or ketchup, African food without cassava."

The locavore's nightmare didn't reach its height, however, until new advances in food storage made it economical to ship food over large distances. "In January 1859, much of America followed eagerly as a ship laden with 300,000 juicy oranges raced under full sail from Puerto Rico to New England to show that it could be done. By the time it arrived, however, more than two-thirds of the cargo had rotted to a fragrant mush." Between 1810 and 1820, Bryan Donkin perfected **CANS** 4 for preserving foodstuffs, though they were almost too effective: made from wrought iron, Donkin's were almost impossible to open, especially given that the two-wheel can opener wasn't invented until 1925. The real shift, however, came with **REFRIGERATION** 5, which in its earliest form simply meant packing food with a lot of ice: Chicago alone held 250,000 tons for railway refrigeration, but this boosted its credentials as a transportation hub. These advances in food preservation might seem small, but they permanently altered the agricultural economies of entire countries, and even continents: "Kansas wheat, Argentinean beef, New Zealand lamb, and other foodstuffs from around the world began to turn up on dinner tables thousands of miles away."

When it came to modern conveniences, inventing the light bulb was just half the battle. How easy it is to forget that houses weren't wired, ready, and waiting, to allow for the flick of a switch. At least two other inventors contemporaneous with Edison had produced similar inventions as his, but where Edison excelled was in creating the infrastructure to make electricity practical. Edison teamed with people like J.P. Morgan to wire a section of Wall Street, and lighted other high-profile places: La Scala opera house in Milan, for example, or the dining room at the House of Commons in London. For the purposes of our kitchen, however, he also employed a team to design how electricity would work in the home, foreseeing the need for everything from lamp stands to switches. It wasn't necessarily intuitive. Case in point: "No one thought of **PLUGS** 6 and sockets, so any electrical appliances had to be wired directly into the system. When sockets did finally come in, around the turn of the century, they were available only as part of overhead light fittings, which meant having to stand on a chair or stepladder to plug in any early appliance."

When the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago displayed a model electric kitchen, the **OVEN** 7 on display (which took an hour to preheat) would look strange to us today. "The knobs to regulate the heat were just above the floor level. To modern eyes, these new electric stoves looked odd because they were built of wood, generally oak, lined with zinc or some other protective material. White porcelain models didn't come in until the 1920s — and they were considered very odd when they did. Many people thought they looked as if they should be in a hospital or a factory, not in a private home."

Today, baking is practically a science — like chemistry class with an oven — but **MEASURING** 8 ingredients is also a relatively new phenomenon. Prior to 1845, cookbook instructions would call for "some flour" or "enough milk." That all changed when a starving poet named Eliza Acton decided to try her hand at something more commercial with *Modern Cookery for Private Families*. "It was the first book to give exact measurements and cooking times, and it became the work on which all cookbooks since have been, almost unwittingly, modeled."

A century and a half after Columbus landed in Cuba, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary of 1660 that he had tried a new hot beverage, one that he referred to as "a China drink." By that time, most Britishers had adjusted to another novel concoction, though only just: coava, cahve, cauphe, café — it hadn't even been clear what to call the stuff until 1650, until they settled on **COFFEE** 9. It too was considered foreign: it took a Sicilian, working as a servant for an Englishman, to open London's first café in 1652. Were we to taste coffee as it was served back then, we might consider it outlandish as well. A consequence of how coffee was taxed, British coffee houses would brew it in large batches, store it cold, then reheat it for serving. But the taste wasn't the point. "People went to coffeehouses to meet people of shared interests, gossip, read the latest journals and newspapers — a brand-new word and concept in the 1660s — and exchange information." One coffeehouse, Lloyd's, became what we know today as the Lloyd's of London insurance market. Coffeehouse culture quickly became an entrenched part of London's political and economic life.

It wasn't long, however, before the China drink had taken over, and everyone in England drank their weight in **TEA** 10. "Between 1699 and 1721, tea imports increased almost a hundredfold, from 13,000 pounds to 1.2 million pounds, then quadrupled again in the thirty years to 1750." The English loved their tea, but it posed a number of problems for them, especially in the colonies. By 1770, the East India Company wasn't doing so hot: it was overproducing tea leaves — perishable, mind you — to the point that it had stockpiled 17 million pounds of it. When the British government repealed the Townshend duties in America, they decided to help the company out by keeping the tea tax and giving the merchants a virtual monopoly. For some reason, people in Boston were none to pleased about this, so they dressed up as Mohawks, boarded the British ships, and threw a year's worth of tea into the harbour. If that weren't enough, the British were also having tea troubles on the other side of the world. "By 1800, tea was embedded in the British psyche as the national beverage, and imports were running at 23 million pounds a year. Virtually all that tea came from China. This caused a large and chronic trade imbalance." To make up for it, the English got into the opium trade. The problem was, even after turning a good many Chinese people into opium addicts and every year selling almost 5 million pounds of it to China, that still wasn't enough to cover the English tea tab. Finally recognizing a lost battle, the East India Company decided to start producing tea for itself in the colony instead of buying from China. How could this possibly go wrong?

"Looking around my house, I was startled and somewhat appalled to realize how little I knew about the domestic world around me. [...] Suddenly the house seemed a place of mystery." This has been a look at your kitchen paraphrased from Bryson. For a look at the rest of your rooms, we point you toward **THE BOOK** 11.



photo by **DAVID PIKE**

HOME GROWN ART

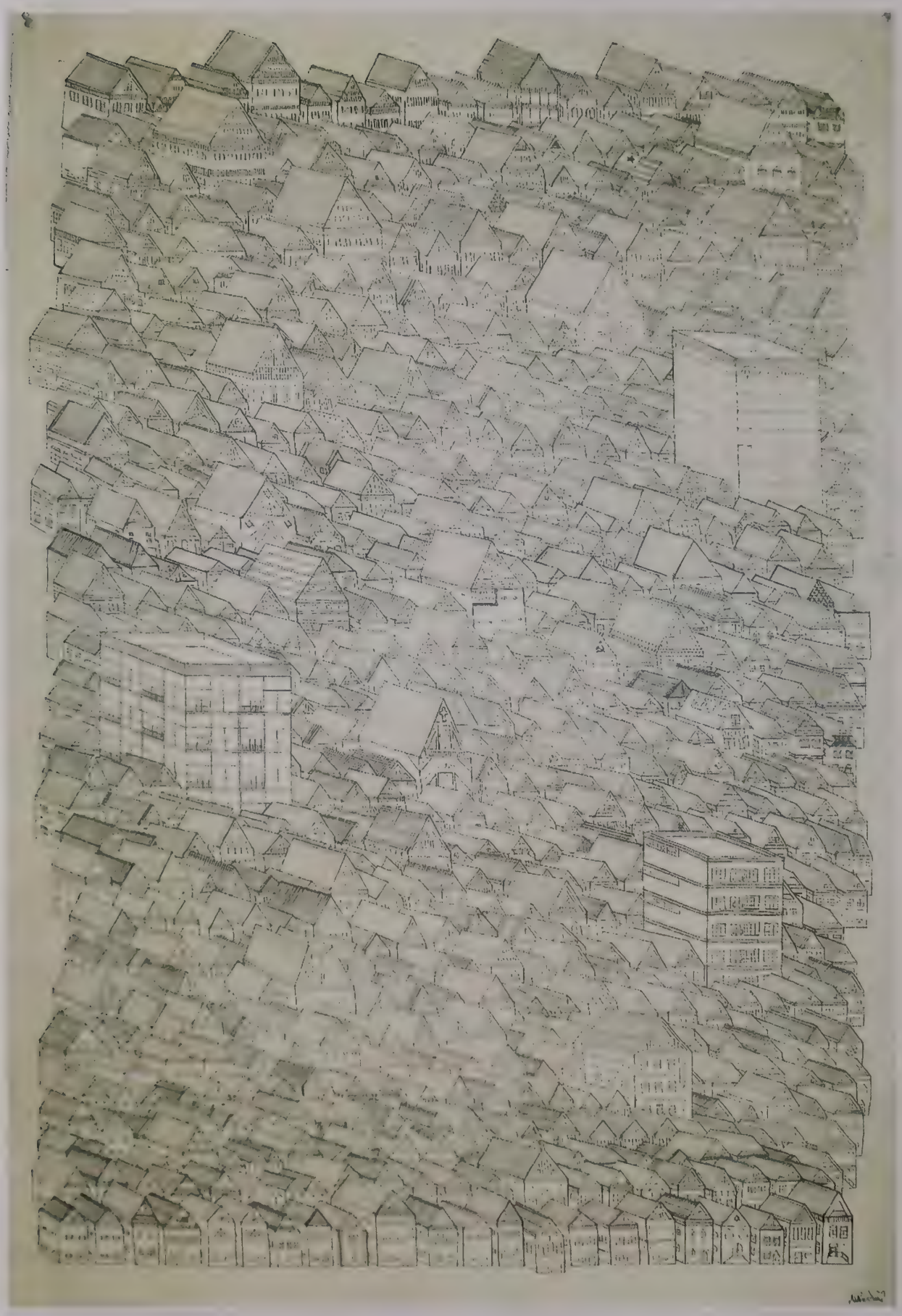
Suburban Scene
By: Michael Labate

Angled, heavy houses slant the sedan-laden street,
transcending brevity. Bored
mailboxes brace for bevelling breezes.
So the place looks earthly, local humans plant trees.
Autumn stretches the bronchial
crop of arms stiff, spits one last skeletal peach.

Air I release tints the lucid scene
nostalgic as a Holga dream. These homes
assembled with intent to outlast even me.



First One In
By: Deanna Henderson



They grow up fast
By: Mike Badour

Packing/Unpacking
By Julia L. Robins

In the room, a warm glow is projected onto the walls. The shadows have become few, are becoming fewer with every hour as each one is packed tightly into a box. I am crawling through the process; inspecting each object before it is mummified in newspaper and buried in a cardboard tomb.

Spurred by monotony, my mind begins to wander. Now I'm sixteen: a year of perpetual anger; fits of screaming at my mother in kitchen. *Two more years!* I would threaten, empowered by ensuing freedom. I survived countless battles fortified by the thought of a tenth storey apartment in a part of town I couldn't yet place — living a life of perfect defiance.

Now, two years later, I am free to go.

I am pulling each book off my shelf and placing them one by one into the box. I stop to examine one of the tattered jackets and recall how it came to me: six o'clock, sitting at the kitchen table, consumed by schoolwork. My father would arrive home with a surprise; likely a dusty old record. An Obscure Classical Masterpiece that he had procured for a dollar. It would find a home among many like it in the stacks, becoming a necessity only to the structural make-up of the collection. This was usually the case, but on this occasion, he was building *my* collection. I had squealed with delight over the frayed pages, unconscious of the dust they would gather. I place the book neatly on top of the others, and, taking one last gaze into the box, I notice the collection is littered with tattered jackets.

I stand up, slowly, and stretch. Now for the walls. Tack by tack, I remove each photograph. There are snapshots of my high school friends: sitting in parks, cars, restaurants; sprawled across my bedroom floor. We were never bored (we were always bored). I pull the remaining tack, seal the container and survey my work:

With nothing left standing in the way of the lamplight, each imperfection is illuminated. I look at the boxes. I wish I could unpack it all.

Where everybody knows your name...



ARIEL LEWIS embarks on a journey that takes her from one end of the city to the other, to investigate why so many people call the pub their second home.

DAVID PIKE

Cheers, The Regal Beagle, Moe's Tavern, Rovers Return Inn: anyone who recognizes any of these names will know that the pub has served an iconic function in the primetime sitcom. It's not simply an after-work hangout, but a thriving community all on its own. We've seen our favourite television characters form lifelong friendships, get married, and make major life revelations, all from the barstools of these second homes. In fact, did we ever see Sam's apartment or meet Norm's wife? The answer is rarely, if ever, because there was no need to; the Cheers bar was where the love, and beer, was brewing. But does such a mythical place exist in real life?

Toronto is a city populated by 2.5 million people. Its many districts and divisions make the city the cultural mosaic it is, but they can also have an isolating effect. Social hubs that bring a community together are essential.

I set out to see if there are places in Toronto where everybody knows your name and are always glad you came.

The names in the descriptions below have been changed by request, largely because the people interviewed did not want their wives, husbands, or 85-year-old mothers knowing what they were up to before they came home from work.

The Artful Dodger

12 Isabella St.

"Like a day at the beach in Britain, eh Ron?"

Happy to finally have company, a lone man at the bar greets his friend who's just arrived from work. Ron chuckles as he quibbles with his companion over which seat is his. At 4:30 in the afternoon the pub is nearly empty, and available seats are abundant — but this holds no bearing to either of them.

Ron, originally from Yorkshire, has been coming to The Artful Dodger since 1985, not long after he moved to Toronto. "You come to get drunk," he laughs. After a pause he adds, "But also to talk to your friends — about soccer, or banking, or anything. Every weekend we've got a soccer pool. I've got friends who I met here years ago." Ron and his friend sit in front of the television, their eyes glued to the tennis match. But for the occasional comment regarding tennis' inferiority to soccer, the two men sit in silence and sip their pints.

Until a few years ago, The Artful Dodger was a hub for Toronto's British population, but the cozy pub has recently opened its taps to a host of diverse demographics. "I serve anyone from two years old to eighty years old," says the barmaid, who's worked here for the past ten years. With an empty bar to serve, she joins the two men sitting by the television. "It's quiet now, but come evening we get loads of different people in. About eighty per cent of those people are regulars, and I've gotten to know twenty per cent of them quite well. It's a real family atmosphere we've got going on. I've seen people who've fallen in love and gotten married… and gotten divorced."

Sure enough, by 6:30 the seats are filled, fireplaces are lit, and a cheerful banter runs across the rooms, bringing together the separated tables of people. A large crowd has gathered around the bar, but no eyes or ears are paying attention to the television behind it. At the centre is Ron, who is a few empty glasses into the evening and is significantly cheerier. Indeed, the place is filled with people of all ages: students who have finished class, two older women enjoying some wine, and a family that has come for Dodger's classic dinner — bangers and mash. The three-year-old boy who sits with them is by far the most popular patron in the house — attracting visitors and acquaintances from each table. Fittingly, his name is Oliver.

Konrad Lounge

2902 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

Ramone was once a track and field star. During his career, he won the Boston Marathon and is one of Canada's all-time great track and field athletes. He's got a plaque hanging in the Konrad Lounge to prove it. Now he sits next to the plaque with a host of other comfortably worn locals that have collected in the corner of the bar.

He sneezes loudly.

"Gesundheit!" says the waitress as she comes around the bar and pats him on the back. "You're supposed to sneeze into your sleeve, you goof," she adds in a maternal tone. The waitress, Eila, was a regular at the bar for fifteen years before she started working here three years ago. "We've got a lot of regulars because we've got a mutual respect with our customers. We take care of each other. We've taken care of funerals if someone here loses someone. We're a tight-knit group here." At the end of her shift, Eila joins the group she's just been serving.

Don't be fooled by its name. The Konrad Lounge is more a mix of an old lodge house and a sports bar than it is a lounge. From its elegantly tiled walls hang the usual commercial posters alongside a large moose's head. The music jumps back and forth between top forty hits and polka music, and the customers that pass through only add to the blend. The regular patrons that come in every day are mostly non-workers and retirees, but as the night progresses, the regulars that sit hunched and planted in their seats are joined by hipsters, businessmen, and an array of offbeat characters. After sitting there for a few hours, it can start to feel like something out of a Billy Joel song.

"Let's call it a zoo but with semi-tamed animals," Pauline, another waitress, describes.

"And that makes you the zoo keeper?" interjects Ramone.

"Yeah, but now I think I need an electrical prod," she replies, with a loud, fervent laugh.

"I've worked at a lot of bars, a few in the financial district where they're all pretentious... I won't say whats. But this one is special because of the relationships. There are the quirks. The regulars think they rule the roost and can do no wrong." With a wide grin she shifts her glance to the group huddled in the corner. "That's disputable. But this neighborhood calls for raw and brutal honesty. These people, they're fun, they curse, they swear, they're belligerent, but at least they're real, and because of that I get to be just like they are."

Hot Pot Café

1336 Danforth Ave.

Through the back doors of a seemingly generic Moroccan restaurant is a vivacious café. The walls are painted a calming beige and the couches, lined with satin, are abundant in pillows. The floor is covered with hookahs while light, aromatic smoke, and Middle Eastern music fills the air. There is a low muttering of conversation in the room — primarily spoken in Arabic — as each couch is filled, to the cushion, with people. A massive silk tent is strung at the very back of the room.

Stepping into the Hot Pot Café is like stepping into another land.

On the one side of the café sits a group of women, diligently studying and working on laptops in the corner. On the other side, a massive board game of more than ten people carries on for over two hours. Scattered between these two polar opposites are small groups of friends, couples, and a gathering of middle-aged men who sit at the very back under the tent, silently smoking their hookahs and sipping traditional Moroccan mint tea while reading the news.

Located in the heart the Danforth, the Hot Pot Café is a social core for residents who want to experience something different, and for those who want to experience something a little closer to home. "Many of our customers come from Egypt, Somalia, Arabia," says the waitress. Born in Palestine, she has worked here for just over a year. During her shift she flits from table to table, greeting customers with friendly hellos, sitting down to chat with a few of them, and even taking a pause to enjoy a puff from a hookah.

Abdul, a regular customer for the past two years, has not only become good friends with the owner, but has also helped set up the layout of the restaurant, and praises the café for the unique cultural experience it provides in the community.

"The place is great for building relationships — business, friendship, anything. It attracts a lot of people from a lot of different cultures, and a lot of different languages. You get to exchange new ideas and learn new things. As soon as I come in I'm saying 'hi,' 'hi' to most of the people in here. It's like a home here."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ▶▶▶



Diana Danaila
Dovercourt-Wallace-Emerson
Writer



Patrick McGuire
Queen Street West
Editor of *The Wa*

Going Greek

JOE HOWELL is not a frat dude. But during the summer, he learned about the value of brotherhood and the intellectual origins of fraternities while living at the "Helta Skelta Delta" frat house.

Hell is other people. I should know; since leaving home, I'd been living with a gaggle of them. After a stint in residence at Vic, I moved into a student co-op and spent years having to co-exist in painfully close quarters with ten others.

So, when the university's administration announced it was shutting down said co-op, I was nearly relieved. It was finally time to get my own little place, and start living blissfully uncooperatively.

I had a pretty domestic scene in my head. I would paint the walls a soothing pastel blue; I'd have a cozy breakfast nook, where I could stretch out the paper and read it in my underwear; the dishes would pile up in the sink without anyone saying a word. I'd have a tiny balcony where I'd go to smoke and think, or drink, depending on my whim. The landlord would be kind-hearted, with a love of home repair, and would summarily fix leaky faucets or chase out spiders as required.

Not only would this miracle place exist in a fashionable yet suitably grungy neighbourhood, but due to my tremendous skill at browsing Craigslist classified ads, rent would be so reasonable I wouldn't need any style-crampin' roomies.

Of course, when I started looking at places in my price range, harsh reality set in, as it is wont to do. If the price was anywhere in the vicinity of reasonable, the domicile was probably in some centipede-infested basement with one window the size of a porthole. The ceilings would be so low even a hobbit would be forced to stoop. The kind-hearted landlord I'd envisioned would end up a beer-bellied drunk who looked like he kicked puppies for fun. The front door would have the telltale dents of getting smashed in during police raids, perhaps during a crackdown on puppy kickers.

I begrudgingly set about adjusting my expectations accordingly. What could I compromise on? Maybe a roommate or two wouldn't be so bad — so long as they didn't mind me breakfast-nooking in my underwear.

Armed with newly lowered standards, I found a bunch of decent options full of seemingly decent people. Time would surely tell what perversions lurked behind their facades of normalcy, but sometimes you've gotta roll the dice. The most promising place was beside an iconic art school, and the three people already living there hadn't left much evidence of nocturnal deviancies lying around. Instead, there were books and magazines scattered about, a *Globe and Mail* on the table near a well-used coffee pot, and a few houseplants that looked like they got watered more than cacti.

My kind of people, for sure. They offered me the spot right then and there, but I had just one place left to check out first.

The ad promised it all: separate pool and ping-pong tables, a massive deck, a giant TV, cheap rent, a location roughly a mini-putt away from The Varsity offices, and laundry on-site.

I know. What was the catch, right?

Of course, the advertisement had neglected to mention a rather crucial caveat: it was an honest-to-goodness frat house. Luckily, I discovered this little detail before viewing the place by looking up the ad-poster on Facebook. In his profile picture, he was sporting a Fu Manchu 'stache, had a brewski in hand, and was wearing a shirt that — in the name of protecting the debauched — I'll pretend said "Helta Skelta Delta."

Now, I wasn't much of a bro. I hadn't played a sport since high school, when I traded basketball for hacky-sack and drug experimentation. I wore skinny jeans, cardigans, and nerd glasses proudly. And I'd managed to make it through five years of undergraduate education without ever so much as attending a frat party. To be truthful, I felt smugly superior and yet a little jealous that I'd never gotten to experience the brotherhood and boyish hijinks that accompanied frats, or at least did in the movies.

I showed up for a tour of the place, still trying to treat this like a bad joke. I was wearing my baggiest clothes and had leafed through a sports section earlier that morning, in case anyone asked questions about what team I rooted for. But when I got to the address I was taken aback. The house was a spectacular Victorian mansion, and I couldn't wrap my head around the fact that students apparently lived here. It looked like it belonged to an eccentric millionaire, or perhaps a deposed king.

I rang the bell, and was ushered inside by the dude in the Facebook photo. After explaining that the frat was looking to fill a few summer vacancies with non-pledge boarders, he started giving me the tour, and I grew more excited with every room. There was a woodworking area, a fish-watching nook with a giant aquarium, a red-lit space that looked vaguely like a darkroom, a pool-shooting den, two kitchens, a beautiful dining room with a live snake in it, and, most intriguingly, a locked secret room.

"You can go pretty much anywhere in the house but here," said my host, who I'll call Taylor. "This one's for pledges only, and you don't want to get caught trying to sneak in there."

At that, I knew I had to live in this house. I hadn't even been shown the promised giant deck yet, let alone my potential room, but as a life-long sucker for cloak and dagger, I needed in on this. When Taylor showed me my room and named a price that was the absolute most I'd be able to afford without signing up for paid medical experiments, I tried to play it coy. I managed to demur for about ten seconds.

On move-in day, the boys immediately surprised me by helping me bring my junk in from the van. In my excitement to sign a lease I had somehow overlooked the fact that, though the room had two big couches in it, there was no bookshelf. I piled my boxes stuffed with musty paperbacks in a corner, where they remained for the next 120 days.

Mostly settled in, I headed to the patio and met more of my new housemates. After only a few minutes of chatting, they invited me out the following night to Maddie Monday. Thoroughly uninitiated, I needed it explained to me that this was the big weekly Greek society mixer, when the various frats and sororities around town met to mingle. I said I'd think about it, and repaid their kindness by posting a snarky comment on the Internet asking if anyone had a lime-green polo I could borrow.

Time passed, and I grew more accustomed to what I started privately referring to as Frat Palace. At any given time of the day or night, hip-hop or classic rock would be blaring out of at least two of the many bedrooms in the place, and there'd likely be the incessant reports of video game machine guns echoing out of another. That was fine — I blasted my hipster bullshit indie rock just as loudly. The boys rarely wore shirts, and while I felt overdressed in my ironic tees, I didn't have the midsection to join in on their displays of chest hair. I started doing sit-ups. Though the washroom on my floor had the decadence of an actual urinal in it, most of the lights were permanently burned out, so I learned to bring a lamp in when I had to shave.

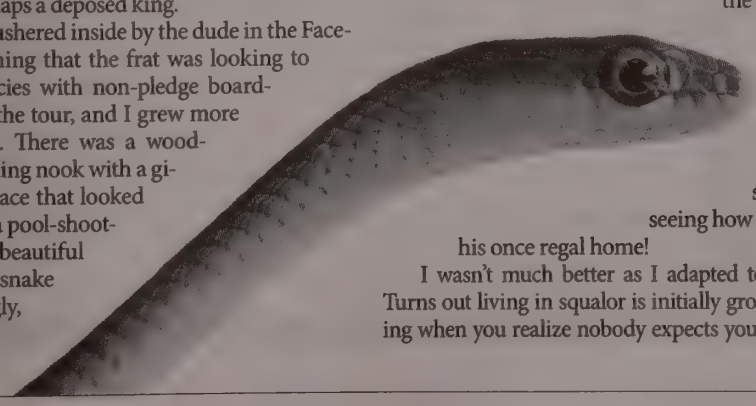
> Between the cat, the snake, the aquarium, and the occasional dog, Frat Palace was a real menagerie, but all animals were well-cared for.

Of course, I also gazed longingly at the door to the secret room, but I had yet to work up the nerve to even try and peer through the keyhole.

I soon developed the slightly paranoid habit of locking my bedroom door just to go downstairs and make breakfast. This was because weeks into my residency, I still had yet to figure out who exactly lived in the mansion and who was just hanging around. The official summer occupancy was sixteen people, but between the couch surfers, friends of roommates, and older brothers returning to hang, I could only figure out who thirteen or fourteen of the official residents were. Upon graduating, and presumably leaving the house, pledges got to keep their keys, and could return whenever they pleased.

And return they did. Years after vacating, brothers retained a loyalty to the house. They'd come by and fix things up sporadically, varnishing the deck, dusting the chandeliers, and planting flowers outside. These returning champions would actually take better care of Frat Palace then its current inhabitants, who mostly left empty cans of Red Bull and beer scattered everywhere.

Sometimes I'd get home, survey the wreckage, and picture the aristocrat who built the place being brought to the twenty-first century by the Ghost of Christmas Future. Imagine the instant seizure he'd have upon seeing how these kids were living in his once regal home!



I wasn't much better as I adapted to the new environment. Turns out living in squalor is initially gross, but ultimately liberating when you realize nobody expects you to vacuum. And while I was mildly irritated at first when it was 6 a.m. and the Black Eyed Peas were still pulsing through the walls of my room, I eventually realized I could party like that too.

One warm summer night I had friends out on the the deck past dawn, and they were blasting synth-heavy remixes. No one in the house said a word, but around 8 in the morning a man from the building next door climbed up the fire escape to tell us to shut up. "You gotta understand, guys," he said. "It's not the volume, it's the goddamn bass."

"Man, that guy sure hates bass," said a brother the next day. "He complains about it, like, once a month."

My new roomies taught me about so much more than adjusting to depravity and annoying the neighbours. Once I found two of them arguing about who was more ripped from working out. Each was adamant that he was the more jacked of the two, so I tried to settle it by suggesting they arm wrestle. They looked at me like I was crazy.

"These guns aren't for actually, you know, doing stuff," said Phil. "These are show muscles."

In time, I also learned a dizzying array of high fives, how to play beer pong — the bros had constructed a table specifically for the pseudo-sport — and about the intellectual origins of fraternities. One night, a pledge earnestly explained to me about how the founding Hellenic selective societies formed as a way for university students to debate politics openly, in an era when such discourse could be dangerous. The Greek alphabet naming scheme was an homage to those ancient fathers of democracy. My interlocutor was really into it.

"During the year, we take our studies very seriously," Dave assured me. "The boys help each other in the subjects they're strongest in. Your priorities are to your schoolwork, and then to the frat."

And you know what? I believed him. I'd find my housemates intently studying U of T course calendars, amidst discarded king cans.

Another surprise was the love the house had for its animals. Between the cat, the snake, the aquarium, and the occasional dog, Frat Palace was a real menagerie, but all animals were well cared-for. Take the fish: the tank was regularly cleaned, and the guys loved to watch the vibrant creatures flit through the eye sockets of the plastic skull resting at the bottom of it. The greatest tragedy in the house's recent memory seemed to be the time that a guest at a party poured an entire can of food into the tank, and many of the fish perished. "It was horrible," someone told me.

I grew closer to my reluctantly adopted family. We'd have long discussions about brotherhood, what it meant to choose going Greek in a city that didn't respect or understand it, and about the volunteer work they did in the community — partly to rehabilitate the negative image of fraternities. They were fiercely loyal to one another, but spoke harshly of the one pledge who kept bringing them shame.

The most recent antic of Raymond involved wandering drunkenly through traffic, shouting into the windows of cars. "And then a fist just comes out of one window and — wham! — hits him right in the eye. He falls over and the car speeds off. He totally didn't learn his lesson."

Near the end of my stay in the frat, I was trying to enjoy a beautiful late-August evening out on the deck when Raymond staggered out, offering repeatedly to fight me. I left, returning hours later to find him passed, out face-up under the few stars visible in the Toronto sky.

The next day, a different brother asked me if I intended to extend my stay into the school year. "You fit right in!" he assured me. I thought of Raymond, and didn't want to stay.

On August 31, I ended up moving out after midnight, thanks to a difficulty in procuring a van. The boys were partying, but were good enough to interrupt a raucous game of beer pong to assist with the heavy lifting. As they helped bungee my couch to the van's roof, they told me I was welcome back any time. I told myself I was done with communal living, and as I sped off I was eager to put some space between me and the majestic flop house.

Fast forward to November, and I'm coming home to my generally clean and quiet little home, above a shop on Queen Street. There are a few dishes in the sink, but they're mine. I put my groceries in the fridge, where I know only I will eat them; I can do so alone and in my underwear, if I please.

When I head into my room to finish writing this, I don't lock the door behind me, and no thudding bass disrupts my concentration. But as I procrastinate on Facebook, wading through the noise of 600 people I barely know in search of some genuine interaction, I think: "God, I miss those bros."

Oh, and as for the secret room? I noticed that someone had left the door ajar back in August, but I didn't even peek in. That's not what loyalty's about.

At Your Funeral

Confronting the inevitable, **ALEX ROSS** explores the rites and rituals of those who make death their day job. Photos by **DAVID PIKE**.







I have often thought about death, especially how we create spaces to celebrate and honour someone at the time of their passing. Funeral homes have always held an intense fascination for me. Our ideal conception of home is a place of comfort, retreat, and rest, in which the problems of the world are left at the door. I have often wondered how we unite two things that, on the surface, appear to be so contradictory.

In a funeral home, we are forced to confront something painful and traumatic. We often describe death as a "final resting place," and we design cemeteries for that purpose. How do we reconcile all of this? Who works to make this happen? Who helps us when we need to celebrate and honour someone's life, and furthermore, why do they help us? I was able to speak with a group of people who are veritable experts on funeral homes, each of whom helped illuminate something that is important, but rarely contemplated.



The Funeral Services Student

The first person I speak to is Bryn Robertson, a student in her first year of the Funeral Services Education Program at Humber College.

I ask Bryn why she chose to pursue funeral services education.

"Actually that's the first question that anyone ever asks me when they find out what I do. I don't really have a structured answer to it. I considered it when I was younger. You see, I used to altar serve at the church my family went to… I would altar serve a lot of funerals, and so I was exposed to it more," she says.

She elaborates: "I considered it for about five or six years, but it's not like other career paths where you can just jump into it. There's an emotional weight to it and I didn't want to put myself under any emotional distress until I knew I could and would want to do this."

Bryn's coursework at Humber includes anatomy and physiology, microbiology, ethical issues in funeral services, legislation, cosmetology (restorative work on the body), and pathology. Funeral services education involves at least a year of courses and another year of interning at a funeral home.

"[Funeral directors] actually started out as carpenters way back when families couldn't afford to do anything with their dead," Bryn says, explaining the origins of the occupation.

"They used to do it as a free service and then the volume got higher, so they started charging and ended up buying out the funeral transportation service. They would go to the funeral home and they would hire a priest, and they started taking care of all of those responsibilities," she explains.

"After a while families started getting exhausted because people would not leave their house. Everyone gets to a point where they need to be with their family and left alone. The carpenter — the funeral director at this point — started offering up his own home for the public and that's how it started."

It's essentially the last place a person will be on the planet before they are put into the ground.

But what about the two concepts of home and death? How are they brought together? And how successful is it?

"I've definitely seen some families who are uncomfortable in that environment," Bryn says. "But I'm sure that people do appreciate the fact that they come and go whenever they want, and they don't have that pressure of keeping family and friends around if they don't want to.

"I'd like to think that [funeral homes] are known as a safe haven. I think people really appreciate that they can go somewhere and, once it's over, they can leave it behind. They can keep their own home a happy place."

Meditating on Impermanence

For a more conceptual exploration of home and death I talk to Dr. Tony Toneatto, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and program director of the Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health Program at U of T.

I ask him about the environment that funeral homes create for families.

"They take that experience outside the usual home, but it's given a home-like atmosphere. It's comfortable — there are chairs and a dedicated room. It looks like home, often, in its final arrangement. It's essentially the last place a person will be on the planet before they are put into the ground," he tells me.

But why are people so terrified of death when it's such a constant in the world?

"I think the reason we're frightened of death and things that are similar to death — you know, threats to ourselves, and other illnesses, old age — all of these signify an ending to our existence," he says. "These are all terrifying to us because they strike at our belief that we're special, that we should go on forever, ideally."

Dr. Toneatto explains that this is why many religions are dedicated to the idea of personal immortality after death, as an attempt to ease our anxieties about the end of our existence. "People in the West often want to be buried rather than burned, so it's like you're still there somehow. The funeral process is one where the person looks very normal, almost like they're sleeping. They're made up, they're put in their best suits. You don't encounter the odours of decay or the look of damage someone may have experienced in the death process."

This is normal because the terror or anxiety of death comes from a natural sense of self-preservation and a desire to continue our projects. Still, dealing with a loved one who has passed away is very painful.

"The people we love are aspects of ourselves. When we say our loved one is dead, we also know [that it's] going to be us one day," says Dr. Toneatto.

So then how should people prepare themselves for such an inevitability?

"One way would be to pierce denial, to see that everything on the planet dies: why should you not? The seasons, autumn, plants die, every insect dies, every animal dies. We kill half the animals on the planet: either to eat or just to expand our civilization," he explains.

"One way is to meditate on impermanence. Nothing exists. Whether its life-form or non-life-form everything breaks down. The nature of things is to change, break down… You are part of nature, you are part of the process of death."

Stages On the Way to Death

Most people like to think of home as a permanent space, and death challenges that. How do you make a space dedicated to dealing with such a painful experience comforting, or even home-like? For this answer, I had to speak with two people who work in the funeral services industry.

Linda Lee and Nathan Johnson are both employees of the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries. Both work for different sub-companies under the umbrella of the MPGC and manage diverse aspects of funeral service. Linda is the funeral operations manager for Mount Pleasant's Visitation Centre and Nathan is a district manager working in family service for Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Toronto Necropolis. Our meeting takes place at Mount Pleasant Cemetery's newly built Visitation Centre, which I notice captures a pleasant, home-like atmosphere without being overwhelming.



I ask Linda about the services offered by the Visitation Centre, and she explains the similarities and differences between a visitation centre and a funeral home.

"It's complicated, because visitation centres are slightly different than funeral homes. Our company does own and operate funeral homes, which provide full services to families, from basic transfer services to elaborate three day visiting services and reception-type funerals," Linda explains.

"The visitation centres are themselves built on cemetery property, which cannot allow bodies to be transferred immediately. We just offer an alternative chapel or alternative venue for the services to take place, but everything goes through the funeral home."

There's a huge emotional aspect, and you have to be sensitive to other people's needs, and make sure that you can't say things like: 'No you can't give your loved one a teddy bear.' You have to make sure you're not denying the family anything.

"On the cemetery side we also deal with privately owned funeral homes, family-run businesses, and other corporations. We have crematorium facilities, we have a chapel where we can receive other funeral homes and their families, to have a service here and go up to the grounds for burial," Nathan adds.

"We offer land for interments, niches for interment of cremated remains, and all under funeral services. Aside from that, we do a lot of outreach. What's really special here at Mount Pleasant is that we are right at the centre of Toronto. We touch on four or five different small communities. So it's a very active park-like cemetery."

Linda walks me through a typical day and explains the different aspects of funeral service such as the 24-hour phone line that can be called if deaths have occurred overnight, executing prearranged funeral services with families if they have them, and having the families meet with funeral directors.

"It's sort of like event planning," she begins. "Any little details like limousines, catering, whatever products we need on the day of the service, and making sure those products are finalized and ready to go."

However, she quickly emphasizes that, while these are basic services, the actual process is more dynamic.

"There is no typical day, every day is different. We may have two or three services lined up for the day, it doesn't mean that someone doesn't walk through the door and say, 'I need to speak to a funeral director now.' So our day is very unpredictable and we need to be able to accommodate whatever comes our way."

"The cemetery is a little more drawn out, it's a relationship that can go on for years and years. A lot of those calls come from outside funeral homes. The immediate urgency isn't always there, though it can be. Often it's just a phone call saying someone has just passed away and 'can I have such-and-such a plot,'" Nathan says.

The fact that there is no such thing as a typical day becomes obvious when I ask Linda and Nathan about the qualities that someone working in the funeral services industry needs to possess.

"They need to have a strong desire to serve a family. Compassion is definitely required, but they need to be empathic. They need to do what it takes for the family — go above and beyond good customer service. Be very detailed, be very organized because you have to do so many things. It's not just meeting families. It's also handling administrative files, doing paper work, and making sure details are followed through," she says.

"Meanwhile, you have to run out the door to go to church to look after a funeral with over 200 people," Nathan says. He characterizes funeral service as a calling and believes that those who do well in it are those really enjoy the work.

This echoes a lot of what Bryn told me in her interview, about how funeral services should be approached.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ▶▶▶

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In fact, even the parking garage was poorly designed. As a cost-cutting measure, parking spots were downsized — meaning that every room in the building was subsequently smaller. Residents would only get a modicum of karmic justice: one of the officers working for the company that developed Rochdale destroyed his car's fender trying to park there.

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Like Habitat 67, Rochdale College was doomed to fail. In the late 1960s, the government began a concerted effort to "eradicate" Yorkville — which by this point was the de facto hippie capital of Canada — of the drug addicts and youth that had taken root there almost a decade earlier. As police presence began to grow in Yorkville, the hippies slowly moved west down Bloor Street to Rochdale, a place already known for its relaxed attitude towards drugs. Soon, Rochdale became a drug haven. Speed became a major problem, with several overdoses reported, and a biker gang called "The Vagabonds" distributing drugs throughout the building.

Rochdale's drug culture proved to be its undoing. By 1973, both locals and politicians were calling for the building to be closed down, and in 1975, they finally succeeded. After dragging the remaining few residents out of the building, police welded the doors shut: a final nail in the gigantic coffin that Rochdale had now become. The building was eventually repurposed as the Senator David A. Croll Apartments, a home for the elderly. It was an ironic end to one of the most interesting educational and residential experiments Toronto had ever seen. The community's legacy persists to this day: cultural groups such as the Theatre Passe Muraille, House of Anansi Press, Coach House, and *This Magazine* all originated, or were developed there.

Rochdale College now exists only in the memory of those who lived there and, as with Habitat 67, as a relic of the experiments in alternative dwelling that punctuated the 1960s.

"This is the contradictory desire in our utopia. We want to live in a small community with which we can identify, and yet we want all the facilities of the city of millions of people. We want to have very intense urban experiences, and yet we want the open space right next to us."
— Moshe Safdie



▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM "EXAMINING TORONTO ARRIVAL CITIES" PAGE 9

Canada was lucky for many decades. Toronto just got lucky with arrival cities because it had a huge base of low-cost housing that was undesirable to the mainstream populace i.e. the Victorian rural-houses. Keep in mind [that] in the early 1970s, Victorian housing was considered disgusting and vulgar among the white middle-class of Canada. So it was left to poor immigrants.

This base of cheap housing was located perfectly for the economic and social interconnection with the larger economy of the city. It had quick transit links already built into it. It was sort of the ideal arrangements for an arrival city already set up. And also the business and citizenship part that was easy to get at least until the mid-'70s. You could easily start a business, even within your own house. The zoning laws were not terribly prohibitive, and you could get away with ignoring them. Citizenship was generally available.

None of those circumstances now exist with the current wave of arrival cities that have popped up during the last twenty years. Those first-generation ones like Chinatown, Little India, and Little Portugal just don't have the capacity left in them, and the property values are beyond the range of the latest wave of immigrants. The latest wave of new arrival city immigrants tend to be on outskirts of Toronto.

Thorncliffe Park is a good example of a working solution. There are others, but it really stands out. There are places like Malton and Jane and Finch that didn't work. A large part is because of few physical connections to the larger city.

TV: *How well do you think Canadian universities accommodate arrival city families?*
DS: The university remains the main target for arrival cities. Much of the capital stored up in any neighbourhood is to get the first Canadian-born generation into university, often at an incredible cost. Certainly, the proportion of people in Canadian universities, specifically Toronto universities, whose parents came from a village somewhere else without a university education is quite high. It is a big target. Could we do better on that? Are our educational funding policies properly oriented towards that? Do we understand that university is so important to first-generation communities? I think Canada's much better than other places but there might be more that could be done.

I think the mistake the government's making is that because neighbourhoods are poor, that that's their nature, without realizing that there are neighbourhoods that are poor because a lot of people pass through them. In fact they're sending a third of their youths into university and into the middle-class and taking new people in from the village at an equivalent rate. That makes these neighbourhoods look like they're poor and government always assumes they're poor. But if you track any one family you'll see they're having a great degree of social mobility and that new poor people are moving in.

There needs to be an understanding that, rather than social work and welfare, what these neighbourhoods often need is help with university, small business formation. Things like this that give social mobility rather than things that relegate poverty.

TV: *Your paper underwent a major redesign last month.* The Globe *is gearing itself to university-educated sons and daughters of immigrants. Is this a good idea for corporations, and how can they be effective?*
DS: I hope so. I think that's a group of people who want to be tied into the institutions of the core of Toronto society and Canadian society. The newspaper I work for is part of that, as are financial institutions, political institutions, and so on.

I think the success or failure of Canada in the next generations will depend on whether the people who are coming through these arrival city neighbourhoods are able to link themselves into the Canadian establishment in the way that previous generations have been able to do.

So, I think it's an acute understanding that a newspaper like this, just like a political party, or a bank, or any business institution of Canada, needs to be helping lift themselves into this up-and-coming generation of new arrivals as we've done in the past, mostly by luck — and as we may have to do in the future through skill and strategy.

TV: *How do you define home?*
DS: [long pause]

TV: *You can collect your thoughts.*
DS: [laughs] I wrestle with that question a lot. I'm not going to be so shallow as to say that home is wherever I lay my hat. I do keep attachments to all the places I've lived before.

On a personal basis, I find it hard not to consider Toronto home. Because it is where I lived the most and I still have a home there. And because my understanding of the world, in many ways, is forged by my understanding in what took place around Toronto during important years there.

But you can have more than one home. I don't think people need to be worried about people who arrive in Canada having a sense of origin related to some place elsewhere. Canada got away for many years with having a sense that Britain was its home.

During the World Wars you could print headlines referring to Britain as home and everyone would know what you were talking about. It took about two or three generations until a generation of Anglo-Canadians didn't instinctively think of Britain as home. I'm far enough in from British immigrants that I've come to live here and this is one of the more alien places in the world. The English are an ethnic group, but despite supposedly being my ancestors, they are often opaque and incomprehensible to me. [laughs]

I think that eventually happens with anyone from anywhere. I think [it's a] larger problem when people's ties to an originating country become their only link to anything. With my chapter on Slotervaart, on the outskirts of Amsterdam, the Moroccan immigrants had every desire to become fully integrated Dutch citizens.

But the physical, infrastructural, and political and bureaucratic barriers meant it was much easier for them to form linkages via satellite to Morocco, which they fled, than it was to form any kind of economic linkages to Amsterdam, which was only a few kilometres away from them.

You have to be very careful not to be putting into place supposedly temporary immigration programs that force people to make linkages back to an originating country more strongly than a place they now live. People have a sense of home when they have networks linking them into it.

You can live in a site for forty years, like the Turks did in Berlin, without considering it home because the place is not allowing you to buy the land under your feet, start a small business, send your kids to university, and so on. All those things were forbidden to the Turks and so of course they weren't able to see Germany as home, in spite of wanting to do so.

Governments telling people to integrate is missing the point that people do integrate culturally if they have the citizenship and the economic and bureaucratic ability to connect themselves physically and economically. I'm convinced culture simply follows after physical and economic conditions.

TV: *How do you think notions of home shift during the migration process?*
DS: The important thing to understand is that the transitional culture in the arrival city is sometimes more intense than the village. The first generation born in the arrival city develops strong connections to their parents' culture of origin; it's not uncommon and it's documented worldwide.

There is a transitional culture for the first few generations where people have a divided sense of where home is. But we don't need to get too pinned down on specifically what home is. If conditions on the ground are favourable to people, then it will become home to them.

TV: *Your book focuses on humanity's imminent and permanent migration from predominately rural to urban. How will this change our perception of home?*
DS: There are ties to the village that people maintain for a very, very long time. In Canada you have a huge number of people who identify with a village somewhere. I know Italians in Canada who, after sixty years, still visit once every two years or something. There are lasting senses that there's a real home elsewhere. It's the natural human quest for authenticity and it does die away after a few generations.

As we become more urbanized, I think the village will become a place that's sort of a repository for romantic connection rather than a place of mere survival. As the rural space becomes more productive and is used more as a place for producing nutrients for the world, then suddenly the life-and-death survival aspect of those places can be replaced with a romantic idea.

Certainly in France, which is completely urbanized now, the romantic attachment to the village is key. Once you're fully urbanized you get a population who gets use of the village as a choice and not out of means to survive and produce agriculture.

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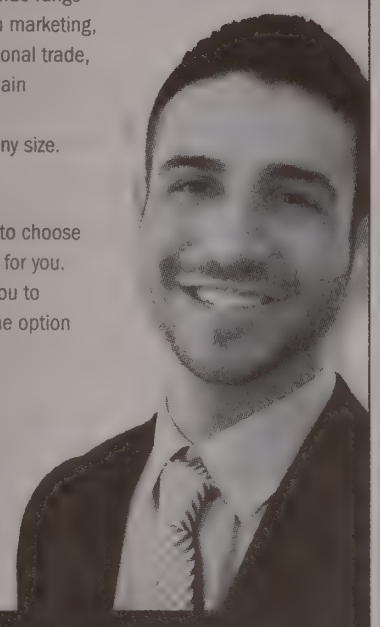
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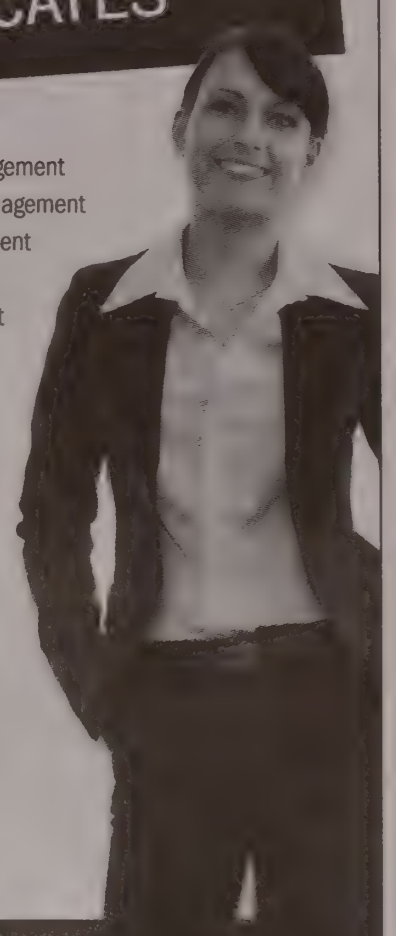
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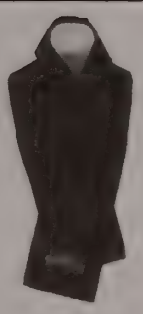
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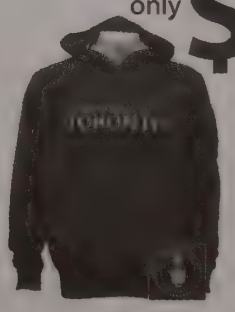
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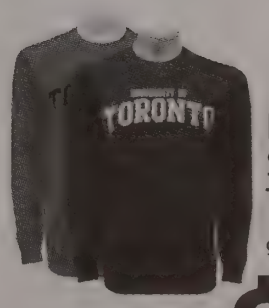


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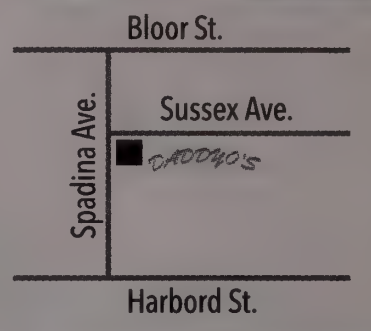
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▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM "WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME..." PAGE 17

Drinks All Around!

From the exotic to the eccentric, Toronto is home to many different pubs and hangouts that people have come to call their own. Though the differences between these three spots were numerous, there were some things that remained constant throughout. In each of the pubs the waiting staff served as a pillar that brought the customers together, the backbone behind the familial atmosphere that was ever-present in all three places. Furthermore, all of the interviewees were quick to describe their spot as a "home" and those who frequented it as "family."

When beginning this project, and for many years watching television, I feared that the heartwarming hangout where one could always find a friend existed only in the fictional world of network television. It soon became clear that this was not the case. When asking for advice on "Cheers-like" bars, almost every person I spoke with was quick to reply, "Check out this place I go to all the time. The people there are really nice." From their responses and the findings above, it seems clear that the welcoming pub, always there with open taps and open arms, is not just a myth originating from a sitcom, but a vital part of the many communities in Toronto.

So if you're alone at home watching Cheers reruns, longing for your own Sam, Diane, Carla, and Woody, just take a stroll down the street to your nearest corner pub. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you find there.

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Varsity Publications is looking for interested candidates from the Scarborough campus to serve as the UTSC representative on the Varsity Board of Directors. We seek motivated candidates who wish to get more involved in the functioning and oversight of Canada's largest student newspaper. In order to be eligible pursuant to our by-laws, you must be a full-time undergraduate student at UTSC.

The nomination period is from Monday, November 8th to Monday, November 22nd at 9 p.m. The by-election will take place on Monday, November 29th.

Whether you're interested in journalism, wish to acquire business experience on campus or just want to get more involved in campus life, this is a great opportunity to learn more about and take an active role in the workings of a widely circulated newspaper.

For more information or to receive a nomination form, please contact Emily Sommers, CEO of the Board of Directors at *ceo@thevarsity.ca*

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▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM "AT YOUR FUNERAL", PAGE 21

"It's not like you're working behind a desk and you're dealing with somebody's car. There's a huge emotional aspect, and you have to be sensitive to other people's needs, and make sure that you can't say things like: 'No you can't give your loved one a teddy bear.' You have to make sure you're not denying the family anything. You've got to give it your all," she says.

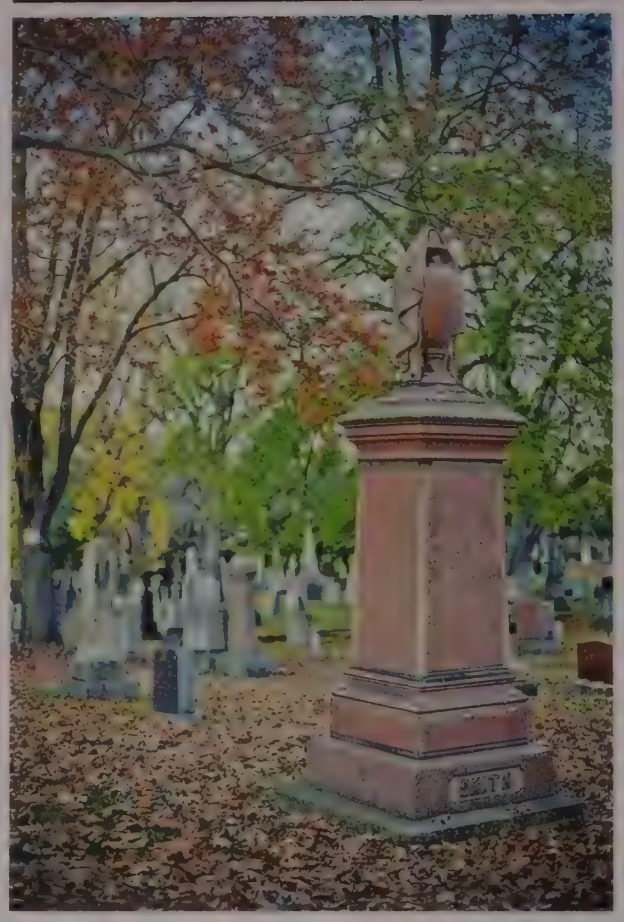
I ask Linda about how Mount Pleasant unites both the funeral and a home-like atmosphere in one setting.

"In this building in particular we've really succeeded in making that atmosphere as home-like as possible, and also extending our hospitality to [families] in a way that [makes] them feel that they're at home. Décor and setting and surroundings, the serenity of the cemetery, the comfort of the furnishings, even the colour schemes used. Whenever the designers made a decision, it was based on our desire to capture the warmth of the facility. It's really the hospitality of the staff. Even if you have a nice building and a nice setting, if your staff isn't hospitable and caring and wanting to make you feel like you're at home here, then it doesn't jell."

"I think another skill of the funeral director," Nathan elaborates, "is answering the families' questions before they ask them. Grief is a very unique experience with everyone, where you're feeling all different types of things. They're perfectly normal and everyone feels them at different times. You may have a conversation with a family that they totally forget even took place… It's grief. It's shock. You need to think for the family. Even during the first call they need to really feel they can trust you, because you're really their backbone for four or five days. You need to look out for them during the whole process."

The design of a cemetery isn't as set as that of a funeral home or visitation centre. In 1876, Mount Pleasant initially surveyed about 20 acres of its land and this has grown substantially. Ponds that were once part of the cemetery have dried up and are now used for grave space. Over time, different sections of the cemetery have evolved to accommodate the needs of people within Toronto, and certain parts naturally reflect different cultural needs.

"In some sections of the cemetery, the majority of the graves are east-facing. A majority of the Orthodox [Christian] families want east-facing graves. It's not specific to them, but then you have a whole section based on the direction of the graves… If you start at the west side of the cemetery and you go this way, you can see how immigration happened in Toronto with the different families that are buried here," he says.



My final question for Linda and Nathan is what advice they have for coping with death, and the challenges that come with working in the funeral services industry.

"I think you just expect the unexpected. You don't know how families are going to react to different situations. They don't carry themselves like they would in a normal part of their day," Nathan advises.

"A lot of it is our support with each other, as funeral directors. We share our challenges. We share whatever we're feeling. We talk it out all the time. But overall you'll find that people in the funeral industry are upbeat, positive, optimistic people with a very good sense of humour," Linda explains.

This has been demonstrated in our interview, where their passion and dedication to what they do has come through. I can see that this is an integral part of how they define themselves to the families they serve. Nathan explains that they let the family dictate the pace, but he feels that part of Mount Pleasant's success lies in the fact that their employees are still able to show some of their personality.

"I think the industry has changed that way. It allows people to be more like themselves. It's just totally natural," Linda says.

"We're very progressive, but we're still quaint, like a small little family. We're just local, here, within Toronto. We have ten cemeteries, three funeral homes, five visitation centres. We have 315 employees in all. We're big enough but just small enough."

I leave Mount Pleasant's Visitation Centre feeling both satisfied and very refreshed. I realize that a funeral home is not contradictory in any sense. It can be a place of retreat, comfort, and rest for a grieving family. Although the experience is painful, there are those with the compassion, dedication, and skill necessary to ease the transition from grief to acceptance. Funeral homes and cemeteries are not so perplexing to me now. I can see that they can indeed be a final place of peaceful rest.





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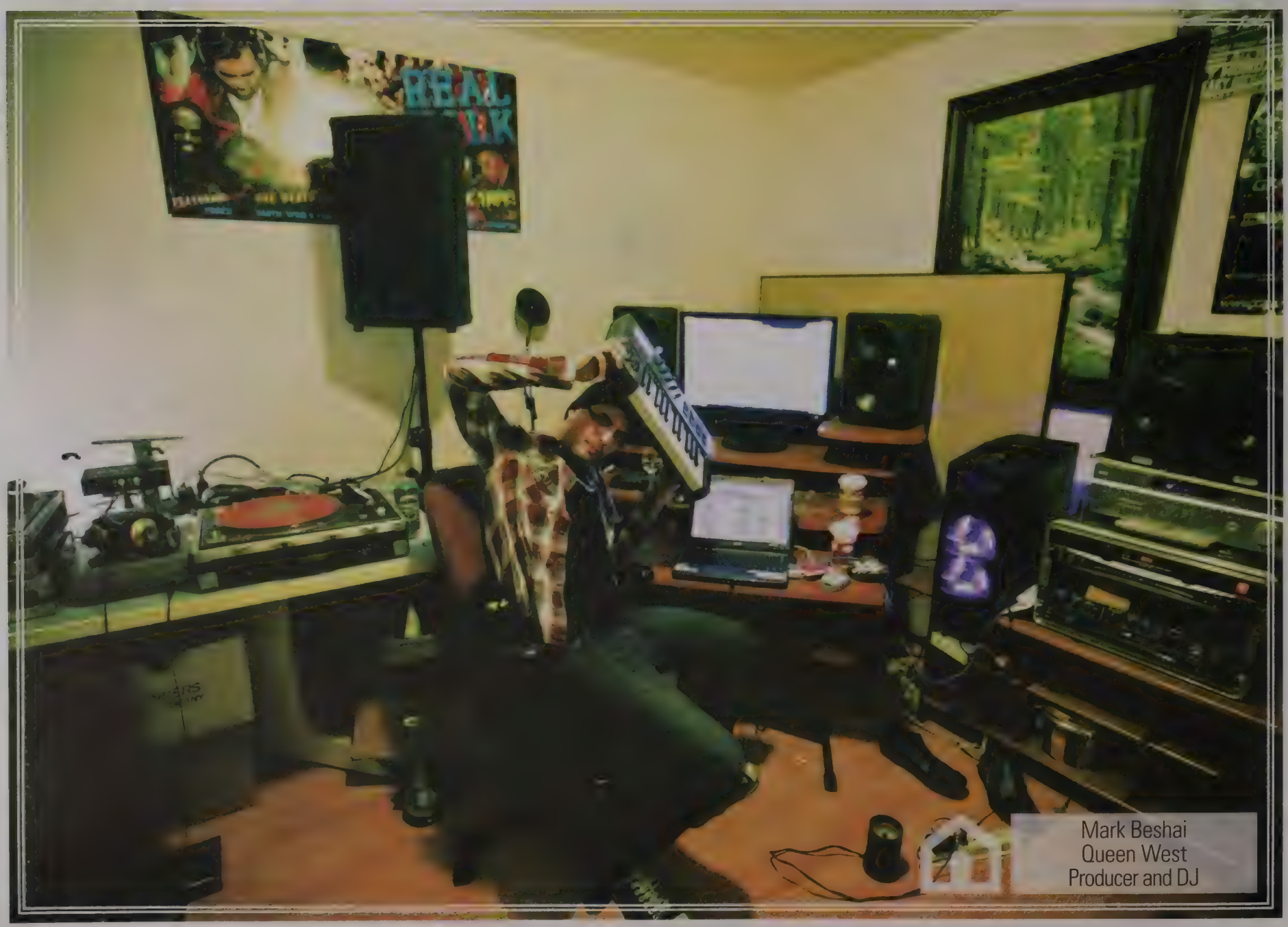
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Kate Morris
Annesley Hall Residence
3rd year student, Don



Mark Beshai
Queen West
Producer and DJ

What was wrong with the Arts and Science plan? p9
Comment

Black holes aren't cosmic vaccuum cleaners p18
Science

Transgender basketball player makes history p21
Sports

THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"With its abundance of galleries, and as the place-to-be for creativity-craving hipsters, Queen Street is a creative outpouring." — Assunta Alegiani **p12**

22 November 2010

THE OTHER F WORD

Toike fosters homophobia

Editor pulls sexist cartoon, keeps "faggot"

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The University of Toronto Engineering Society's humour newspaper, the *Toike Oike*, was pulled from stands last month amidst a sea of complaints.

"We feel that the content written in the *Toike Oike* was grossly inappropriate, and we are taking action to remedy the situation. The Engineering Society has removed all October issues of the *Toike Oike* from newsstands across the University of Toronto St. George Campus, and have removed the offensive images from the online version of the paper," reads the Engineering Society's statement on the matter.

The "offensive images" in question are two stylized photos of an older man and young woman at a dinner party, with captions reading "I don't always drunkenly beat my wife, but when I do, I prefer being whiskey drunk," and "I don't always beat my wife, but when I do, I prefer beating her to within an inch of her life."

"Understandably, everyone is extremely in outrage about this," said Kevin Siu, EngSoc president, "as are we."

A meeting was called soon after the issue hit stands. Navid Nourian, Editor-in-Chief of the *Toike*, said he "almost had to be pulled out of a mid-term."

The Vice-Dean, Undergraduate, for the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, Grant Allen, insisted that the decision to pull the newspaper from the stands and change the online content came from the students. "At that meeting, we had the President of EngSoc and the editor of the *Toike*, and out of that meeting the students, they went and pulled the paper off the shelves."

EngSoc funds the *Toike* — this past year, some $9,764 — and is itself funded by a student levy. With ad revenue low (this year, a projected $1,800) the student levy, directed through EngSoc, is by far the *Toike*'s largest source of income.

"Personally, I'm not a fan of the *Toike*," said Siu. "I don't read it all that much.

"It's a lot of low brow humour, potty humour, inappropriate jokes," said Siu. "I think they strongly believe the purpose of the *Toike* is to provoke a reaction. The culture is, they feel that the more over the line they are, the more of their job that they're doing."

Nourian said that he agreed to pull the paper and change the online content because, with regard to the joke about domestic abuse, "if we could make everyone happy by changing the joke, that's the easiest solution. It's not worthwhile to stubbornly stick it out."

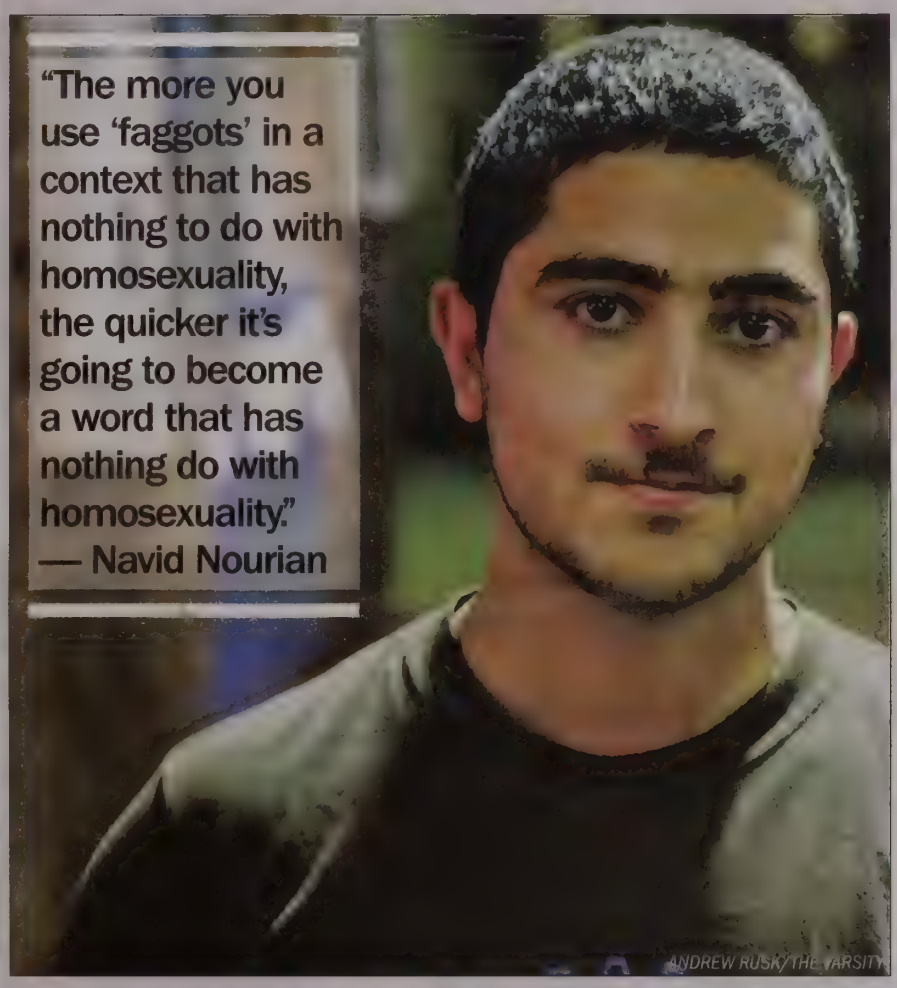
Meanwhile, the issue as published on the *Toike*'s website now, still has content memebers of the U of T community find offensive.

Third-year student Ben Peel sits on the board of LGBTOUT and is active in the queer community. Though he found the whole issue offensive, he wrote to Nourian specifically about an article on the third page of the paper entitled "Faggots! All I see is Faggots!"

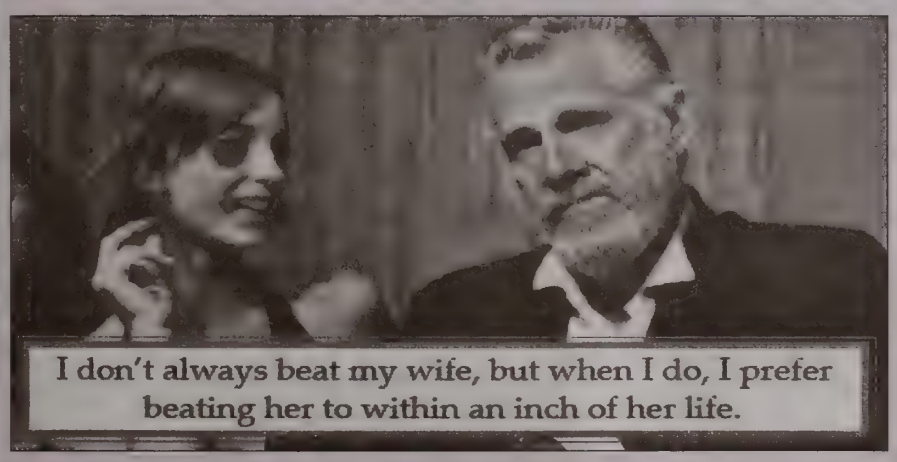
SEE **'TOIKE OIKE'** – PG 3

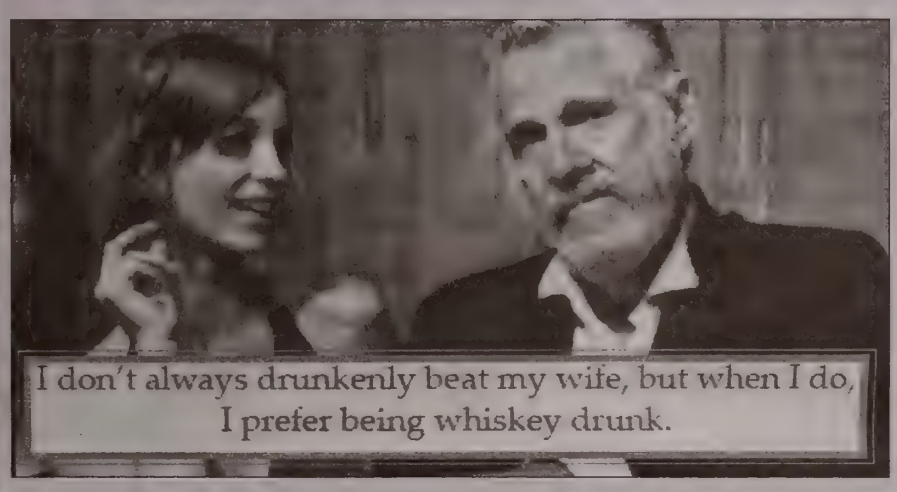
THE TOIKE OIKE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In their October issue, the *Toike Oike* published both a headline reading "Faggots, all I see is faggots," and two cartoons (see below) inferring violence against women. While Editor-in-Chief Navid Nourian pulled the issue from stands, he reaffirms his publication's use of the word 'faggot.'



ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY





CAMPUS SPACE

Student space finds home?

UTSU votes to resituate commons space to 230 College St.

Samya Kullab
VARSITY STAFF

The UTSU board of directors voted last Wednesday to resituate the long-awaited student commons space to 230 College St., the current Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design building, from the original site in Woodworth College.

The option to relocate was put on the table by the university only weeks prior and had UTSU hastening to make a decision. In an effort to gauge the views of the student community, a consultation was held on Thursday November 11 to solicit feedback. Student reactions remained largely congenial to the shift.

The meeting of 30–40 people was comprised of mostly club and levy group representatives, interested students, and board of director members.

During the consultation, concerns arose over the need for a referendum to properly acquire student consent.

"I'm skeptical that students at the time were voting with the expectation that it would be at Woodsworth," said Steve Masse, former WCSA president and political science and economics student.

Though the referendum question posed in 2007 had no mention of location, campaigning during this time stressed the need for student space at the north end of campus.

According to UTSU President Adam Awad, the university is pushing for the reallocation bid to be addressed in the January cycle of the coming Governing Council meeting.

"Missing a cycle is one more year we have to wait," he said.

UTSU held a referendum in November 2007 where a majority of students voted in favor of collecting a levy for the construction of a student commons. The outcome of the levy meant students would agree to shoulder two-thirds of a mortgage fund that would span 23 years. The union sought a five-dollar levy per semester, from each full-time undergraduate student, until the opening of the commons. After this point the levy would rise to $14.25 until the mortgage was fully paid off.

The university agreed to bear one-third of the entire cost. The cost of operating and maintaining the commons will fall on students once construction is complete.

In 2008, the Governing Council allocated space, known as Site 12, on Devonshire Road for the construction of the student commons along with the Centre for High Performance Sport. In April 2010, the university concluded the project was "indefinite" due to financial constraints.

According to the UTSU executive, the construction for both has been delayed since 2008 due to financial setbacks on the part of the university. In an effort to get the ball rolling on the project, 230 College St. was offered as a replacement, as the Faculty of Architecture will be moving to 1 Spadina Rd.

SEE **'COMMONS'** – PG 4

CONVOCATION

U of T awards honourary degree

Dorothy Schoichet receives recognitions for business leadership and volunteerism

Robin Buller
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

On Wednesday, November 10, the University of Toronto awarded Toronto native Dorothy Shoichet an honourary doctor of laws degree in recognition of her admirable business leadership and tireless volunteer efforts, particularly in the areas of education and the arts.

"I am thrilled that my university has chosen to honour Dorothy Shoichet with an honourary degree," expressed Dr. Charles Tator, professor of neuroscience at the University of Toronto, founder of the ThinkFirst Foundation, and friend of the Shoichet family, in his introductory speech. "She is a living metaphor for the finest qualities that the University of Toronto strives to instil in its graduates; a quest for lifelong education; giving your best effort for public service; and fostering a love for the arts and culture."

Shoichet earned a political science and economics degree from the University of Illinois before entering the business world as co-manager of the Oxford Picture Frame Company. She helped develop the company into Canada's largest picture frame moulding manufacturer while simultaneously raising three children. At the same time, she advanced her own formal education in art and art history, writing, and opera.

In an interview with The Varsity, Dorothy Shoichet's passion for education and the arts shone through.



Shoichet speaks at U of T convocation on November 10. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Shoichet provided inspirational words of wisdom for recent graduates, current students, and greater Torontonians alike. "I believe that peace will come to the world only through education and the arts because the arts is a civilizing part of life and education is a rounding part of life," she explained, with her three-year-old grandson's laughter echoing in the background. "It opens up your mind!"

This credence is certainly evident in how Shoichet lives her life. Her volunteer efforts have included serving as director of Dare Arts, a program that aims to provide at-risk children with access to the arts. Additionally, she has served as both Vice President of the World ORT Union and President of the Canadian Women's ORT, one of the world's largest non-governmental education and training organizations. As well, Shoichet has always been an avid supporter of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Toronto Arts Council, the Art Gallery of Ontario, University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Baycrest, among many others.

Shoichet is also a steadfast voluntary figure in the Toronto Jewish community, promoting the arts locally and in Israel; she is a supporter of the Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, Habimah Theatre, and the Muki Baum Organization for Children with handicaps, and served as volunteer chancellor at the Koffler Centre of the Arts for ten years.

SEE **'HON. DEGREE'** – PG 4



CONVOCATION

PhD grad rejects diploma

Masrour Zoghi protests corporatization, cites Munk School



Masrour Zoghi rejected his Ph.D to protest campus corporatization.
DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/THE VARSITY

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

PhD grad Masrour Zoghi graduated in a t-shirt at his November 12 convocation.

The mathematics doctorate was visiting from Vancouver and had originally planned on rejecting his diploma.

Speaking with The Varsity en route to his convocation ceremony, Zoghi explained that he was upset with what he refers to as an increasing corporatization of the University of Toronto.

His main issue of concern was the new Munk School of Global Affairs, launched after a $35 million donation from Peter Munk and his wife. Munk is Chairman of Barrick Gold, a mining company registered in Canada.

It was a sentence in the April press release, detailing the donation that upset Zoghi: "The Munk School posi-

SEE 'ZOGHI' – PG 6

'TOIKE OIKE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"I guess I was just really appalled," said Peel, who was disappointed that, though the paper had changed the domestic abuse-related content, it hadn't felt it necessary to change this.

"I didn't really think there was anything wrong with it," said a *Toike* staff member. "I don't think there's anything racist [sic] against gay people in it. It's just the word faggot. Yes it is an offensive word, but in the context there's nothing saying: 'hey, we hate gay people.'"

Nourian maintained there was nothing wrong with their usage, arguing that "this is not normal conversation, it is a crazy homeless man raving, an exaggerated caricature, and to bring the point through we made him yell a lot of words that offensive people do yell. We're in no way saying that the word 'faggots' is okay for normal conversation, we're in no way saying it is acceptable, but I would argue that had we put the word 'bastard' there instead of faggots, then, should we have pulled that, because there's plenty of people who might find the word 'bastards' offensive."

Peel finds this argument dubious. "He acts as if the word was used by a crazy person on the street, as if it was [this person] writing it and not he and his editorial team, but it's being expressed by them, not by someone else."

Nourian asserts that "every swear word has a history, some maybe are more fresh than others, but when you use them out of context, they shouldn't be tied to their connotations."

In this context, he insisted, there is nothing offensive about the word.

"If you only read the headline, I'm sure you would be struck by it, but [...] any great joke you hear starts off with something offensive and then pulls it back from the brink."

Nourian also argued that printing the word could have positive ramifications. "The more you use 'faggots' in a context that has nothing to do with homosexuality, the quicker it's going to become a word that has nothing do with homosexuality," he said, pointing out that "hundreds of years ago, it used to be a term that meant the burden of the elderly. Then it started getting used in other contexts, and now no one remembers the fact that faggots was originally used as an insult against the elderly."

Peel finds this argument unacceptable as well. He pointed out, in an e-mail correspondence with Nourian, that the word had originated from the practice of burning queer people with the wood left over from burning witches. Its meaning today, believes Peel, in any conventional use is derogatory, and specifically targeted at homosexuals.

"I find it kind of ridiculous. The idea that this is being reclaimed, especially using it in a negative instance like 'you're a faggot,'" said Peel.

Nourian justified his use of the word further, arguing that "I can only say this personally, in thinking that we live in a world where maybe homosexuality is accepted, and sometimes on the assumption that for the most part it's not something that people hate any more. I don't want to say it's not an issue, but basically I like to pretend I live in a world that's better than it is right now, and in that world, we can make fun of these things, and maybe by making fun of them we can actually make them something that we can get over."

To this point, Peel claims, "either he's making that as an excuse, or he's completely unaware of the world around him," pointing to the recent wave of suicides in queer youth among other proof that homosexuality is not yet, in fact, unequivocally accepted.

However, Peel maintained, "even if we were living in a world without homophobia today it doesn't mean the word doesn't have homophobic roots," arguing that Nourian's argumentation "just doesn't make sense, it's not logical."

Siu says EngSoc has "taken a pretty hands-off approach to the *Toike*."

According to Siu, the battle is also internal. "Navid [Nourian] says, 'if we don't put in the easy, racist, homophobic jokes, we won't have writers.'

"I agree that the *Toike* is offensive, but it's hard to go to the *Toike* and say 'this is unacceptable,'" said Siu, who claimed that "looking forward," EngSoc is looking at different solutions to the problem.

"There are a lot of ideas flying around here," he said, including cutting funding to the *Toike* and encouraging students from outside the current staff to be elected to the masthead. Ultimately, though, Siu maintains that "if change is going to last, it has to be from within [...] if there is going to be a change, it has to be sustainable, and so it has to be grassroots."

Nourian stated that "The number one rule for humour publications of any kind is that if you don't like it, don't read it. And the only time we ever drop that rule is if the writing is in fact hate speech. We're not implying any sort of hate towards homosexuals, we're not even mentioning them, other than the word faggots, twice. And if you don't like that article, then I guess the *Toike Oike* isn't your brand of humour, so put it down."

In fact, both Siu and EngSoc's VP External, Mauricio Curbelo, cited the *Toike*'s shrinking popularity as proof that "they are not reflective of the rest of engineering culture. The proof is in the fact that people don't pick this paper up."

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What is your favourite part about end of term?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Sandro

3rd Year Philosophy and Music,
"Having time to smoke A LOT of weed and listen to Kanye West."



Chantal

1st Year Economics,
Watching the original Power Rangers movie, repeatedly."



Kevin

1st Year Economics,
"I get to go back to Vancouver."



Anda

4th Year Psychology,
"December is budget review time and I hope to see that Stephen Harper will unfreeze foreign aid."



Olesia

3rd Year International Relations,
"I'm looking forward to wearing this jacket in the colder weather."



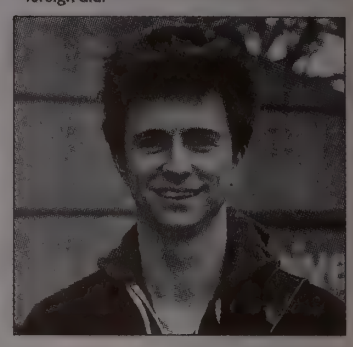
Tanja

3rd Year Art History,
"Exams and the stress are over."



Wyatt

3rd Year East Asian Studies,
"When the prof buys the class candy cane icecream!"



Nick

1st Year Undeclared,
"No more work."

'COMMONS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

According to UTSU President Adam Awad, 230 College St. has a number of advantages over Site 12. These include nearly 10,000 square feet more space, half the cost of original 30 million dollars and the proximity to transit spots. The majority of the expenses for the new location would center on meeting security and environmental standards.

The timeline for the new location means students could be nestling in to a new student commons in 18 months.

"[Site 12] is not a non-option but one is more indefinite and nebulous than the other," said Awad.

"First off, I'm happy that it's finally gotten the go-ahead. Students need the space, no matter what," said ASSU President Gavin Nowlan.

He later expressed a concerns over students having to shoulder construction costs in the original Site 12 deal. "The official ASSU position, the position that we have had for 30 years is that we don't believe student money should be spent on bricks and mortar for building. The university should be putting up the money for space."

"This project started decades and decades ago," said UTSU Executive Director Angela Regnier, who provided context for the decision during the consultation.

Campaigns for student commons have been ongoing at U of T since the 1940s when a student community recuperating from the toils of WWII endorsed a common space all students could share.

With files from André Bovee-Begun

'HON. DEGREE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

"The arts are so important because it triggers our imagination," said Shoichet. She went on to describe the importance of the emotions triggered when one hears a beautiful piece of music or sees an exquisite theatre production. According to her, it is experiences such as these that round out a person's life.

Shoichet's activism stretches further. "I'm a feminist, I think I was since the moment I was born," she stated with pride.

She described the iconic 1978 Virginia Slims magazine advertisement which featured a beautiful woman smoking a long cigarette and the slogan, "You've Come a Long Way, Baby." She expressed that, while there have been improvements in the status of women over her lifetime, there are still large steps to be taken. According to Shoichet, "We haven't come such a long way, baby."

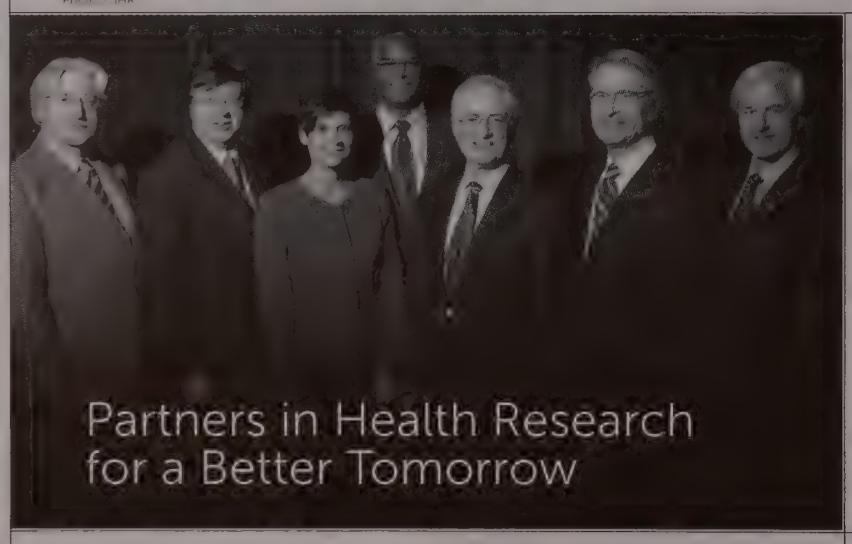
Shoichet voiced her support for the feminist movement and her concern that it has often been misinterpreted. "It's only that women should be treated equal to men. Not better, not worse, simply equal."

In Dr. Tator's address, he distinguished Shoichet as an excellent choice for an honorary degree, and one whose achievements will thrill and inspire the university's graduating class. He said that the stated mission of the Koffler Centre is also her mantra: "to bring people together through arts and culture to create a more civil and global society."

Shoichet's commitment to the fundamentals of education and the arts is both uplifting and moving. "The two together can revolutionize the world. I believe that passionately," she said, "We haven't seen it happen yet, but there are small pockets developing, and it's pretty exciting to see."

From left to right: Dr. Anthony Phillips, Scientific Director CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction; Dr. Malcolm King, Scientific Director CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health; Dr Élise Roy, Chair in Drug Addiction Research and Director of Addiction Services, Faculty of Medicine and Science, Université de Sherbrooke; Dr Patrice Roy, Executive Director, Rx&D Health Research Foundation; Dr Joseph Beitchman, Clinical Director, Child, Youth and Family Program, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Dr Yves Morin, Chair, Rx&D Health Research Foundation; Russell Williams, President, Rx&D

Photo: CIHR



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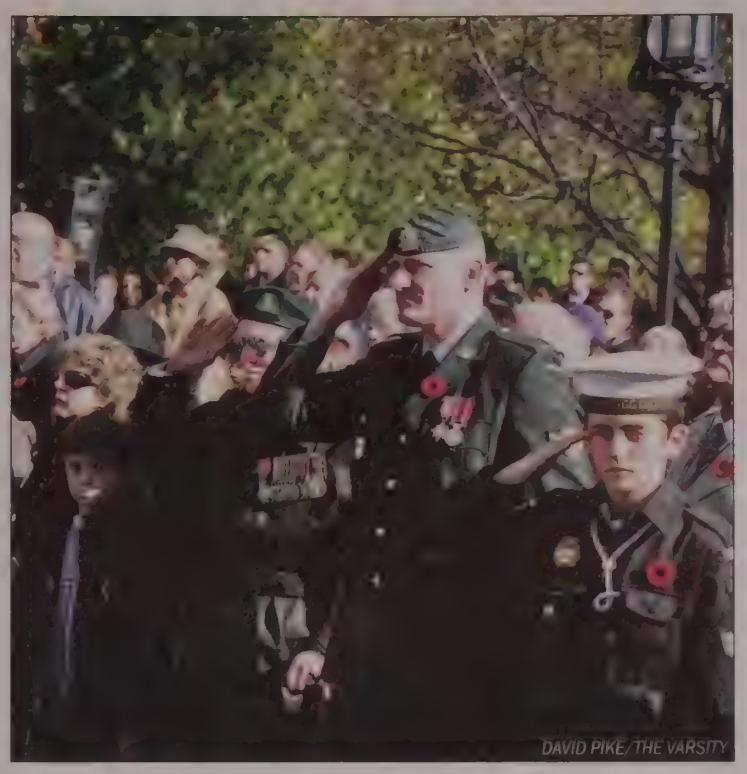
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REMEMBRANCE

U of T remembers

Remembrance Day commemorates fallen soldiers in two world wars

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF


DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

It was a sunny, blue-skied morning as people gathered around Soldier's Tower for the annual Remembrance Day service on Thursday, Nov. 11. Located on the western end of Hart House, the ceremony began at 10 a.m. with a Carillon Prelude and the chime sounds emanated from Soldier's Tower as children, students, alumni, veterans, and people passing by began to form a crowd.

The subtle melodic Carillon tune came to an end with the wailing sounds of the bagpipes. The man carrying the instrument lead a group of soldiers, young cadets, a reverend, a rabbi, a guru, and wreath carriers out of the tower. The bagpipes came to an end, and Malcolm McGrath, Chair of the Soldiers' Tower Committee, walked to the podium and welcomed everyone for coming. "This tower was made to honour our fallen comrades [...] We will remember the wars and never forget."

Soldier's Tower was originally built between the years of 1923–1924 to commemorate the 628 soldiers who died in World War I, but also stood to commemorate the 557 fallen soldiers of World War II.

Rev. Canon W. Ebert Hobbs, then took to the stage and introduced the bands and other speakers. "One of the many reasons we are here today is that we remember," he said. "We remember the soldiers that volunteered to stand between us and forces of destruction." He then pointed to a wall of stone engravings attached to the tower, and said: "Over one thousand University of Toronto students, alumni, and staff are engraved on this tower. We remember them because we are a people of hope. Let us sing the Naval Hymn." A small, five person band began to play. The trumpeters, along with the trombone and tuba players, played the melody, and the crowd sung along.

Following the hymn, was a short poem read by Rev. Mr. Michael L. Knox. The poem was called "High Flight," written by Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee, who was killed December 11, 1941. After Knox quietly walked off stage, a choir began to sing "In Flander's Fields." The crowd subtly sung and hummed along.

University of Toronto Scarborough student Barbara Forbes then went on stage, telling a brief story of Major Fred Tilston (1906-1992) a soldier from WWII, and his accomplishments. Forbes told the crowd that within the middle of a fire fight, Tilston ran back and forth between a battle and an army camp six times to get more ammunition and grenades for his soldiers. Finally, when Tilston got shot, he refused to get medical attention until he explained the battle plan to his soldiers. Major Fred Tilston was awarded the Victoria Cross for his achievement in battle.

Rabbi Aaron Katchen then took the stage, and read a Hebrew poem to the crowd. Following the rabbi, was Guru Fatha Singh Khalsa, who offered a simple prayer: "Love to all, peace to all, life to all." The guru then translated the prayer in French, German, Russian, Mandarin, and Persian.

The band then began to play the melody for the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past." The crowd subsequently sang along. By this point in the ceremony, the crowd had doubled in size from when the ceremony had initially begun.

After the hymn, the ceremony proceeded to the laying of the wreaths. There was a wreath for the University, the University of Toronto Alumni Association, the University of Toronto Faculty Association, the Students, the Old Comrades, the U of T Contingent Canadian Officers' Training Corps, the Royal Regiment of Canada, the Toronto Scottish Regiment, the Families, the Colleges, the Children, and finally, for the Faculties, Staff, Campus Organizations, Fraternities, and Sororities. The wreaths were placed in front of the stone engravings of the names of the fallen soldiers who were affiliated with U of T. Rev. Ebert Hobbs then provided a prayer of remembrance. "Let us pray," he said. "[God] we ask you to bless these wreaths."

With the words "Amen," the reverend finished his speech, and shortly after the sound of the conclusive "Last Post" trumpet song began. Trumpeter Brindley Venables played as all the soldiers at the ceremony raised their hands to their heads in salute.

Upon the trumpets' final note, a moment of silence ensued. Nobody in the crowd spoke, and though the birds chirped and the bagpipes played, the effect of the silence was never lost. Finally, the silence came to an end with the shrill notes played by Pipe Major John Wakefield. The ceremony came to a close with the choir singing the "Reveille," "We Will Remember Them," "God Save the Queen," and finally, "O Canada."

The crowd began to slowly disperse, many going to take a closer look at the wreaths, and others going to the reception at the Great Hall, where coffee and pastries were served.



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CORRECTIONS

In the November 9 issue of The Varsity, in the article "Trinity event raises funds for soldiers' families," Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie was described as the chief of transportation for the Canadian Forces. In fact, Lieutenant-General Leslie is the chief of transformation for the Canadian forces. The Varsity regrets the error.

In the November 9 issue of The Varsity, in the article "A&S Dean pledges collaboration," it was incorrectly stated that CUPE 3902 had authored a letter read during the Faculty Council's monthly meeting. In fact, the letter was published on behalf of individuals representing a diverse array of organizations under the banner of the University of Toronto Employee Associations and Unions. The Varsity regrets the error.

'ZOGHI' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

tions U of T as a leading player in a broad range of subjects from water to cyber security."

Zoghi alleges Barrick Gold is "known for water disputes around its gold mines" and mentioned an ongoing lawsuit between the company and the authors of Noir Canada, a book examining mining-related corruption in Africa.

"[Munk] comes over and donates a whole bunch of money to the university to set up an institute whose mandate is to study things that are relevant to that corporation," he alleged. "You really don't have to be a genius to figure out there's something kind of not quite kosher about this."

Zoghi said he feels that the company is "crushing academic freedom" and "making it difficult for academics to question the actions of the company involved," mentioning a similar donation from Goldcorp to Simon Fraser University.

"'We just want this money.' That seems to be the attitude universities in Canada seem to be adopting. We don't necessarily blame the universities themselves. We know universities are in a tough spot right now," said Zoghi.

"Let's say you don't care about people dying and getting poisoned in Tanzania. Should you not care about your own academic freedom either? Is that also up for sale?"

Zoghi intended to hand his diploma to U of T President David Naylor, but he was not in attendance. Instead, the ceremony included a handshake from the university's chancellor and graduate dean; students then received their degree and posed for a photo outside the chambers before reentering.

Because graduates approached the stage in alphabetical order, Zoghi was the last in the Doctor of Philosophy section. While the whole section was being applauded, Zoghi shook hands and stood still on the stage for a few seconds, facing the crowd and shaking his head.

He then removed his graduation gown and walked offstage in a red t-shirt among laughter and hushed confusion from the audience. The shirt, with one-inch yellow print, read "U of T Inc" on the front and "Univ for SALE" on the back. Audience members were heard asking each other what happened and what the shirt read.

Zoghi then declined the envelope containing his degree and was photographed for the graduation composite.

"The photo was taken without the gown, but I don't know if my T-shirt appeared in the photo," said Zoghi.

The graduate also took issue with conditions on Munk's donation.

The donor agreement, anonymously obtained by The Varsity, reveals that Munk's donation comes in yearly increments. Although the agreement clearly states that academic freedom is to be unhealed, the university must report to Munk every year.

A recently published book co-written by Toronto Star columnist Linda McQuaig states that Munk's $66 million donation will only be $19 million or less after tax deductions.

Zoghi said he objects to the university "accepting donations that come with so much strings attached that it really resembles more a purchase than a donation. It appears to be that Mr. Munk is literally buying a piece of the university."

Zoghi is adamant that he will only take back his degree if university administration starts consulting with the wider community.

"I don't want to be associated with a university whose integrity is compromised this much," he said. "I will make every effort not to use this degree for a job."

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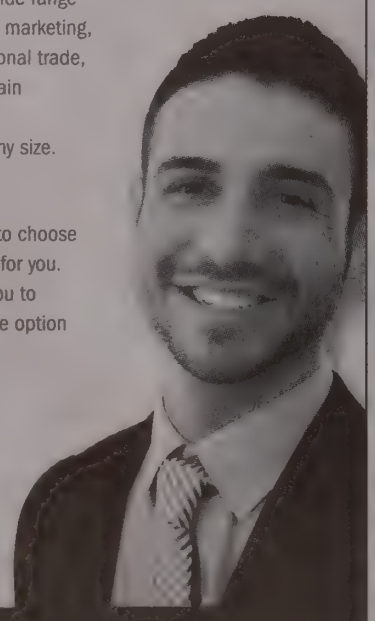
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University of Toronto Students' Union
Local 98 of the Canadian Federation of Students

NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting is open to all full-time undergraduate students enrolled at University of Toronto St. George and University of Toronto Mississauga.

Thursday December 2, 2010
Registration begins at 5:30pm
Meeting begins at 6:00pm
Multi-Faith Centre, KP108

(Bring your T-Card for identification)

Agenda
Annual General Meeting of the University of Toronto Students' Union
Thursday, December 2, 2010 • 6:00pm • Multi-Faith Centre rm. 108, St. George Campus

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that the agenda for the December 2, 2010 U.T.S.U. Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

3. WELCOMING REMARKS & GUEST SPEAKER- LESLIE JERMYN

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that the minutes from the 2009-2010 U.T.S.U. Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

6. RECEIPT OF THE 2009-2010 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that the audited financial statements for 2009-2010 be received as presented.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2010-2011

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that Yale and Partners be appointed as the external auditors for the University of Toronto Students' Union for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2011;

Be it further resolved that the Executive Committee undertake a review of auditors to be reported at the next Annual General Meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF NAME CHANGE (THROUGHOUT BYLAWS)

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that any references to the "Students' Administrative Council of the University of Toronto" or "SAC" be repealed and replaced with "U.T.S.U." in constitution, bylaws, letters patent, and/or legal documents of the organisation.

Agenda
Annual General Meeting of the University of Toronto Students' Union
Thursday, December 2, 2010 • 6:00pm • Multi-Faith Centre rm. 108, St. George Campus

9. APPROVAL OF BYLAW AMENDMENT – COMPONENT (THROUGHOUT BYLAWS)

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that "component" be struck in the Bylaws.

10. APPROVAL OF BYLAW AMENDMENT – CONSECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS (THROUGHOUT BYLAWS)

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that "joint board meeting(s)" be struck and replaced with "consecutive board meeting(s)".

11. APPROVAL OF BYLAW AMENDMENT – COMMISSIONS (THROUGHOUT BYLAWS)

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that "External Commission" be struck and replaced with "Community Action Commission" and,

Be it further resolved that "Equity Commission" be struck and replaced with "Social Justice and Equity Commission" and,

Be it further resolved that "University Affairs Commission" be struck and replaced with "Academic and Student Rights Commission."

12. APPROVAL OF U.T.S.U. BYLAW CHANGES

MOTION Moved: A. Awad Seconded: A. Adenmosun

Be it resolved that the University of Toronto Students' Union bylaw changes be accepted as presented and recommended by the U.T.S.U. Board of Directors.

- Mission Statement
- By-Law III – Meetings
- By-Law VI – Election of Board of Directors
- By-Law VIII – Responsibilities of Executive Committee Members
- Bylaw X – Removal from Office
- Bylaw XI – Committees

Summary of Financial Position

The preliminary, unaudited financial information indicates that the Union realised a small surplus for the 2010 fiscal year and continues to show a positive working capital position and positive liquidity.

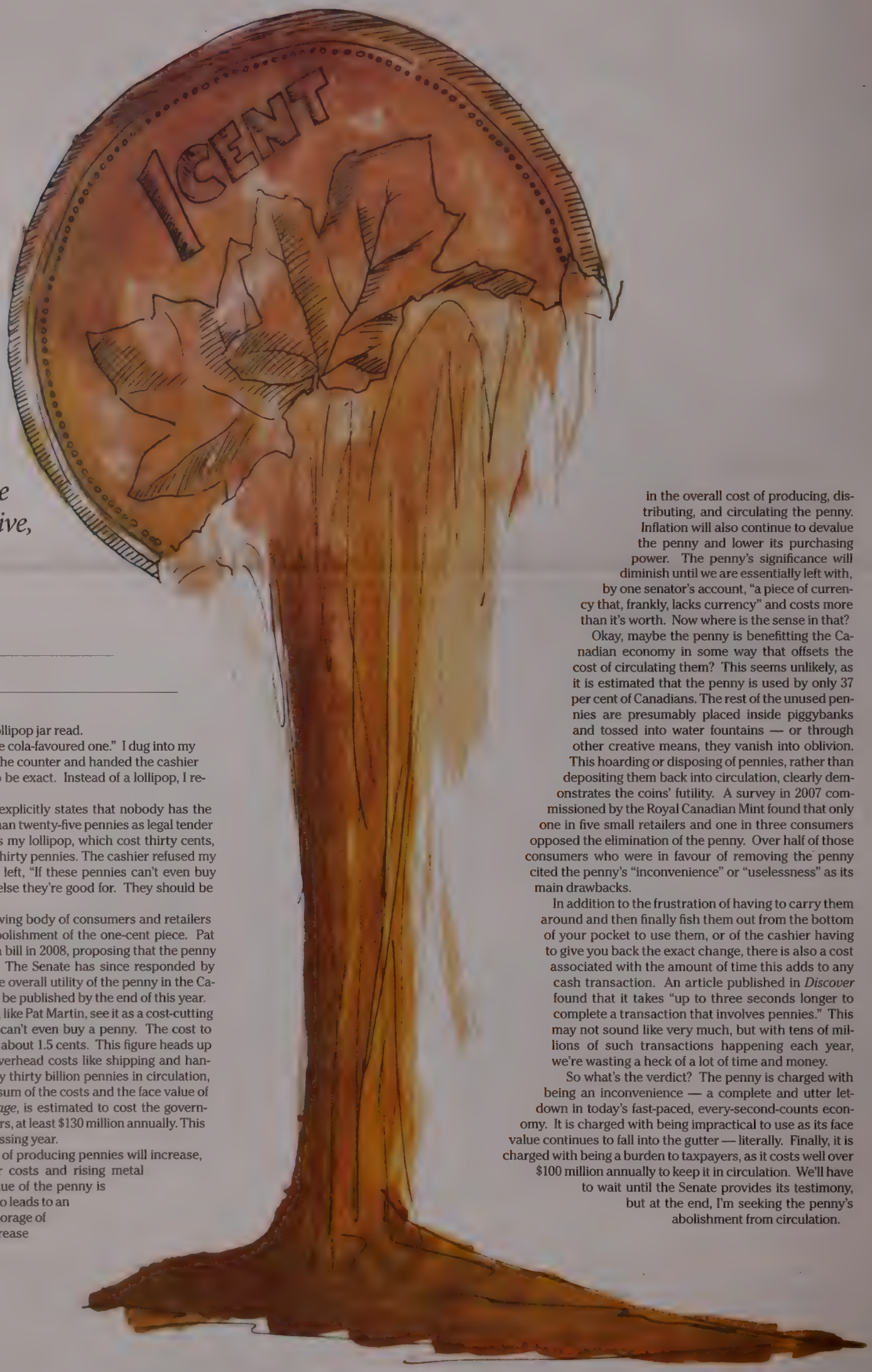
The audited financial statements will be presented to the members at the Meeting, pursuant to the requirement of the Canada Corporations Act.

For information on the Annual General Meeting agenda and the financial summary of the Union, please visit our website at www.utsu.ca. Proxy forms are now available for pick-up at the U.T.S.U. Offices at 12 Hart House Circle (St. George office) and Rm. 115 of the UTM Student Centre (UTMSU office, 3359 Mississauga Rd. N).

Questions can be directed to Rolli Adenmosun, Vice-President Internal and Services (vpinternal@utsu.ca), or Adam Awad, President (president@utsu.ca).

* Please note that "University of Toronto Students' Union" and/or "U.T.S.U." refers to the Students' Administrative Council of the University of Toronto, Inc. ("SAC").

Abolishing the penny



The one-cent piece is useless, expensive, and should be abolished

Kelvin Chen
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"Thirty cents," the label on the lollipop jar read.
"What a sweet deal — I'll take the cola-favoured one." I dug into my wallet for change, walked up to the counter and handed the cashier thirty cents — thirty pennies, to be exact. Instead of a lollipop, I received a lesson in Canadian law.

The Currency Act of Canada explicitly states that nobody has the legal obligation to accept more than twenty-five pennies as legal tender for any transaction. This means my lollipop, which cost thirty cents, could not be fully paid for with thirty pennies. The cashier refused my payment. "Great," I thought as I left, "If these pennies can't even buy me a lollipop, there's not much else they're good for. They should be removed from circulation."

This is the idea behind a growing body of consumers and retailers alike who are supporting the abolishment of the one-cent piece. Pat Martin, a Winnipeg MP, drafted a bill in 2008, proposing that the penny be eliminated from circulation. The Senate has since responded by launching a study concerning the overall utility of the penny in the Canadian economy. The report will be published by the end of this year.

But why kill the penny? Some, like Pat Martin, see it as a cost-cutting measure. These days, a penny can't even buy a penny. The cost to manufacture one is estimated at about 1.5 cents. This figure heads up to 4 cents when you factor in overhead costs like shipping and handling. The cost of keeping nearly thirty billion pennies in circulation, plus the difference between the sum of the costs and the face value of the coin, known as the *seigniorage*, is estimated to cost the government, and ultimately the taxpayers, at least $130 million annually. This number gets larger with each passing year.

Courtesy of inflation, the cost of producing pennies will increase, due primarily to higher labour costs and rising metal prices. Conversely, the face value of the penny is pegged at one cent. This scenario leads to an ever-growing deficit in the seigniorage of the coin and the continuous increase in the overall cost of producing, distributing, and circulating the penny. Inflation will also continue to devalue the penny and lower its purchasing power. The penny's significance will diminish until we are essentially left with, by one senator's account, "a piece of currency that, frankly, lacks currency" and costs more than it's worth. Now where is the sense in that?

Okay, maybe the penny is benefitting the Canadian economy in some way that offsets the cost of circulating them? This seems unlikely, as it is estimated that the penny is used by only 37 per cent of Canadians. The rest of the unused pennies are presumably placed inside piggybanks and tossed into water fountains — or through other creative means, they vanish into oblivion. This hoarding or disposing of pennies, rather than depositing them back into circulation, clearly demonstrates the coins' futility. A survey in 2007 commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint found that only one in five small retailers and one in three consumers opposed the elimination of the penny. Over half of those consumers who were in favour of removing the penny cited the penny's "inconvenience" or "uselessness" as its main drawbacks.

In addition to the frustration of having to carry them around and then finally fish them out from the bottom of your pocket to use them, or of the cashier having to give you back the exact change, there is also a cost associated with the amount of time this adds to any cash transaction. An article published in *Discover* found that it takes "up to three seconds longer to complete a transaction that involves pennies." This may not sound like very much, but with tens of millions of such transactions happening each year, we're wasting a heck of a lot of time and money.

So what's the verdict? The penny is charged with being an inconvenience — a complete and utter letdown in today's fast-paced, every-second-counts economy. It is charged with being impractical to use as its face value continues to fall into the gutter — literally. Finally, it is charged with being a burden to taxpayers, as it costs well over $100 million annually to keep it in circulation. We'll have to wait until the Senate provides its testimony, but at the end, I'm seeking the penny's abolishment from circulation.

ALEX NURSALL/ THE VARSITY

Why the academic plan failed

RYAN CULPEPPER *analyzes the root causes behind Dean Meric Gertler's failed proposal to change the Faculty of Arts and Science*

First things first: we're all relieved that the FAS academic plan is on its way out. The plan, as we all know, was an ill-conceived disaster — and I use the term (dis+astrum, literally from the stars) deliberately, because the plan was dropped on us from above, without rationale, and nobody saw it coming. At present, as CUPE Liasion Officer Patrick Vitale put it, "the plan is lying in shambles on the floor," and Dean Meric Gertler is asking FAS members to put forward alternative proposals, some of which have already proven far superior to anything imagined by Gertler's secret Strategic Planning Committee. It turns out, the dean confesses, there was really no reason to amalgamate five departments into one mega-School of Languages and Literatures, and no reason to close three graduate centres of international renown. Dean Gertler has said he's sorry some worry-wart constituents "lost nights of sleep" over this plan, but we should rest assured: it's all over now.

But questions remain. First, how did we get here? Where did such a bad plan come from, and why did it take this long for the dean to drop it? Second, how can we make sure our faculty doesn't repeat this draining exercise in counter-productivity?

Dean Gertler's newly adopted version of events, which he tried out at the A&S Council meeting and in the faculty-wide memo released November 05, goes something like this: Step 1) the SPC asked for reports from every FAS unit on how they could "grow without growth" (aka live with less money) over the coming five-year period. Step 2) The SPC met in secret for 200-odd hours, pouring over the proposals and putting them together into an academic plan. Step 3) The SPC released its plan, which was really a misnomer, because it was just a series of "proposals" the dean wanted everybody to discuss. Step 4) We discussed the proposals, and the dean realized they were pretty bad and universally disliked, and decided to go with alternative proposals instead.

Dean Gertler's new story reminds me of what the narrator said in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*: "It's the truth, even if it didn't happen." That may be the case in the insane asylum where *Cuckoo's Nest* occurs, but here, at a world-class university, let us not rewrite history. Let us tell the truth about what happened in a planning process that divided students, staff, and faculty from their administrators; provoked international outcry and rebuke of the University of Toronto; prompted an ongoing legal grievance against the university; and threatened the reputation and viability of the humanities on our campus.

The facts tell a different story from the dean's. True, the SPC asked for reports from every FAS unit. No one knows what went on in the SPC meetings (except the handful of SPC members — and they're not talking!), but one thing that's evident is that the academic plan was not drafted from close readings of unit reports. Not a single report recommended departmental amalgamations, centre closures, or a new school. Those were the unprompted innovations of the SPC, and they were put into the plan with no warning to, and no consultation with, the units involved. No students were on the SPC, although improving student experience was frequently mentioned as the raison d'etre for the plan. No staff members were on the SPC either, although the money saved by cutting their jobs was the main budgetary justification of the plan. However hard the dean now tries to work the term "consultative" into his descriptions of the planning process, the record shows that nobody was consulted during the drafting of the plan, and the suggestions each unit actually did submit were ignored.

Case in point: Dean Gertler now says that the best example of "alternative proposals" is the one that would link the Centre for Comparative Literature to the undergrad program in Literary Studies to create a new unit at Victoria. In fact, this merger was suggested already in the document Comparative Literature sent to the SPC, before the academic plan was even written. Apparently it was a bad idea then, but it's a great one now.

The academic plan was announced at the end of June and made fully public at the beginning of July. Dean Gertler's claim that the plan was never really a "plan" but consisted only of proposals is absolutely false. Let me quote from the first announcement we received: "The School [of Languages and Literatures] will have a single Director and centralized administrative services; individual language groups will retain responsibility for their undergraduate and graduate programs. The specific structure and operating principles of the School will be determined through a process of consultation." The obvious message here is: the School will be created (centres and departments will be closed, admin staff will be fired), and the consultation process will only address how these changes will occur.

In preparation for the fait accompli of the plan, students received an email from Vice-Dean Rob Baker addressing questions such as "How will my new transcript look?" and "What will happen to my supervisor?" This email also reminded students of Comparative Literature that their centre would close on July 1, 2011. It's pretty strange to name a date for something you're not sure will happen. Additionally, Comparative Literature was told not to admit new students this fall, because it was definitely closing, even though "consultation" hadn't even begun. Staff members were advised by the dean in a general meeting to start looking for new jobs, because job cuts were definitely happening, although the dean had not yet even met with representatives of the staff's union, USW 1998. Incidentally, the dean first called a meeting with staff members and declined to invite their union leaders. The staff refused to attend unless the full union leadership was present.

Dean Gertler gave numerous statements to newspapers and academic journals and, in each case, he used the language of inevitability. I encourage you to go back and re-read these articles, noticing that the journalists typically refer to "proposals" and use conditional verb tenses (what would happen, according to the plan), while the dean uniformly uses the declarative (what will happen). As recently as October's town-hall meetings, the dean was unflagging in his defense of the plan against rowdy criticism, refusing to back down on any of its major points.

The truth is that Dean Gertler had no intention of modifying any part of the plan. The academic plan was never up for discussion, and it did not, as the dean would have it, morph into a modified version through collegial collaboration. The plan is now dead for one reason only: students, staff, and faculty killed it through concerted and unified opposition — not with the dean's cooperation, but despite his best efforts to save the plan and quiet the opposition. Dean Gertler now has substantial work to do restoring trust and collegiality in FAS and confidence in his capacity to occupy the Deanship. To this end, an important step will be the dean's admission that the planning exercise he oversaw was a catastrophe that seriously threatened the integrity of FAS (note: he still defends the process) and his willingness to meet with relevant parties in commitment to a different process for future planning. I urge him to do so, and I urge The Varsity's readers not to quiet down until he does.

Ryan Culpepper is a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholar at the Centre for Comparative Literature

IRKS & QUIRKS

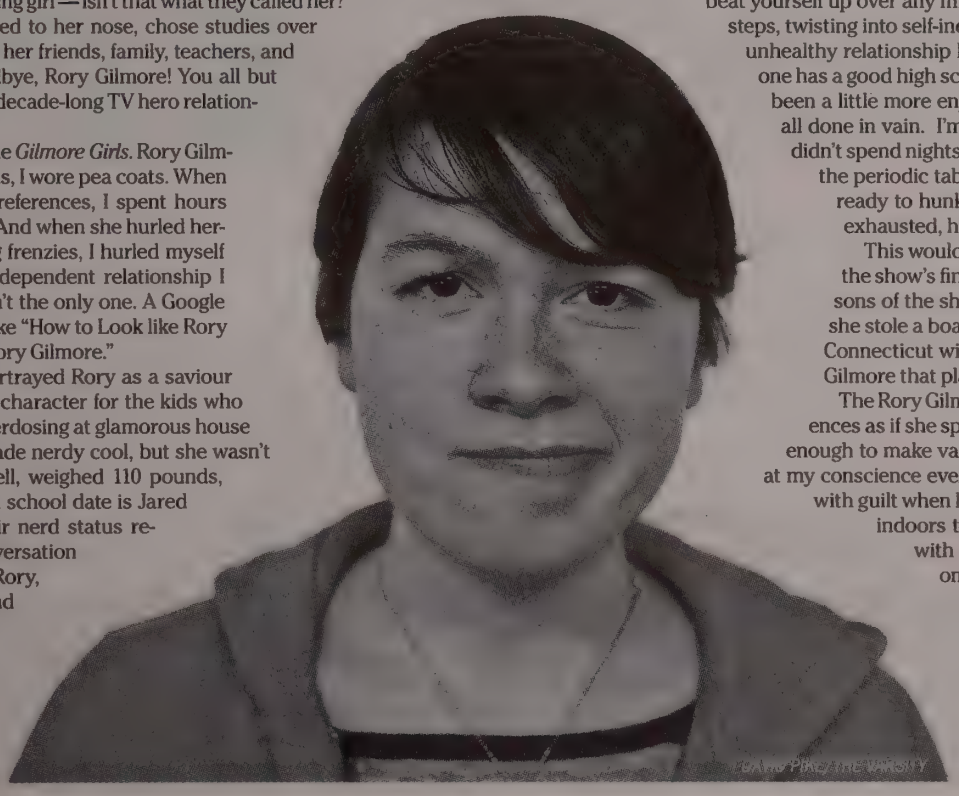
How Rory Gilmore ruined my life

ARIEL LEWIS *takes down her* Gilmore Girls *idol*

Rory Gilmore: the TV icon for the thinking girl — isn't that what they called her? She walked around with a book glued to her nose, chose studies over parties, and was hailed nearly perfect by her friends, family, teachers, and neighbours. Well now I have to say goodbye, Rory Gilmore! You all but screwed me over and now I'm ending the decade-long TV hero relationship we once held.

I grew up watching, nay, worshipping the *Gilmore Girls*. Rory Gilmore was my idol. When she wore pea coats, I wore pea coats. When she made those charming pop culture references, I spent hours online tracking down the esoteric trivia. And when she hurled herself into her many panic-driven studying frenzies, I hurled myself alongside her. It was a bizarre identity-dependent relationship I formed with Rory, and apparently I wasn't the only one. A Google search of her name will bring up pages like "How to Look like Rory Gilmore" and, even scarier, "How to Be Rory Gilmore."

I remember reading an article that portrayed Rory as a saviour for teen girls. She was finally a relatable character for the kids who did not spend their high school years overdosing at glamorous house parties. True, I suppose. In a way she made nerdy cool, but she wasn't really a nerd, was she? She dressed well, weighed 110 pounds, and, to put it simply, anyone whose high school date is Jared Padalecki should immediately have their nerd status revoked, even if they can carry on a conversation about Nikolai Gogol. My real issue with Rory, though, is that I think in all our praise and glorying of this intellectual icon we all forgot one thing: Rory Gilmore was a flat-out workaholic.



It's not healthy to stay inside and study as often as she did, to hurl yourself into frenzies and fits over every little assignment and beat yourself up over any minor fall in grades. For four long years I followed in her footsteps, twisting into self-induced anxiety attacks and draining all my energies into the unhealthy relationship I had formed with this fictional character. While I know no one has a good high school experience, I can't help but think that mine might have been a little more enjoyable had I taken a bit of time to relax. Worse yet, it was all done in vain. I'm at U of T with the rest of my high school classmates who didn't spend nights before exams breathing into a paper bag while memorizing the periodic table. The only difference between us is that, while they're all ready to hunker down and take school seriously, I, beaten, bloody, and exhausted, have nothing left to give to my studies.

This would all be fine except that, while three years have passed since the show's finale, I still can't shake that guilt. Sure, come the final few seasons of the show Rory broke under stress as well. When she got to Yale, she stole a boat, took a semester off of school, and went off gallivanting in Connecticut with her rich, asshole of a boyfriend. But that's not the Rory Gilmore that plagues me at night; no one liked that one anyway.

The Rory Gilmore who could list a million television, music, and film references as if she spent her entire life glued to a screen, but still got grades high enough to make valedictorian, is the one that haunts me to this day. She tugs at my conscience every time I forget Bono's real name; she churns my stomach with guilt when I go out for a bike ride on a sunny afternoon rather than stay indoors to read; and her smug smile still feels like a kick to the gut with a frozen boot each time I get a less-than-mediocre grade on a paper.

I suppose the real issue at hand is the unhealthy influence television can have on teens if they spend too much time glued to the set, or why our society seems to praise and reward workaholic tendencies. But all I can think is, damn you Rory Gilmore. After a decade of your haunting, guilt, manipulation, I'm dropping you for good now. I'm moving on with my life, to bigger and better things. Like Liz Lemon.

Bill C-49 Should Not Pass

The bill's designation of "irregulars" may further marginalize and harm immigrants coming to Canada

Juan Carlos Jiménez
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

When the Tamil refugees arrived this past August, Bill C-49 was put to parliament for consideration. Bill C-49 is an act to prevent human smuggling to Canada and focuses on the apprehension of human smugglers and the ceasing of further smuggling incidents. What is not being recognized, however, is the serious consequences of this proposed law.

The act focuses on amending the Criminal Code to make the trafficking of persons a criminal offence, and includes kidnapping, trafficking in persons, hostage taking, and abduction. With knowledge of brutal cases of human smuggling, this act could seem like the way to cease such a practice in Canada.

However, it is interesting to look into what the legislators meant by a "human smuggler." Elizabeth May, Green Party leader, expressed her concerns with the bill, stating that it allows the federal government to designate who can be "irregulars" and carries the unacceptable risk of targeting those who seek and are entitled to Canada's protection. "In addition, the Bill imposes minimum penalties [...] it grants the Minister wide and arbitrary discretion to detain deemed individuals and then attempts to prevent independent and rational review."

Bill C-49 actually proposes jailing "irregulars" for a minimum sentence of one year while their immigration status is pending, with options for plea given once every six months. How does this affect legitimate immigrants? Well for starters, with the term "human smugglers" not being completely defined by the bill, and with the implication of "irregulars," then who is in fact going to be targeted by this bill?

Immigration is often a process that makes it almost impossible to come into Canada without certain hardships, and it could be said that many do so under precarious circumstances. More specifically, let's consider the Tamil migrants who arrived in Vancouver this past summer. These migrants could all be labeled irregulars, and therefore, these people, whether smugglers or not, would be detained according to the bill. In reality, Canada is imprisoning these people and treating them as criminals for the mere entry into the country by precarious means. This law, judging by it's vague definition, is really the criminalization of migrants who are fleeing instances of poverty, oppression, and instability.

The bill has been strongly opposed by many health professionals. With high incarceration rates and a denial of health benefits, the bill raises considerable health concerns.

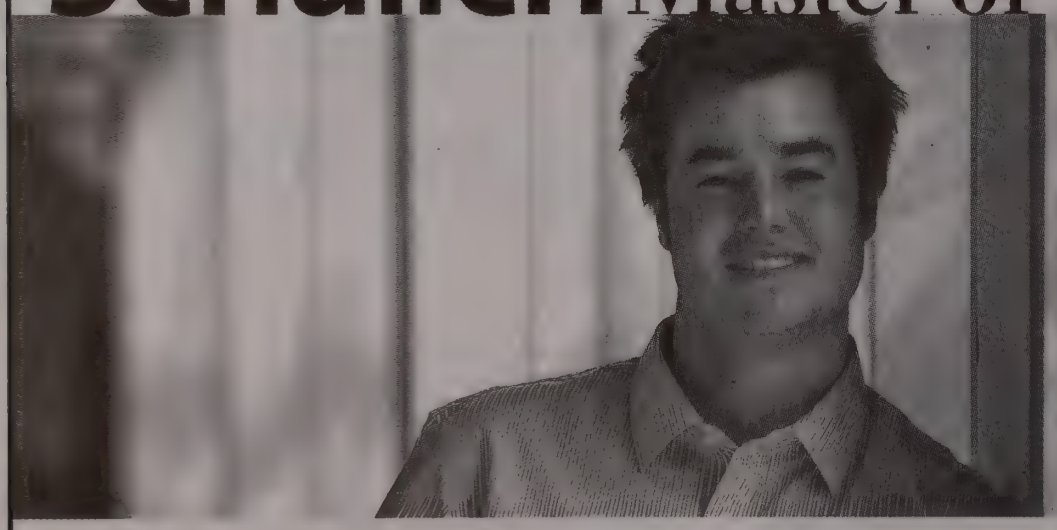
The bill has been strongly opposed by many health professionals. With high incarceration rates and a denial of health benefits, the bill raises considerable health concerns. "Jailing asylum seekers and denying people access to full healthcare coverage while awaiting a decision on their claims will lead to worsening health outcomes and is a fundamental violation of people's rights under international and Canadian law," says Dr. Michaela Beder, a member of Health for All, a migrant justice and health organization based in Toronto. Health care, dental care, and eye care will be denied to these irregulars. Along with the lack of health care, migrants who are incarcerated would only be allowed to apply for a hearing every six months, which would then keep them imprisoned in the interim. These practices are clearly inhumane. The bill also wants to appoint an ex-CSIS director, Ward Elcock, as a special advisor on human migration. The same man was in charge of the G20 police presence in Toronto. As is well known, the amount of police brutality seen during the G20 was targeted at those who did not participate in acts of vandalism. How about putting this guy in charge of immigration? Any sort of immigration is a high-risk objective, and whether it is through refugee claim, applying for work or student visas, or illegally, one runs the risk of being put back into a precarious situation in their own country, as well as running the risk jail, assault, and work abuse for those without status, and adding the risk of being arbitrarily detained for over a year. Putting Elock in charge of an already painstaking process of immigration is not a good idea, as this could invite further abuses into the immigration process.

The reality is, with Bill C-49, Canada may well be going down a road which will increase the amount of abuse immigrants must face. Inhumane treatment toward anyone whether they be immigrants or Canadians of prior generations, is unjust and violates basic human rights. We shouldn't be supporting a bill which brutally punishes human beings and criminalizes a person for trying to escape the hardships, poverty, violence, and political instability that are found in their country of origin.

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University isn't for everyone

The Maclean's *"Too Asian?" article was a poorly written attempt to discuss legitimate issues facing university students*

Dylan C. Robertson
VARSITY STAFF

Are there too many Asians at U of T?
An article published in *Maclean's'* annual university rankings guide has provoked many heated arguments for giving attention to this question. The article focuses on a disproportionate number of students of East Asian origin at elite universities, including immigrants, exchange students, and young people with deep roots in Canada.

Opening with the story of a student who avoided U of T because of its large Asian population, the article explores stereotypes of studious, austere Asian students who self-segregate from predominantly middle-class white kids who like getting drunk and, for the most part, can't compete with "those" braniacs.

Stephanie Findlay and Nicholas Köhler touch on sociological reasons for the prominence of ethnic groups in academia and compares contemporary discriminatory policies against Asians with those held against Jews in the early twentieth century.

The feature ends by suggesting universities ought to do more to bridge gaps between ethnic groups on campus. Our own provost and president are quoted in the article, claiming U of T is a harmonious institution, a "rainbow nation" with lots of functional diversity.

The article was subject to angry criticisms, calling it sensationalist, racist and — worst of all — crappy journalism. But not before *The Toronto Star* jumped on the bandwagon.

The normally earnest *Star* was slammed for publishing a front-page, above-fold article linked with the *Maclean's* feature, focusing on a Chinese-Canadian group urging parents not to force their children into university.



ANGJELIN HILA/THE VARSITY

The Star received a plethora of similar criticism.

Both articles, and the resulting controversy, have highlighted three things. First, we are a society profoundly and unhealthfully uncomfortable talking about race. Second, both media outlets missed the fundamental issue behind this phenomenon. Third, the real issue is that universities are not one-size-fits-all institutions and way too many Canadians are attending them.

Universities are about academia. They are intended to be institutions based on critical thought and a free exchange of ideas. Completing an undergraduate degree is supposed to mean one is qualified to pursue graduate studies. While the insight gained during studies can be used in a career, university education has never been about providing practical skills to the general population.

Ontario high-schoolers in the academic (as opposed to applied) stream are bred to go to university. Although college and other options are mentioned, the focus of many guidance counsellors dealing with Grade 12 students is getting their university applications completed by deadline.

Thousands of students drop out of university every year after realizing it's not meant for them. This is a huge waste of time, money, and motivation. Universities, especially U of T, are crowded for various reasons, one of them being the huge number of students, not all of whom belong at university. One reason why plagiarism and cheating take place is that some students don't belong in the university system and are struggling just to get by.

Young people, middle-class whites or not, who want a booze-filled easy ride to a well-paying job don't belong in university. Children of immigrants who want careers outside of academia don't belong in university. We need to take university off its pedestal as a status-granting institution for higher incomes and social inclusion.

The proper way for *The Star* to have reported the story on the disproportion of East Asian students would involve looking at students being coerced by parents and teachers into university, and certain careers, when they are better suited for other options. The reporting could mention the report by concerned Chinese parents and suggest the problem is more prominent among certain communities.

Although there are exceptions, such as polytechnic institutions in Québec, post-secondary education in Canada is largely a duality of universities and colleges. With little in between, we are left with university programs that try to be practical with limited success, and college programs that aren't sufficiently theoretical.

OCAD University, a degree-granting university for decades, recently added the latter part onto their name. But why would a practical arts school be a university? Theory is taught, but students regularly produce their own art. OCAD being a university doesn't make sense; it's actually practical.

In comparison to some European countries, our system of two choices, university and college, is too narrow. Canadian students would be better served by a variety of options, by schools that cater to their career goals and learning habits. Otherwise, we continue to waste society's time and resources on a vision of universities that doesn't make sense.





The Anti-Nuit Blanche

IT IS THE 2ND OF OCTOBER, AROUND MIDNIGHT, WINDY AND COLD — and I can't wait to get outside. Once again, Nuit Blanche has arrived to bring contemporary art — an exclusive club on the other 364 days of the year — to the masses. Even though my memory of last year's event is a blurred mix of waiting in the washroom line at Tim Horton's, drinking gross alcoholic beverages straight from the bottle, and trying to avoid drowning in the constant stream of people, I can't help but get excited for another round. I mean, the premise of the whole thing would make Andy Warhol wet his pants: bringing art to the street, making it accessible to the masses, making contemporary art relevant to more than contemporary artists.

But oh, this vision seems to belong to a land of utopia. My agenda for this year's Nuit Blanche was a blurred vision of waiting in the washroom line at the Eaton Centre, drinking hot chocolate from Second Cup, and being really annoyed by all the drunk people (because I wasn't one). And the art? I saw an old Volkswagen bus that had designs cut into its exterior and a light inside, throwing cool patterns onto the surrounding buildings. It looked like an oversized Ikea lamp that helps babies fall asleep, and even though it was an aesthetic piece it made me wonder whether spending millions of dollars to exhibit something I might as easily see at a Swedish furniture store accomplishes what Nuit Blanche annually sets out to do. While the basic idea of the event is admirable and surely in the spirit of postmodern thought, its execution is not living up to expectations or self-set standards.



So, why wait one whole year for Nuit Blanche when we have art on our streets and public spaces all year round? I set out to discover those hidden (or not-so-hidden) gems, to make up my very own art discovery route without line-ups, without drunks, and hopefully with something that truly speaks to me. Just like Nuit Blanche is divided into different "zones," on my quest for public art I soon noticed that certain neighbourhoods exhibited conglomerations of pieces.

Kensington Market

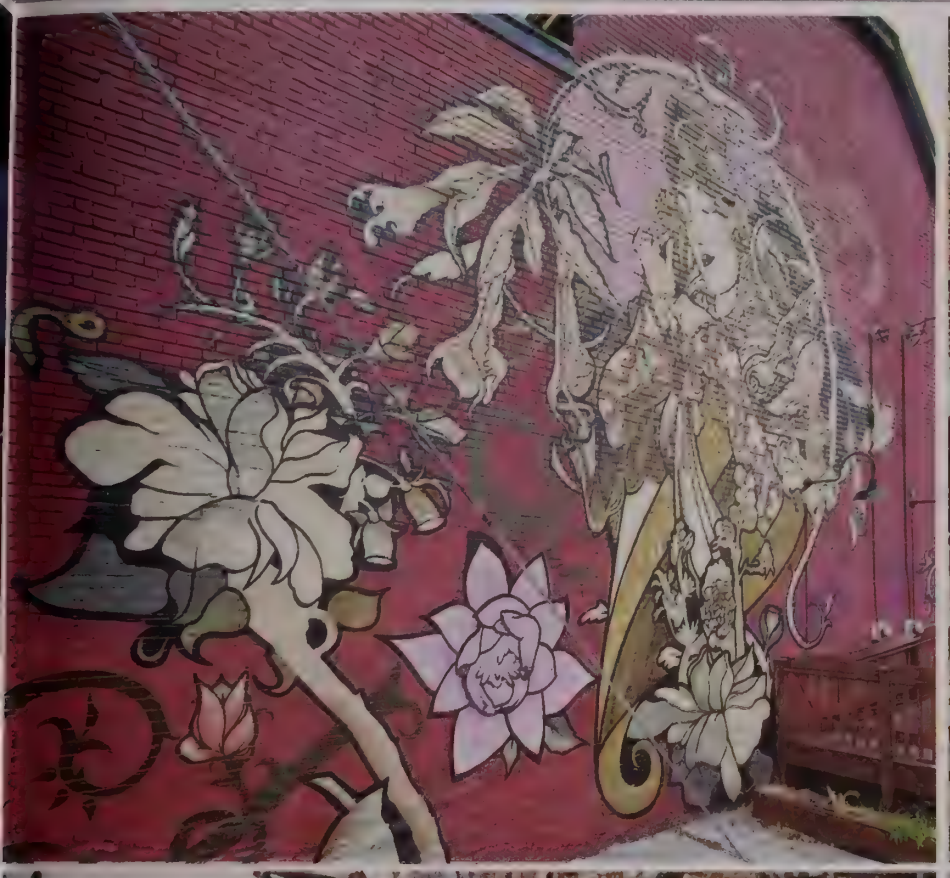
Kensington is most likely the first place anyone would think of for public art. Not only is the neighbourhood itself something of an art piece (with its beautifully coloured and painted townhouses; the sure presence of some street musicians; and the charming and sometimes puzzling collection of people that wander along Augusta Avenue), but street art pieces are the characteristic feature of the neighbourhood's appearance.

If you keep your eyes open, Augusta Avenue becomes a gallery sidewalk. The Alphonse Mucha-reminiscent mural painted on the side of a house on the corner of Oxford Street is an example of ambitious street art that creates meaning through the public space it is set in. Set to a lush background of burgundy red, the piece shows a woman surrounded by flowers, with subtle references to Asian iconography. In the context of its location, in the midst of Kensington, as an oversized image lurking over its visitors and inhabitants, it embodies ideas the area has come to represent. It appears that street art at its best is more than a piece of art put in a public space; there needs to be a symbiotic relationship between the locality and the piece.

Maybe that is the reason why the exhibited art at Nuit Blanche remains in the background: the absence of such a symbiosis fails to create accessibility. As I walk along I see a man finishing up a photo collage on the back side of a building at the corner of Nassau and Augusta. The piece is a group shot of punkish-looking men and women, with various details in close-up layered over the original, creating an image of a fragmented whole. We start talking and he tells me that the people in the collage are all locals, more or less known in the neighbourhood. "The pictures were shot in Toronto, then processed in Vancouver and exhibited in a gallery there," he tells me. "Then the piece was featured in Canadian Art Magazine and now I'm back in Toronto putting it up on the street." Evidently, street art can make it into the public consciousness, as other artists, such as the famed Banksy, have shown in recent years.

Queen West

With its abundance of galleries, and as the place-to-be for creativity-craving hipsters, Queen Street is a creative outpouring. One artist that I have often spotted is Tyler Eli Hallett, who draws paintings on the sidewalk between Beverly and Spadina. Does Hallett adopt this unusual exhibition style out of necessity or is the street an integral part to the art piece? "It's a necessity until I can find some work," says Hallett. "I usually don't mind the cold once I'm in the zone, but winter is starting to be a real pain. I think what I really need is some huge canvases, and a patron who could keep me going until I produce some real work. I kind of think that this sidewalk thing is just practice. This way is definitely good at cultivating patience and humility."









Tired of getting lost in crowds, bad art, and Tim Horton's bathroom lines? **ASSUNTA ALEGIANI** takes a tour of Toronto's best street art. **PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE.**

Although imagining his painting on a canvas would not take away from the message of the work, it is something else that ties the notion of his work tightly to the street: his audience. "Mostly I draw my inspiration from religious or spiritual iconography," he explains. "I love to feel the connection between God through my work. It's like my way of meditating. I love to make children wonder about something that isn't found in video games." By exhibiting his art in a public space, he exposes his ideas to audiences that would otherwise miss out on the experience, and evokes thoughts that are missing in today's mainstream culture. Hallett has been painting on the sidewalk for a little under a decade, and when asked why he chose this path he muses: "I love to paint. It's almost like I can't help it, and I don't feel right unless I'm painting. I'm a slave to beauty." Considering the Canadian winter, this dedication is impressive, and exemplifies the passion necessary to be a street artist.

Further west at Augusta is a hidden alleyway (right behind Second Cup) that is filled with well-crafted graffiti. Now graffiti is, as Kensington artist Andrew Owen explains, "Not considered art by many artists." I understand his reasoning: poorly skilled graffiti "artists" have unfortunately branded the public consciousness with hideous tags that scar the cityscape. This perception, however, is unfair to those artists who take their craft seriously and produce powerful tags with their spray cans and creativity. I have always found that graffiti is the visual answer to hip-hop, in that it is very direct and generally concerned with deconstructing the social status quo. There is one piece, very simple but immediate and still of social relevance, that shows a native man dressed in a simple t-shirt and the caption "I am Canadian." However, Graffiti Alley, as this alleyway is commonly called, is a graphic explosion of vibrant colours and different styles. It's as diverse as its artists, and individual pieces are concerned with the outside, as well as the inside, world.

The Distillery District

Yes, the east end features art as well. The Distillery District, which makes you feel like you've jumped back in time, is home to several art galleries, art dealers, and weekly artisan markets. It also features several public art pieces along its cobblestone pavements. But here the street art is of a different nature: the pieces are commissioned, and the artists' names, along with the title of the art work, are engraved on a plate, insinuating a more institutional approach to art. "Institutional street art" may seem like an oxymoron, but it fits within the context of the Distillery District.

Art for sale is the prominent characteristic of this neighbourhood, and commissioning artists to exhibit their work to complement the public space is not only sensible, but also goes along the lines of the earlier-mentioned symbiosis between locality and art piece. The idea the Distillery District inherently promotes by hosting art galleries and dealers is that art, though a creative outlet, is a commodity that deserves its price and also gives credit to the artist. Thus, a change of neighbourhood and audience evokes a different view of the complexity of street art. Especially interesting is the piece entitled "Passerelle et Portance" by Claude Millette. This is a set of stairs that goes up and down, but has a gap in the middle and is closed off on both ends. To me it seems to comment on the inevitability of life: we try to get ahead, ascend on the social ladder, but at some point we come to a halt, possibly discover we have reached a dead end, and go back down, only to start climbing again. This constant self-evaluation is a concern that everyone, especially artists, has to face, and, in this respect the piece accurately visualizes the worries of those who inhabit the Distillery District.





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arts' arts

Vowels
Mitchell Gauvin

A craftsman acts
flat, damns pagans
at Bat Yam Ra'anana,
at Rahat and Baqa-Jatt.
Papal man bands stamp
that as psalms and watch
as Satan crafts lava-lamps
and flashy darts. Adam sparks
sarcasm as Adam calls
an aardvark a llama. Alpacas
catch grass at Ramat Ganas
an Ark splash traps mammals.
Adam gasps as a craftsman's
hands cram tacks and clamps at dawn at a
gangplank that stands half-mast. Ha-ha's dash
past as Bart spawns, flaps a ball cap, nabs a mallard
and slaps Satan's hand. At last man can craft war
plans and pass harsh attacks
as a craftsman's wrath.

Peter pens themes, sells peeps the sheets,
then feeds them new excerpts. Peter
deletes expected ends, sends peers the
rest. Peter seeks checks when he pens
sentences, expects they sell well, then
gets less then expected. Peter weeps, he
needs the best,
yet he feeds
Peter meds,
beer every egress. "Screw the net!"
Peter presses. He deems the web
excessive, endlessly perverted.
The web etch-sketches speech, spell
checks text then
fetches men,
these gents
seek celebs.
Pegged, these men erect the peckers, then
exert themselves endlessly, they wheeze,
they beg. They spew excrement. They feel
stress free, senseless, they feel redeemed.
Peter prefers sex.

This gimmick is still
living, simply switching
prisms I fish in this script
pit, I think I'll hit it rich if
this writing irks critics,
if it flirts with cynic wit.
In this bit, I imprint i's
illicitly, mix fifth with
scribbling, willing film
gigs in this vicinity, flirting
with bigwigs wishing this
is it, I fit script limbs with
inspiring skill, I did it with
limits, I find it thrilling, I
find it striking I still didn't
hit it big. I will finish this
gig mixing gin with pixy
sticks wishing this whim
in writing will dig in. Is
it inspiring? Is it shit? I
might drink fizzy drinks
till night if it is, sink this
mind in pills, in blinking
light districts with girls.

Crossbows
flow on loops of
voodoo, lots of knots, lots
of Gods who know wrong know-
how. Flocks of mops who look to goons
for good words or fonts on works or books from
Woolf to Bök to Frost soon got lost. Jocks
who look for jobs on Wordsworth
brood. Now flocks of jobs go lost to
cocks, to props of wood dolls
good for floors. Bookworms who
follow words, shoot mottos of
no worth, who look for rock
bottom, who took root or forgot
lots now prop dots on rocks
for dog Gods who smooch from folk's
bonbons, fools gold. Bookworms down pop or
protons to look bold, look cool, or mock jocks
who stock porn, who hoot or woot for
blowjobs from blonds. Who to
look for know-how now?

Ruth plucks ducks, guts
much yuk-yuk but thus gulps
up lunch. Ruth slurps up suds,
gulps up much duck grub.
Such junk Ruth chugs.
Ugh! Stuck, Ruth murmurs
Ruth's gut hurts. Ruth
clucks. Ruth's dumbstruck.
Drunk? Ruth just clucks
stuff. Ruth's nuts! Must
rush Ruth up, unstuck
Ruth's gut. Cluck. Cluck.
Such ruckus. Ruth plus
duck churns up much bucks,
much surplus. Cluck. Cluck. Ruth runs
thru much duck lunch. Just clutch
Ruth's sums, Ruth plumps up
much surplus. Cluck.

...and sometimes

My wry tryst: flyby.
My crypt— psych, cry.
Why fly by? Shy?
Dry my why, lynch
my nym's, spy my
sky, fry my dry myths.
Try, try, try.
Why myths?
Why
rhythms?
Why spy
sky?
Why try?

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Berlinger White Zinfadel
$9.95 at the LCBO

In the online version of last week's column, someone accused The Varsity of buying wine "for the alcoholics that work at The Varsity." My editor quickly swooped in and clarified that the wine is purchased out of my own pocket. Now, if The Varsity or anyone else in the U of T community wishes to support the column with an upcoming Christmas gift, they cannot go wrong with a rosé.

Rosé is traditionally a summer wine but if you like sweet wines it is fantastic year-round. The Beringer White Zinfadel is sweet, light-bodied, and has a wonderful floral bouquet. Best paired with chicken, pasta, or spicy dinners, make sure to chill this wine before uncorking. Drinking rosé after Labour Day becomes slightly uncouth and it starts to become more difficult to find in stores. If you're really daring, try this wine as the base of a Sangria and prepare to have your mind blown.

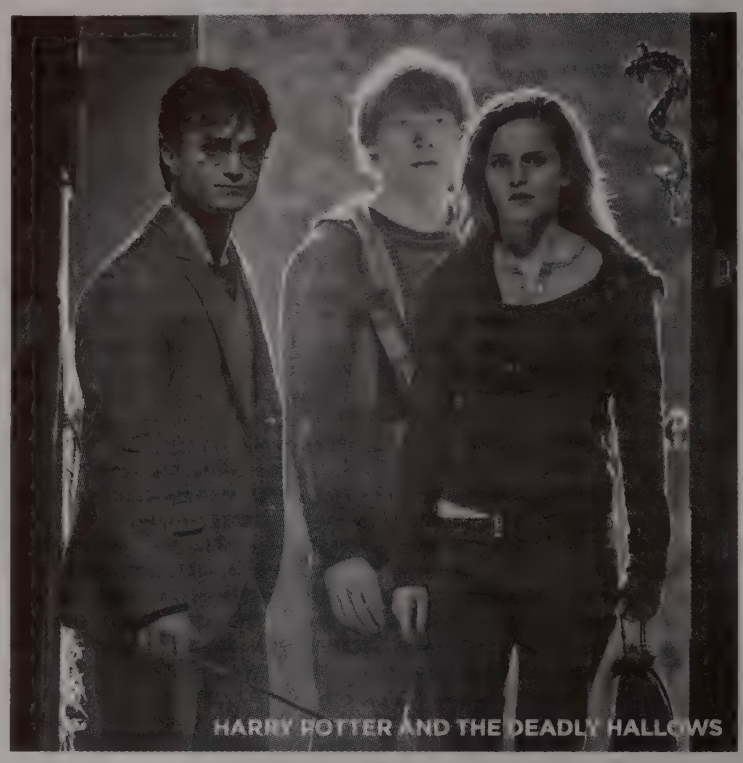
Online Exclusives

Find out what's happening in the Arts blogs at thevarsity.ca

Film Review: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1
By Alexander Griffith

It is hard to believe that at last, the Harry Potter franchise is almost over. It may appear, especially to detractors, that "The Boy Who Lived" is really "The Boy Who Never Dies": an indestructible brand that, even after *The Deathly Hallows*, will be continuously reincarnated in video games, toys, spinoff books, and maybe — dare I say it — a film reboot? But Warner Brothers' marathon undertaking of translating the novels onto the screen is about to reach the finish line.

Almost. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* opens November 19th; Part 2 will crown the saga this summer. Splitting the final book in two is partly a cynical money-making scheme, partly an attempt to let the story surface unrushed.



Campus Stage: The Bob
By Lily Tarba

Have you ever found yourself in a fanciful reverie, pondering what limbo with Margret Atwood would entail? What a game of "Go Fish" with the knights of the round table would be like? Or why on earth *Ultimate Fighter Baby* hasn't made its way onto our television sets? Well, all such pressing questions and more will be answered for you, with wit and style, at the annual The Bob Comedy Revue.

The Bob has been a running tradition for Victoria College since 1872. It all began with Robert Beare, the local caretaker, hosting parties that were something out of the ordinary. Soon these parties began to encompass the display of comedic and musical talents of students. Throughout the years, the show has constantly evolved and now bears little resemblance to the shows of the past. Its resilience has allowed it to survive for 138 years and has made it the longest running comedy revue in Canada.

Singled Out
A music blog by Sean MacKay and Navi Lamba

Dubstep is a strange and fascinating genre within electronic dance music for a few reasons. For one, its plasticity is incredible: mellowing out to the gloomy, introverted atmospheres of Burial and blowing your speakers with Rusko's bass-heavy party anthems are two vastly different experiences, but both producers fit under the large umbrella of dubstep. Live dubstep DJ sets are also a sight to behold: with ravers, hipsters, and bros, the shows certainly bring out diverse crowds who probably don't mingle too often. Once the music starts, the dynamic has more in common with a punk rock concert than a dance party, with some DJs inciting near-mosh pits with their aggressive beats. Finally, the genre has gained a considerable amount of attention from a wide range of respected musicians. M.I.A. had Skream and Benga open a few of her summertime concerts and Amber Coffman (of the experimental indie group, the Dirty Projectors) featured on Rusko's debut album. *DZ's Down* is on the more aggressive, extroverted side of the dubstep spectrum, but it's a good representation of the genre's distinctive sound. Is the hype justified? You be the judge.

For the complete articles, check out THEVARSITY.CA/BLOGS

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Nature's checks and balances

Cheating species don't get punished, biologists and economists report

Jeannine M. Pitas
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

According to a common cliché, "Nature is cruel." However, a study recently completed by a team of biologists and economists, including the University of Toronto's Megan Frederickson, suggests otherwise. While it is true that species tend to work for their own self-interest, they can often achieve their goals by working cooperatively with other species in their environment.

"This project grew out of an interest in collaborating with an economist to use the idea of costly punishment as an analogy for a process that occurs in nature," says Frederickson, an assistant professor in U of T's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her main research focuses on various forms of mutualism — cases in which different species cooperate in order to achieve their own interests. One



example of this occurs in plants that provide food and shelter for ants, which in turn prevent the plants from being consumed by insect herbivores.

Frederickson's research is primarily focused on cases of cheating in these mutualisms: she wants to know what prevents one partner from reaping all the benefits of the cooperative arrangement, while not putting in the work.

"There are some pollinators that rob host plants of nectar, but fail to do their part of spreading pollen. Some ants feed off plants but don't deter herbivores. Very often these species start out as cooperators in a mutualism, but they managed to reap benefits while paying no cost or a reduced cost. Also, sometimes species outside of the mutualism to begin with enter into one."

"It is interesting to look at this process in terms of costly punishment — when you get a case where one species cheats, does the other punish it?

In this particular project, which was published in September in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Frederickson collaborated with economist Glen Weyl and biologist Naomi Pierce from Harvard University, as well as Douglas Yu, a biologist at the University of East Anglia. Looking at the relationships between the yucca tree and moths; legumes and nitrogen-fixing bacteria; and plants and ants, they concluded that, in the vast majority of cases, there is no punishment for species that cheat.

"It is interesting to look at this process in terms of costly punishment — when you get a case where one species cheats, does the other punish it? According to our study, hosts normally do not punish cheaters at a cost to themselves. We are suggesting that the reason for this lack of retribution is that it is ultimately in each species' self-interest to uphold its end of the bargain and avoid cheating," Frederickson stated. "It's a subtle point, but an interesting one."

She adds that this research was enriched by her collaboration with economist Glen Weyl. "It was interesting to think about this idea in relation to the idea of costly punishment, which is the belief that society demands retribution for a crime. However, you can also imagine the criminal justice system in positive terms, as a form of rehabilitation. This scenario is analogous to what happens in mutualism. There is no evidence that bad behaviour is punished retributively, but that the species seek the rewards of working well."

Frederickson notes that at the end of the day, this "kindness" between species really amounts to nothing more than self-interest. "My work shows how cooperative behaviour can be beneficial to other parties, but the reason cooperation evolves is because it results in higher individual fitness."

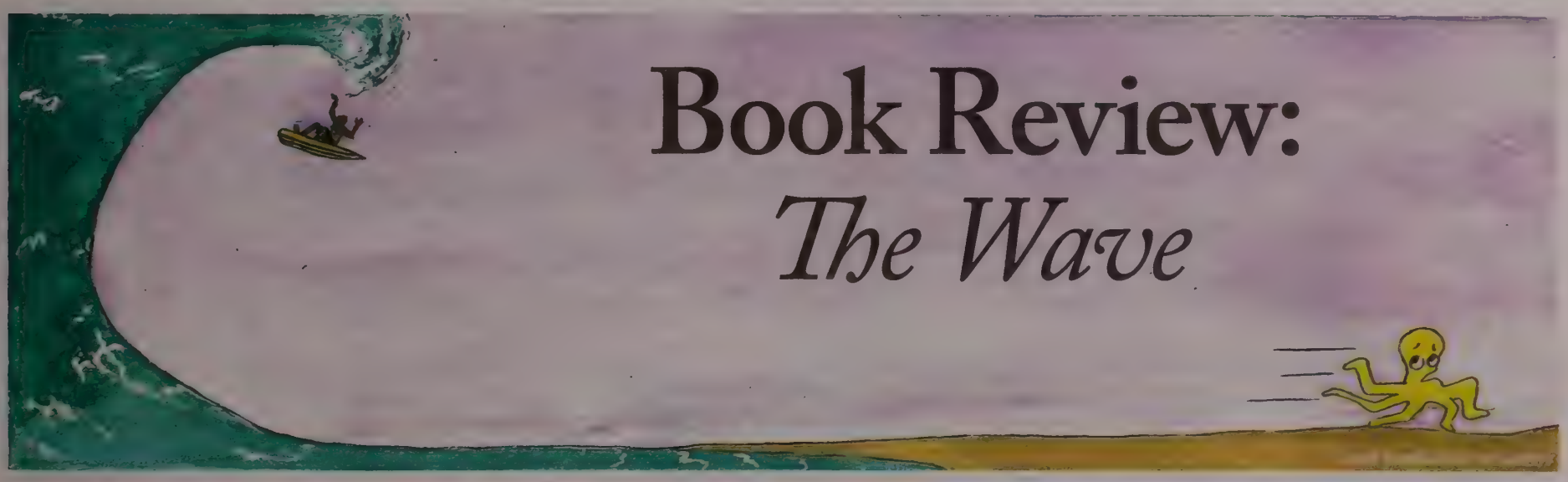
She also notes that in many cases, the cooperative behaviour is purely unintentional. "In the case of pollinators, they happen to pick up pollen while seeking nectar; they end up serving the plant's needs as a result of serving their own."

In this interdisciplinary project, economic processes are applied to biological ones — not the other way around. "This theory is not being applied to human problems," Frederickson explains. "But it can be useful when thinking about such issues as labour/management relations, in which employer and employee work cooperatively in order to gain different benefits. The obvious difference with humans is that we have an external system that polices us; plants and animals do not."

Frederickson stated that, at this stage, the team's research is purely theoretical. "Our theory was formed on existing data. The real contribution is that Weyl developed a mathematical model of the cheating behaviour in order to determine if costly punishment was what was occurring. He was able to show the difference between a system regulated by punishment and a 'passive feedback' system in which neither partner monitors the other. The next step will be to test this theory out empirically."



Illustrations by Erene Stergiopoulos



Book Review: *The Wave*

Fiona Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Picture an ocean wave 10 stories high. It has the potential to destroy entire coastal towns, snap ocean liners in half, and reduce an entire oil rig to rubble.

Waves are feared, awe-inspiring, and eagerly taken on by surfers. They can be vicious, majestic, or downright monstrous in size. They can drown hundreds of thousands in their wake, yet there is some strange quality about them that makes them the subject of paintings and stories, and keeps them sought after by both scientists and surfers alike.

Among these aquatic phenomena are rogue waves, ones that can reach a hundred feet in height, but whose behaviour defied our known laws of physics until only recently. In the continuing quest for information, scientists follow these monsters — as do surfers, who continue to perfect ways of traversing them.

In *The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks and Giants of the Ocean*, author Susan Casey follows those people, investigating the mysteries the waves hold, and the stories of those who have died from, lived to tell the tale of, or fanatically track rogue waves. While these waves are only barely understood — they were only formally recognized by the scientific community in 2000 — Casey explores everything from the effects of tsunamis, to the introduction of "tow-surfing" to allow surfers to ride gargantuan waves. She also addresses the primary question surrounding these waves: how do they work? Given their catastrophic history, what possibilities are there for waves to strike those who live close to sea level?

Casey has an affinity for recounting her adventures in great detail. When she isn't paying respects to the ships and coastal towns that have perished at the hands of freak waves, she puts the reader straight into her shoes on the beaches of Tahiti, swimming in Hawaiian rapids, or on a boat in California, bouncing on the same waves that killed three people that same day. We see the surfers on a sunny day in Tahiti, nervous in the anticipation of a potentially fatal encounter with a 60-foot wave that eventually lands on a rocky cliff. From that perspective, she brings a personal touch that even those who have never so much as stepped on a surfboard can relate to.

However, for a book within the science genre, it contains less than two chapters' worth of explanation of the actual scientific significance of rogue waves. Rather, Casey repeatedly discusses her encounters with surfers — particularly Laird Hamilton, who acted as her guide — which often follow the same cycle of remarking on how large a wave may be, and assessing what newbie surfers were doing incorrectly on such advanced waves. Casey tells interesting stories, but runs the risk of becoming bland after cycling through similar comments through the first hundred pages or so.

That being said, the book is an entertaining read for its variety of compelling stories. The narrative cycles between the scientific modelling issues with freak waves, the destructive power of waves, and a day at the beach with anxious surfers. The latter in particular is so well-written that the mere description of adrenaline junkies nearly gives the reader their own shot of adrenaline.

Looking at waves from the angle of each group that studies them, Casey gives us a thorough picture of what these waves do, as well as of their broader social significance.

The Wave comes strongly recommended to surfing hobbyists. For the average reader, it makes for an interesting read, but eventually gets bogged down by the level of intimacy with the surfers' personal lives. *The Wave* gives a deeper appreciation of both the daredevil dealings people undergo for the sake of an adrenaline rush, and ferocious power of monstrous ocean waves.

Black holes don't suck

It turns out black holes aren't cosmic vacuum cleaners. The Varsity's ALEX ROSS *investigates.*

Black holes have been at the centre of rigorous scientific investigation for almost 200 years. However, the way black holes have been portrayed in science fiction has led to some strange misconceptions about how these heavenly chasms actually work. Dispelling these popular myths was the subject of "Black Holes Don't Suck," a talk hosted by the Graduate Astronomy Students' Association on November 5, as part of their monthly public tour of U of T's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics. The talk was given by Nick Tacik, a graduate student in the department, whose current research involves simulating binary black holes using computers.

"As someone who studies black holes, it actually kind of bothers me a little how they are portrayed in popular culture — in particular in science fiction," he said. "Whenever people put black holes into science fiction, it seems like the creators throw out all of the physics we know."

The French mathematician and astronomer Simon-Pierre Laplace was the first to propose the idea of the black hole in 1796. Laplace wondered if there could be a star so dense that even light couldn't escape from it. Albert Einstein then gave us the general theory of relativity, which is our current theory of gravity. Under general relativity, a mass, such as a star, curves the space around it.

"Now we can imagine a star with even more gravity than this one [...] that it gets curved so much that if light was trying to escape from that gravity, well, the curvature would just be too powerful, and it would curve back on itself," Tacik said.

The two essential components of a black hole are the event horizon and the singularity. The event horizon is an artificial boundary that delineates the point at which light cannot escape. The singularity is a point of infinite density at the centre of the black hole, which contains all of its mass. Black holes are formed when stars many times larger than our sun collapse in on themselves due to their large mass.

To illustrate bad black hole physics, Tacik played the audience a clip from *Star Trek: Voyager.* In the clip, the starship Voyager has entered a black hole. The crew says such absurd things as: "I do know one thing — that as we slide deeper into the singularity, the spatial distortions are increasing" and "If we find our entry point [in the event horizon], we may be able to slip out the way we came in."

Why are these statements absurd?

"As we saw, the singularity is a single point. How can you slide deeper into a single point?" Tacik asked. Furthermore, "General relativity tells us that once something enters the event horizon, nothing can escape the event horizon. The event horizon isn't actually some physical thing that you can rupture and go through."

"Whenever people put black holes into science fiction, it seems like the creators throw out all of the physics we know."

Tacik moved on to dispel some other misconceptions about black holes — the first on his list being that black holes don't suck.

"Black holes have been referred to as cosmic vacuum cleaners. People think they suck up all the stars and gas and dust around them, and keep on growing and growing forever."

This is not the case, since only objects entering the event horizon will be pulled in. For example, if our sun suddenly became a black hole, the Earth would not be pulled in, because it would be outside the event horizon.

Another misconception is that black holes are incredibly complicated.

"Black holes are very simple. You only need two pieces of information: the mass of the black hole and the spin of the black hole," Tacik explained.

However, the most egregious error for Tacik was the concept of using black holes as time machines. In 2009's *Star Trek*, Spock is thrown back into the past when his spaceship is pulled into a black hole he creates.

"You cannot use black holes as time machines. As we saw, the black hole is just the event horizon and the singularity. You go through the event horizon, you hit the singularity." Tacik believed that maybe the scriptwriters were thinking of wormholes, which connect two different points of space and time. Although wormholes are allowed by general relativity, the means to create one do not exist. Even if you could create a wormhole, the bridge connecting the two points would collapse before you could go through it.

The final misconception that Tacik addressed was that the Large Hadron Collider, a particle accelerator in Switzerland, would destroy the Earth. The LHC can create mini black holes, causing some to fear that one will be created that will end our existence as we know it. However, as Tacik outlined, thanks to Hawking radiation — which causes black holes to radiate energy by pulling one part of a particle/anti-particle pair into the event horizon — these mini black holes evaporate once they are created.

"[Regular black holes] radiate very, very slowly and we'll probably never be able to observe it. [...] But if you had a very small black hole, like we might at the LHC, [which combines] two protons and makes them into a black hole, then these mini black holes evaporate very, very quickly. It's a very short amount of time."

Ending the evening on a light note, Tacik played the audience a clip from *Futurama*, in which Fry comforts a sulking Bender after his girlfriend falls into a black hole.

"Don't cry, Bender. Nobody really knows what happens in a black hole. It's possible she's still alive in another dimension somewhere, right Professor?" Fry says.

"Oh, absolutely," the Professor assures him, before turning to whisper: "Not a chance."

TOP 4 MYTHS ABOUT BLACK HOLES

1. **BLACK HOLES ARE VACCUUMS**
Black holes are not "cosmic vacuum cleaners" that suck up all the matter, dust, and gas around them to grow bigger and bigger. Only objects that enter the event horizon are pulled in. Everything outside the event horizon remains outside the black hole.

2. **BLACK HOLES ARE TIME MACHINES**
Nothing can go further into the singularity once it reaches it. Spock, and anyone else that entered a black hole, would be no more.

3. **THE LHC WILL DESTROY THE EARTH**
The mini black holes created by the LHC evaporate as soon as they are created. They are practically non-existent.

4. **BLACK HOLES ARE COMPLICATED**
Black holes are actually really easy to understand and even simpler to describe than the Earth itself. There are only two pieces of information that you need: the mass and the spin.



WONDERLAND in space



Afoot affairs: the Leonids meteor shower

Alexandra I. Eremia
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

Need something else to stare at instead of the never-ending slabs of sidewalk, or the luminescent lights on your late-night trip home from the library? If you are adventurous and willing to change the direction of your eyes to 90 degrees above their usual level, then you are in for a cosmic event — pun intended. Although you can think of plenty of reasons to continue your morose concrete-staring, music-blaring habits, your midterm-prone life is no reason to miss the Leonids, the only prolific meteor shower of November.

While the shower was expected to peak on November 17 at around 3 a.m., the regular atmospheric penetrations were visible throughout the nights of November 15 to 19.

Throughout the shower's fourteen-day span, over 12 tons of particles cascaded across the entire planet. Though sceptics and cynics may sneer at the 20 meteors per hour as mere turtle haste compared to the speed of our information age, the Leonids are known for their bright "fireball" meteors which are capable of exerting the kinetic energy equivalent to the collision of a car travelling at 100 km per hour. And all this in a two-centimetre package.

Whereas the timing of this year's shower overlapped with the peak of our moon's crescendo, historically, the Leonids have been a splendid spectacle. The shower is associated with the Tempel-Tuttle comet, which has a diameter of approximately 3.6 kilometers, and was discovered in 1866 by the astronomers whose names the comet bears.

The shower's current reputation is associated with its superlative stormy performance noted in 1833, when an observer could see over 100,000 meteors per hour. This magnificence returned, albeit on a smaller scale, in 1866 and 1867


STEVE RYAN/FLICKR

when the shower reached rates of over 1,000 meteors per hour. While Tempel-Tuttle's orbit closely intersects that of Earth, the cloud particles associated with the stormy scene of the late 1860s shifted positions, causing a great variation in atmospheric penetrations, and its mysteriously low occurrence in the late 1800s.

Naturally, the Leonids impact not only our beloved blue planet but all its satellites — natural and artificial alike. If the greyish-white moon were observed through a telescope throughout the Leonids' occurrence, a faint tail-like optical sensation could be identified, stretching from our lunar comrade towards the sun. This characteristic is associated with the moon's constant release of sodium gas, most easily observed when it is experiencing marvellous meteor bombardment. While no academic source has described how artificial satellites cope with this annual shower, it is assumed that they are no strangers to human and spatial debris.

In the past decade, there has been heightened alacrity surrounding the shower's behaviour. Last year, a range of 100 to 500 meteors could be observed at peak time, which also occurred on November 17. Although there are no guarantees when observing meteors, the possibility of getting 20 wishes per hour would surely entice many to watch for these falling stars.

Having paraded under the waterfall of the Leonids meteor shower, next week we will look at the great life of a famous German-born British astronomer and composer, known for discovering the planetary neighbour of this author's favourite planet. Until then, take a much-deserved break from your yellowed and dry textbook pages, and peer into the depths of the night sky experiencing the fantastical Leonids shower.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with Mary Scourboutakos

Vitamin B1!

Thiamine mononitrate — also known as vitamin B1 — revealed in the late 1800s by a Dutch scientist named Christiaan Eijkman, was the first vitamin to be discovered. While working in Indonesia, Eijkmann happened to notice that only people who consumed white rice suffered from a disease called beriberi, which involves severe fatigue and cardiovascular complications. However, those who consumed brown rice, which was not stripped of the hull, were immune. This inquiry is what eventually led to the discovery of vitamins, the compounds whose consumption is essential for humans.

Diseases like beriberi, as well as pellagra, were still common in North America after the turn of the century. It was not until the 1930s that public health policies were implemented requiring certain foods to be fortified with vitamins. As a result of these policies, diseases that result from micronutrient deficiencies are relatively unheard of in the modern Western world.

The B vitamins that you find in fortified foods travel a long way before becoming part of your breakfast. The world's largest vitamin B1 production plant is located in China, near Beijing, and produces three thousand tons annually. Though it is hard to believe, the factory makes vitamin B1 from petrochemicals that are derived from coal tar. The exact process by which vitamin B1 is produced is a heavily guarded secret that the processors refuse to reveal.

Fortification has allowed everything from cereals to pasta to rice to be enriched with vitamin B1. As a result, a mere half-cup of certain cereals can satisfy one's daily requirement of this vitamin. In addition to fortified foods, there are many naturally occurring sources of vitamin B1, including cornmeal, pork, soybeans, oatmeal, and green peas.

Though B vitamin deficiency is less common in today's society, individuals are known to become deficient when fasting or on low carbohydrate diets. Because of its essential role in the nervous system, including the synthesis of neurotransmitters and nerve coatings, supplements of vitamin B1 can be used for treating fatigue, irritability, low morale, and depression. In addition, vitamin B1 deficiency among older adults is a primary contributor to senility and other brain disorders associated with old age. Though scientific confirmation is pending, some say that consuming excessive amounts of vitamin B1 can be protective against mosquitoes, since the extra vitamins are excreted through perspiration and repel insects.

Overall, Vitamin B1, plays a central role in human health. Without it in our diet, whether from a fortified or a natural source, we would feel very unhappy.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Feeling down? Well here's good news: scientists find genetic trigger for depression

The causes and symptoms of depression vary widely among individuals, accounting for the fact that 40 per cent of cases are unresponsive to drug treatment. Current antidepressant medications act by increasing the availability of the neurotransmitter serotonin in the brain, and take weeks or months to produce a therapeutic response.

Ronald Duman, a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at Yale University, performed genome scans on 39 deceased individuals, 21 of whom suffered from depression. The findings showed that a particular gene called MKP-1 was expressed at over double the usual level in the brain tissues of depressed individuals compared to healthy controls.

Further research on mice strengthens Duman's hypothesis that MKP-1 plays a crucial role in the onset of depression. When the gene is inactive, the subjects exhibit increased resilience to stress. Targeting MKP-1 in depression treatment will open the way to more selective, novel classes of pharmacotherapeutic agents with reduced adverse effects.

— ALBERT RAZVAN GHEORGHITA
Source: Science Daily

Family and culture affect whether intelligence leads to education

A recent study published in *Psychological Science* has compared identical and fraternal twins in Minnesota and Sweden, in order to explore how genetic and environmental factors involved in education differ in countries with different educational systems.

Using intelligence test scores and education records for thousands of pairs of twins, the authors concluded that more intelligent people had more education in both Sweden and Minnesota, although intelligence and educational attainment were more closely related in Sweden.

Wendy Johnson, of the University of Edinburgh and the University of Minnesota, speculates that this could be because of the different educational systems in the two countries. In other words, a Minnesotan family that values education and that has the financial means can pay to get a less intelligent child into college, while a Swedish family doesn't have that option. That said, every Swede with high grades and test scores can get a free education and those with low scores do not have the option of being able to pay their way into a good university.

— KIM TRAN
Source: Association for Psychological Science

Celebrity journalism may inspire healthy behaviour among consumers

Want to get fit? Try consuming a healthy dose of celebrity journalism.

Researchers at the University of Missouri School of Journalism have found that reading celebrity health news stories can trigger positive behavioural changes in some readers, and may be an underappreciated way to communicate health messages to a mass audience.

Previous studies indicate that after a person reads a health news story, they seek out interpersonal advice from a friend or family member before deciding to change their health behaviours. However, this step can be circumvented when a celebrity is involved in the story. The MU researchers found that celebrities acted as potential surrogates for this interpersonal contact, making it less likely for consumers of celebrity media to check with a friend or family before changing their health behaviours. This response was further strengthened when the reader had personal experience with the health issue being covered.

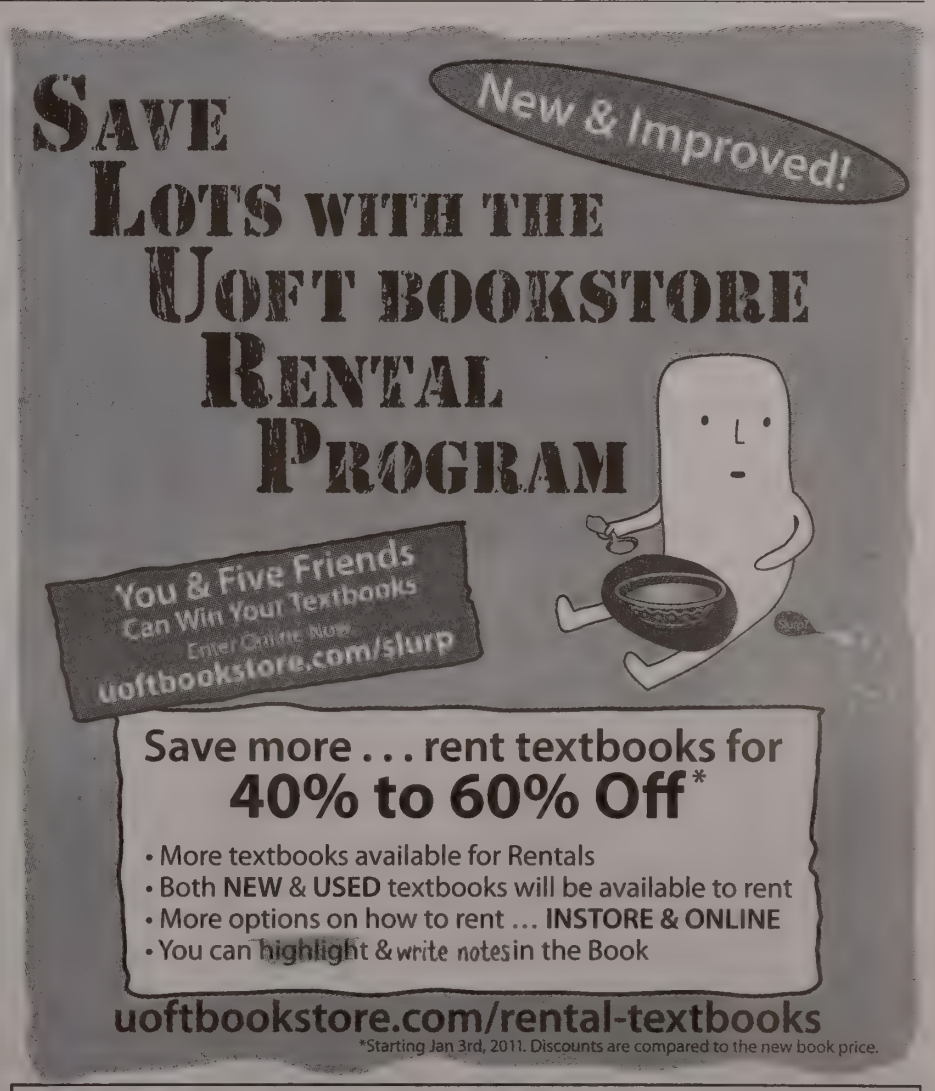
— KELLY ROBERTSON-REINHART
Source: University of Missouri School of Journalism

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Crossing borders

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY STAFF

Varsity Blues swimmer Stevan Kalaba has more than water under his wings. Well into his fourth year at the University of Toronto, he shows no signs of slowing down. He was a reserve to compete at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and has high hopes for next summer — London 2012.

The 21-year-old breaststroke swimmer, who has already accomplished more as an athlete than many will ever dream of, has been training harder than he ever thought possible with the Varsity Blues swim team. Despite a birth at the 2008 Olympic Games as part of the Serbian team, it's Canada that he wants to compete for.

> My true goal is to make it into the Canadian Olympic team for 2012 in London. This is where I grew up. I want to represent the country that I call home.



JING-LING KAO-BESERVE/VARSITY BLUES

Although he was on the Serbian team at the Beijing Olympics, it's Canada that Stevan Kalaba wants to do proud

Born and raised in the heart of Serbia, Kalaba attributes his start as a swimmer to his cousin.

"I was eight years old," he remembered. "I saw my cousin doing it and I wanted to give it a shot."

Four years later, in 2001, Kalaba immigrated to Canada with his parents after the bombing of Belgrade.

It was once he was in Toronto and formally training with the now-defunct East York Swim Club that he began to really develop as an athlete.

While attending East York Collegiate, Kalaba was recruited by the head coach of the Varsity Blues swim team, Byron McDonald. He began competing for the Toronto Swim Club, the team he competes with today.

"U of T had a great reputation when it came to swimming," said Kalaba. "The University of Calgary was my only other consideration, really, but I wanted to stay close to home."

A double major in history and European studies, Kalaba has not forgotten his roots, and has even taken Croatian language classes to "perfect [his] Serbian."

Kalaba has managed to stay on top of his studies despite a hectic schedule with the Varsity Blues swim team. He claimed that his time training at U of T has had a significant impact on his growth as a swimmer.

"When you go to university, you realize there's more to it — more ways to train. When you train with one person, you only use their point of view. Mixing it up creates muscle confusion and makes you swim faster.

"The hardest part about the sport is the amount of dedication that has to be put into it, and learning to master time management skills," said Kalaba, who has a grueling practice schedule of 24 hours a week, with a minimum of 21 spent in the pool.

"You have to wake up every morning and get in the pool at six, concentrate in class and on homework, and then get back into the water for more lengths."

How does he cope with it all? That's an easy one.

"I look up to my mother. Although she doesn't understand the sport like I do, she knows what it's like to compete," said Kalaba of his mother, who was a silver medal-winning Olympian as part of the Yugoslav women's basketball team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Twenty years later, Kalaba followed in his mother's footsteps by traveling to Beijing as a reserve on the Serbian swim team. He was only 18.

And although he has a clear appreciation for his heritage, Kalaba associates his swimming career with Canada, the country in which he fostered it.

"My true goal is to make it into the Canadian Olympic team for 2012 in London," said Kalaba. "This is where I grew up. I want to represent the country that I call home.

"I attribute all of my swimming success to Canada. It has given me a lot."

Kalaba set some personal bests in the 50- and 100-metre lengths in a dual swim meet against Ottawa at the Athletic Centre on the weekend of November 12. He also captured the top spot for all of the breaststroke events, winning not only the 50- and 100-metre races, but the 200-metre as well.

"My favourite part about the sport is competing. I love to see what level I am at, compared to my competition. If I lose, it will only motivate me and make me train harder for the next week," said Kalaba, who attributed much of his personal success to the success of the team as a whole.

"Even though you're out there on our own, you look to the entire team for support. If one swimmer can help the team out and boost spirits and performance, it proves that every swimmer counts.

"A valuable thing I was taught is to be respectful to the other competitors and to have fun, because you have to realize that it's only a sport, and that's when you will do well.

"You have to love it. It gets boring, but you have to remember the end result of it. If you like to compete, you have to train. No matter how repetitive it is, what happens in the day is going to work out in the end."

Soccer stars give back

MLS players do charity work in Regent Park



MLS players and volunteers painted a mural for children in Regent Park on Thursday. DAVID PIKET/THE VARSITY

Sasha Kaira
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It was just a normal school day in Regent Park. Children were on recess, and teachers were enjoying their lunch. This all changed in a matter of minutes, however, as a group of Major League Soccer players showed up for a surprise visit.

Because Toronto served as the host city, the 2010 MLS Cup activities saw players join forces with the Home Depot on Thursday, in a community outreach event at the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club. Players completed tasks, ranging from painting a new welcome sign to drilling new shelving units, and culminated with the unveiling of a mural painted by soccer stars and volunteers.

Local fan favourite and Toronto FC Captain Dwayne De Rosario, a two-time winner of the MLS Cup MVP Award, was on hand for the event. Many of the children were TFC fans, and De Rosario was keen not only to work with them, but to provide a glimpse of what they can expect from TFC in the not-so-far-off future.

De Rosario was optimistic and stated that he felt that making the playoffs next year would help give TFC fans what they deserve. He pointed out that TFC's new consultant Jürgen Klinsmann has invaluable "knowledge and experience in world football."

Among the other players in attendance was the Philadelphia Union's Sebastien Le Toux, recently named to the MLS Best XI Squad. When asked about his impression of Toronto as a host city for such league-wide events, he praised the local fans and the intimidating atmosphere they created for making the stadium tough to play in.

This year was Toronto's first time hosting the MLS Cup, although the MLS All-Star Game, which pitted the MLS All-Stars against West Ham United of the Barclays Premier League, was held at BMO field in 2008. BMO field has also played host to a friendly match between TFC and Real Madrid of La Liga.

Although the organizers of the community outreach event on Thursday had hoped for a star-studded turnout, household names David Beckham and Thierry Henry did not see L.A. Galaxy or the New York Red Bulls, respectively, to the final.

Instead it was a group of players from the Colorado Rapids and Dallas FC that spent their free time volunteering along with stars from across the league to create a Toronto that they want to come back to.

Transgender athlete makes varsity basketball debut

Kye Allums is the first man in history to play NCAA Division I women's basketball

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

George Washington University has announced that its NCAA Division I women's basketball team has a man on the roster.

Kye Allums was born female, but identifies as male. Kye will be the first transgender athlete to ever play NCAA basketball. A junior this season, Kye made his first appearance as a male on November 13 against Wisconsin-Green Bay at the Best Buy Classic.

While Kye is not the first transgender student-athlete in the NCAA's history, his story has been receiving attention from all over North America, and may be setting the stage for more coming out parties in the not-too-distant future.

The NCAA has had a policy in place since 2006 that applies to transgender athletes. It was not until this past October, however, that a set of guidelines was presented by the Women's Sports Foundation and National Center on Lesbian Rights, regarding transgender athletes undergoing hormone therapy.

The existing policy requires that if the athlete is not taking hormone treatment, they play for the gender they were born as — the one that matches their state identification, such as their driver's license or income tax return.

If, however, the athlete is undergoing treatment, it gets a little more complicated. The proposed policy requires that transgender athletes who were female but transitioned to male (FTM) cannot play for a women's team after beginning treatment. In order to play on a men's team, the FTM athlete must be approved by the NCAA because he will be taking testosterone.

TRANSGENDER: an umbrella term for individuals who are physiologically identified as one sex, but psychologically do not conform to the social expectations of being a member of this sex and, instead, identify with the other gender.

TRANSITIONED: refers to those who have undergone sex reassignment surgery and/or hormone therapy. A male who has transitioned to female or is a transgender female is known as male-to-female (MTF), while female-to-male (FTM) is true for the reverse.

Male transitioned female (MTF) transgender athletes can play on a men's team at any time, but must wait for one year after undergoing hormone treatment before they can play for a women's team.

So, the NCAA decided that as long as Kye doesn't take any hormone treatments, he can play for the women's team.

Despite the overwhelming support Kye has received, there remains a large group of people who are against the decision to let him play at GWU, and who have voiced concerns.

One is the locker room issue, and how to determine which room is appropriate for a transgender athlete. Although Kye is biologically female, he identifies as male. So which room is the right one?

A proposed solution is to create small gender-neutral rooms. While this proposition might seem appealing, it is unlikely to sit well with transgender athletes, who would be made to feel outcast by the very same people who claim to accept them.



Another matter is the 'convenience' issue. There are some who have a problem with Kye's situation because they feel that he is straddling the gender line.

Kye identifies as male, but still wants to continue playing women's basketball so that he doesn't lose his scholarship.

Often, transgender people can live for years with this knowledge about themselves but are unable to express it to the world for fear of being chastised. Should these people lose everything they have worked for because they built the courage to finally announce to the world who they truly are?

Also of concern is whether or not **transgender athletes have an advantage by transitioning.** Many feel that **an athlete transitioning FTM** will have an advantage because they will be accepting hormones, which will give them a competitive advantage. Meanwhile those transitioning MTF will have the advantage of having the genetic makeup of a man.

The difficulty with this issue is trying to find an acceptable way for transgender/transitioned athletes to express themselves as they truly are, while at the same time not restricting access to their fundamental rights.

A good sport

Ready or not

Was the Leafs decision to call up Nazem Kadri from the AHL the right one?

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

It's entirely understandable that Maple Leaf fans, and especially the Leafs' front office (already beleaguered by a slower-than-hoped-for rebuilding process) have had a sick feeling in their stomachs lately.

The Leafs' recent nasty skid, halted by a pair of wins against the Nashville Predators and New Jersey Devils respectively this past week, had seen them lose eight games in a row. This reminded many people of the team's seven-game slide that began last season, and set the tone for a 29th-out-of-30th finish to the season.

Perhaps the Leafs, as they showed last year, are one of the only teams in pro sports that can bury themselves in the first month of a marathon-long season.

Nobody really thought that Leafs super-alpha General Manager Brian Burke would let things get truly out of hand. It's common knowledge that the heat on him would increase exponentially if another season spiralled out of control well before Torontonians broke out their snow shovels for the first time.

Burke's options on the trade front were greatly limited, because, well, it's hard to convince other teams to trade for players on a team like Toronto's. He did have one weapon in the minors that he could deploy, and finally, the Leafs' lacking efforts forced his hand.

On November 13, the much-touted Nazem Kadri of London, Ontario, made his NHL debut.

One of the first top draft choices of the Burke era, Kadri has always been thought of by fans, most of whom hadn't seen him play, as a Sidney Crosby or — gulp — Tyler Seguin-type player that can carry the franchise.

Did the call-up reek of panic? Well, quite frankly it's hard to seriously suggest it didn't.

Just a month and a bit ago, Kadri was deemed not yet ready for the NHL, and was sent to the American Hockey League's Toronto Marlies to polish his skills. The point, it seemed at the time, was to give him time to develop, rather than merely put him somewhere until a roster spot opened up.

To deviate from that plan so suddenly, in the face of such an abysmal losing streak, has to suggest panic.

Was it the right move? Time will tell, but so far it hasn't backfired, to say the least.

Kadri hasn't been perfect, but he's shown good play-making skills and raw talent. In just his second game, the Leafs roared back from a 3–0 hole against Nashville to snap the wretched losing streak.

But now it's about shifting gears from short-term relief to long-term salvation. Kadri's success in a Leafs' uniform will be judged by whether they ultimately reach the promised land, whether that means winning a Stanley Cup or merely slipping into the eighth playoff seed.

Burke will give Kadri the pieces, one would hope, and unless he crashes and burns, he is in the big leagues for the long run. At this point in the game, it seems as if the Leafs decision to call up him up from the AHL doesn't really matter. The pressure's on.



Nazem Kadri, pictured here playing with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, has been called up to the Leafs bench. MARLIES.CA

CFL to the rescue

Will the Argonauts be able to revive Toronto's sports scene?



The Toronto Argonauts beat the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 16-13 at Ivor Wynne Stadium to clinch a spot in the Grey Cup semi-final. *ARIEL GARNEAU/THE VARSITY*

Ariel Garneau
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Given the current sports climate in Toronto, fans are starved for a winning team, a team they can get behind every week.

The Toronto Argonauts' surprising performance this season has led many sports fans who, like me, were looking for a reason to unite and cheer for their city, to believe that the team might have a winning formula.

I'll admit that it wasn't until late in the season that I got behind the Argos. I was searching for a team that made me feel proud to cheer for Toronto. I wanted to be a part of a culture that I was beginning to wonder, even existed in this city.

I've since been to several CFL games, and life from the stands is every bit as exciting as it is on the field.

My latest game was round one of the eastern play-offs. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats hosted the Argos outdoors at Ivor Wynne Stadium on November 14. The Ti-Cats stadium gets back to basics and reminds players and fans alike just what it is that they love about football.

The stadium was 2000 spectators short of capacity, but felt packed. As one of the few Argos fans in attendance, I stuck out like a sore thumb, wearing blue in a sea of black and yellow.

Every turnover, the crowd got excited. Pigskin Pete — a die hard Ti-Cats fan who shows up to every one of his team's home games in a customized jersey, bowler hat, and a pension for yelling the Ti-Cats cheer — got the crowd going early on.

Pete walked along the top of the wall inciting violent cheers of support, and arguing with Argos fans around me. He was especially riled up when his team scored their only touchdow of the game.

The Argos won the game 16–13, but had their work more than cut out for them in round two, traveling to Montreal to face-off against the Alouettes on November 21 at Olympic Stadium.

The Alouettes, who walked away with the Grey Cup last year after a close game against the Saskatchewan Rough Riders, took the lead at the beginning of the game and didn't let up.

And despite losing 48–9, the Argos have climbed the ranks this year. They put on a strong showing late in the season, built up their game attendance at a rapid rate, and were just a hair away from making it to the Grey Cup final.

Will it be the Argos who finally give the down-and-slowly-fizzling-out Toronto sports scene the boost that it needs?

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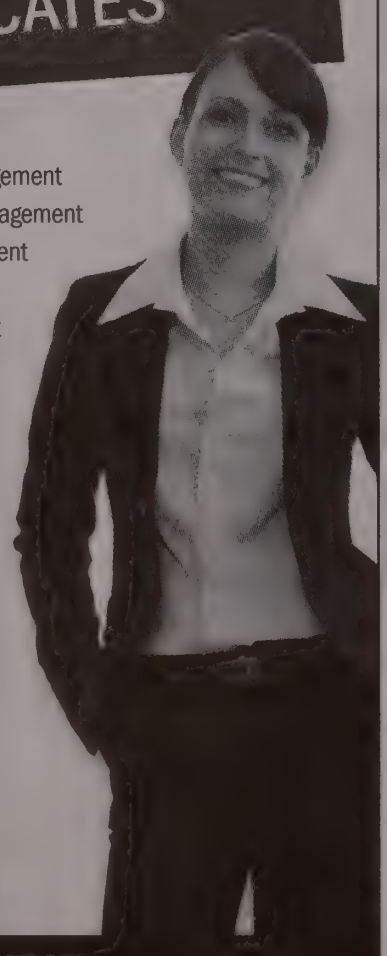
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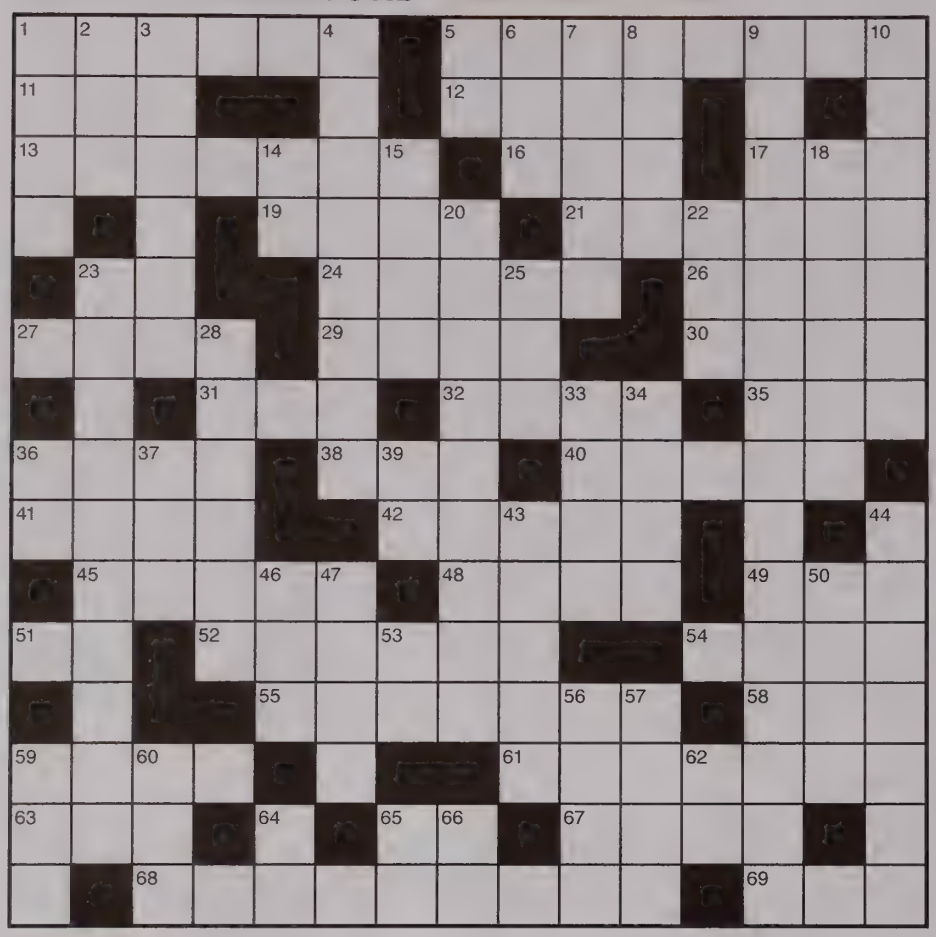
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VARSITY CROSSWORD HOME SWEET HOME *by Busty Leroux*



ACROSS

1. "Lord, what fools these ___s be"
5. Malnourished and hungry
11. Sky-god, according to Sumerian mythology
12. Government agent restricting the use of narcotics
13. Expensive cell phone charges when you leave the country
16. Horned, shaggy haired animal from the highlands of Tibet
17. Charlton Heston was a spokesman
19. Expressive lyric poems
21. Consider carefully
23. The creative form for Mad Men
24. World traveller in *Amelie*
26. Impaired of disabled
27. What a knight does to a dragon
29. What you should do with this issue
30. *House of Meeting*'s author
31. First name of famous pet detective
32. Chess' soldier
35. Time zone of Timmins, Ontario
36. Local politician you probably don't like
38. Prefix meaning new and different
40. Remains of a destroyed building
41. UTSU president
42. To overturn
45. An accolade or honor
48. Indefinitely long periods of time
49. Toronto art museum, one of the largest in North American
51. Side of the cricket field on which the batsman stands
52. Nerdy nurse
54. Acronym for the Soil Liner Evaluation Report
55. Cultural movement which peaked after WWII, embracing chaos
58. Sea Goddess who rescued Odysseus with her magical veil
59. Toronto author of "How Should a Person Be?"
61. To make callous
63. In photography, sensitivity of the image sensor to the amount of light present
65. In gaming, acronym for over-equipped
67. Parisian milk
68. Favourite U of T bar, recently closed down
69. Save our souls

DOWN

1. The red planet
2. Accused of breaking up the Beatles
3. Original spelling of central-east African country
4. Swedish muscle man, action movie star
5. Successor of the League of Nations
6. A negative vote
7. To hang, to rest limply
8. Brand of clothing featuring a rhinoceros
9. Those who strictly adhere to
10. Precious and beloved
14. Moon of Jupiter, with active volcanos
15. Hereditary unit, sequenced in DNA
18. Lack of care and attention to duty
20. *Days of our Lives*
22. Acronym for the national library system of Australia
23. A kid's only form of income
25. The association for muscular dystrophy
28. "I've yadda _____ sex," admitted Elaine Benes
33. Small, inconspicuous species of bird
34. Movie starring Barbara Streisand and Richard Dreyfuss
36. Fourth tone in a scale
37. State of the meat in steak tartare
39. Union of 27 members, committed to regional integration
43. Pertaining to sound
44. Put a lime in these and turn them upside down
46. Stick that helps you fish
47. Tedious, a bore
50. Alternate spelling of a word that sounds like denim pants
53. Brand name macaroni from a box
56. Performing alone
57. Madam
59. Poker request: "___ me."
60. To dress in smart clothes
62. Rhode Island
64. A name I call myself
65. Opposite of off
66. 15-year-long NBC hit show

For the solution, please visit THEVARSITY.ca

We're recruiting!

Want to write? Photograph? Write the crossword? (*Please*, someone, write the crossword!)

The Varsity is always seeking fresh talent. Writers, photographers, illustrators, bloggers, copy editors, and people who don't know how they want to get involved—yet.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

AWARENESS EVENTS:

Linked Oppressions: Racism, Homophobia, and Transphobia
LGBTout, Equity Studies Student Union, Women and Gender Studies Student Union, and the Centre for Women and Trans People present this week of film screenings, workshops, and panels. In conjunction with Trans Awareness Week, it will be dedicated to the investigation of racism, homophobia, and transphobia in our culture.

- *November 22nd to 25th*
- *Various locations*
- *Various times (check rabble.ca/whatsup/linked-oppressions-racism-homophobia-and-transphobia for details)*

FILMS:

Film Lecture Series at the East Asian Library
Brenda Joy Lem, a Chinese-Canadian film director and multimedia artist, will screen and lecture on two of her films, "The Compact" and "Open Letter: Grasp the Bird's Tail" in the next section of the EAL Film Lecture Series. Brenda's films explore themes of family, history, memory, and spirituality.

- *November 24th at 2:30 p.m.*
- *Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library at Robarts, room 8049 (130 St. George St.)*
- *Free! RSVP to lucy.gan@utoronto.ca*

FUNDRAISERS:

re:Style- A Charity Gala and Fashion Show
All proceeds from this event, hosted by the Student Union and Criminology Students Union, go to the 416 Women's Shelter and on the evening of the event, there will be a fashion show with students modelling donated clothing. There will also be talks from professors about poverty in Canada.

- *November 26th at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.*
- *Hart House Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$10 per ticket (can be purchased online)*

MATCHMAKING EVENTS:

UFashion + Love @ U of T
UFashion and Love at U of T is hosting a speed dating event to connect those who are passionate about love and fashion in hopes of bringing U of T students together with a fun event. There will also be a Masquerade After-Party. See ufashion.sa.utoronto.ca for details on said party.

- *November 26th at 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House, South Dining Hall (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$5 (register at loveut.ca/speeddating)*

OPERAS:

Hansel and Gretel
The opera division of U of T's Faculty of Music proudly presents Engelbert Humperdinck's enchanting opera, "Hansel and Gretel", based upon the classic fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. The four performances feature talents from the Opera, Performance, and Voice Programs.

- *November 25th to 28th at various times*
- *MacMillan Theatre (80 Queen's Park)*
- *$15 with student ID*

OFF CAMPUS:

ART BATTLES:

Art Battle 9
Do you want to support local artists? Then go to Art Battle 9. There will be three rounds of live competitive painting (which I bet you didn't know existed), audience voting, auctioning, great music, and more. Paintings that do not attain the minimum bid may be destroyed.

- *November 23rd at 7:30 p.m.*
- *The Great Hall (1087 Queen St. West)*
- *$15 per ticket*

FESTIVALS:

Open Door Festival of Music
A benefit for the Red Door Family Shelter, this year's event features Toronto songsmith Ron Sexsmith, country-folk duo Madison Violet, East Coast singer Rose Cousins, soulful Kinnie Star and pop locals Colleen and Paul. You must be 19 or older. Sorry, freshmen with December birthdays.

- *November 24th at 6:30 p.m.*
- *The Mod Club (722 College St.)*
- *$21*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

THE VARSITY

Monday, November 29, 2010 | University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880 | Vol. CXXXI, No. 15

It's that time of year again.



If you need a break from those mountains of books by your bed, we invite you to take a breather with this edition of The Varsity.

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Blair and Hitchens face-off **p9**

David Mitchell Q&A **p11**

Rodent PMS **p14**

U of T in the Big Ten? **p17**

We help you get through exams **p12**, **p18** & **p19**

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Profs allege donor influence

Two U of T profs argue philanthropists are shaping academic mission. Provost calls idea "crazy."

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Two U of T professors say philanthropists are determining the university's priorities, and not the faculty and students. Professors Paul Hamel and John Valleau believe there is a possibility that university benefactors could even shape academic work.

"We're finding that philanthropy is driving the priorities of the university," said Hamel. "They're being set by administration, independent of what the faculty or the academy determines should be the priorities."

The two started probing benefactor influence by examining the donor agreement for the Munk School of Global Affairs, posted online by Hamel.

"The very first sentence states [the school] will be a top priority of U of T," said Hamel. "Who decided that?"

The $35 million donation — the largest in U of T history — was announced in April and comes from The Peter and Melanie Munk Charitable Foundation. The remaining $25 million comes from the Ontario government. The charity also hired Ensight Canada, a lobbying firm, to advocate federal funding for the school.

Peter Munk is the Chairman of Barrick Gold, a multinational mining corporation. The school aims to become internationally renowned by housing programs involving global politics and a potential journalism program.

Hamel and Valleau's main criticism is that the school was never determined as a priority at the Academic Board of Governing Council.

U of T Provost Cheryl Misak explained that through academic planning, faculties identify priorities and then seek donors who can meet their goals.

"Departments will put through their academic plans that they have an idea and we find ways of doing it. An academic priority is identified on the ground," said Misak. "The idea that donors are driving academic priorities is crazy, just crazy."

Misak said that, although not explicitly stated in meeting minutes, global affairs have organically become a top priority of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

"Every university wants to study things global, it's a really serious priority of every university," she said. "We already had a Munk Centre. The faculty wanted to enhance its offerings for student programs [so] we asked him for more. We're really lucky Munk stepped up to the plate. Peter Munk has allowed U of T to be a world leader in the region of global affairs."

But Hamel feels the donation was arranged to deal with limited resources.

"[The donation] was pursued by administration sort of like a business deal," said Hamel, explaining how priorities require resources and noting that the deal comes in the midst of the faculty's almost $60 million budget shortfall.

Of the charity's $35 million donation, $15 million is set to be donated in annual increments until 2017. A university liaison must report to the charity each year. Hamel says over the course of the donations, school directors will be conscious that "hanging in balance is $15 million" opening potential for

SEE **'DONORS'** – PG 5

THE REAL WORLD

U of T lets students get outside

Job Extern program couples U of T academics with practical experience

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

The University of Toronto may be the highest ranking university in Canada, but when it comes to hands-on experience, there is no doubt that it is lacking.

Enter the extern job shadowing program.

The program runs twice a year and is available to all students. It gives them the chance to explore a career area they are interested in by visiting professionals in the workplace.

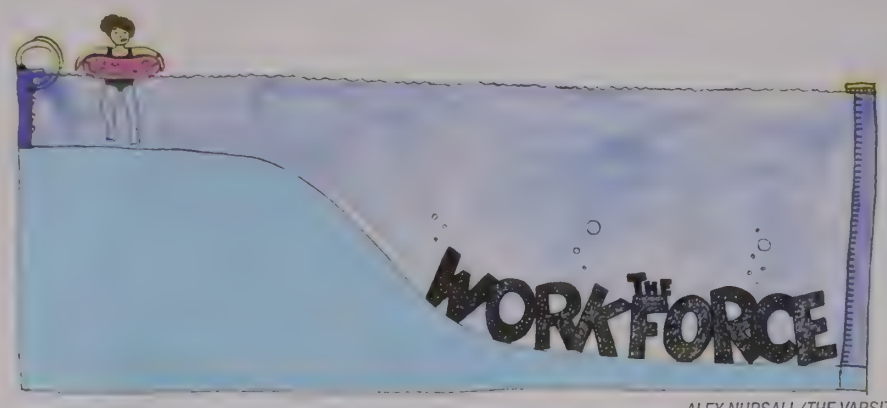
The first session runs during Reading Week from February 22 to 25, and the second session runs from May 2 to 6. Placements vary in length from an hour-long informational interview to a week-long placement. U of T places about 450 students every year.

"Students, many times, get all the academic info they need but don't have an opportunity to have a glimpse of the real world," said Bibian Aguirre, coordinator of career exploration programs and services. "This program gives students exposure to a career they might be interested in pursuing."

However, she stresses, this program does not offer students experience in a profession, but rather exposure to what it is like. It cannot be listed under work experience in a resume, and students do not get paid, nor are they guaranteed a job out of it — in fact, they shouldn't expect a job at all.

But Aguirre believes that the opportunity this program offers makes it worthwhile.

"[Students] can participate as much as they want," she said. "The program does not necessarily end when they say goodbye to their host. Many times we have had students who have kept up relationships, and their hosts become their mentors. […] It's a great way to network."



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Renita Persaud, a life sciences major who graduated in June, received a placement at Mount Sinai Hospital with two orthopaedic surgeons.

"I wanted to gain additional perspective and practical understanding of the field that I intended to enter," said Persaud. "I also wished to see the day-to-day interactions, demands, and specifications of the profession. What I wanted to investigate was the effects of the occupation on the professional."

During her five-day placement, Persaud was able to observe surgeries, interact with residents in the surgical skills labs, and visit pre-op and post-op patients. She also managed to attend a lecture with visiting specialists from the Mayo Clinic in the US.

"I believe that this experience allowed me to understand not just the professional requirements but the personality requirements of the occupation that I want to pursue. I found that information to be instrumental in my decision to pursue further studies."

Students apply for up to four placements from a list posted online in December by the Career Centre. Along with an application, students hand in a resume which is reviewed by a panel of staff.

If selected, students attend a briefing seminar. They only learn what company they are going to connect with during this seminar. This ensures that students apply based on a career interest rather than a company. Students receive a certificate upon completion of the program.

The career centre has built up a database of organizations willing to host students for placements. Many of these hosts are U of T alumni.

"For them it is really good to give back to their community," said Aguirre. "They know what it is like to be in the students shoes. […] Our hosts really appreciate that they're making a difference in the lives of students."

Saim Siddiqui, a fourth-year economics and political science student, got a placement at the US consulate that lasted a few hours.

"I suppose [it helped]," he said. "My placement, unlike that of many others, was much shorter […] but it gave me a good idea of the workplace. The placement company can be quite helpful."

These short placements, usually informational interviews, can be a challenge, said Aguirre. "Many students think, 'I'm going to have to go through that process for a two hour placement?' We tell our students it's very valuable and gives relationships of mentorship and networking."

The next orientation sessions will be held in February and March of 2011. More information is available on the U of T career site.



EQUITY ON CAMPUS

It's getting better

Student suggests that, despite university efforts, discrimination still present

Adam McCauley
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"They tell me that things will get better. I can only hope so." With the recent suicides of five LGBTQ youth in three weeks this fall, issues of discrimination and bullying based on a person's sexual orientation have gained prominence.

The community, faced with a suicide rate four to six times higher than in the general population, has manged to harness attention from politicians and media on continued inequalities. These struggles take place across society, including at U of T.

"It still feels [...] like fighting the man," said fourth-year student Alex Legum, sighing and shaking her head. "These are human issues."

Legum, a member of the LGBTQ community, added that despite being a student in one of the most diverse universities and cities in North America, she continues to search for a sense of respect that remains elusive.

Steve Masse knows this struggle well. As a member of the LGBTQ community and former president of Woodsworth College, Masse advocates for increased awareness on discrimination, bullying, and respect for LGBTQ students.

He is the first to admit, however, that many of the most vulnerable end up "suffering in silence." According to Masse, discrimination and bullying can lead to "feeling worthless, misunderstood, or hopeless."



Steve Masse says that, in spite of the progress that has been made, many still suffer in silence. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Syndicated sex columnist Dan Savage started the "It Gets Better" project in the wake of five teen suicides caused by societal homphobia.

University Life Assessment and Special Programs Coordinator Melinda Scott believes "students don't know the best way to address [suicide]." Scott explained that acts of suicide are often the result of larger issues of discrimination and hate, that the problems can appear too large to solve.

To address these problems, U of T provides a series of programs and services that support the LGBTQ community. Initiatives such as Positive Space as well as student clubs like LGBTOUT work to create spaces within which individuals can "be themselves" without shame or fear of reprisal. Additionally, the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office provides an online harassment reporting system to ensure students can report incidents of hate or mistreatment anonymously.

However, Sexual and Gender Diversity Officer Jude Tate is worried about the "increased tolerance of intolerance" that has created a culture of silence and acceptance that can reduce the number of reported abuses and conceal issues of hate and harassment towards the LGBTQ community. Issues of intolerance appear to be found in the very fabric of U of T's communities.

This is why Legum is realistic about the merits of programs such as Equity Studies, Women's Studies, and Sexual Diversity Studies. While these programs can be seen as progressive, in some sense, "structural issues [have] made it impossible to integrate [this information] into other classrooms." For Legum, the presence of these programs allows LGBTQ issues to be dealt with within these specific departments while ignoring the need for broader integration.

Unfortunately, Tate further suggests that curriculum reform on a broader scale to include diversity issues and address these issues has been very tough, and obstacles remain.

"They still have a long way to [go]," said Masse, who acknowledges that universities are heading in the right direction. But even if "places of education are becoming more and more inclusive and supportive," the fact that we aren't hearing about the sexual and gender diversity discrimination issues on campus does not mean they no longer exist.

"We assume we are modern enough that we don't need to have [conversations about discrimination] anymore," said Legum.

STUDENT INNOVATION

Students gather to present visions for next big app

DemoCamp2 sees nine presentations; exceeds attendance expectations

Deborah Chan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Last Tuesday a lecture hall in the Bahen Centre was packed for DemoCamp2, a symposium of nine different U of T students demonstrating their web developments and entrepreneurial skills.

"People were actually standing in the back. They couldn't find any more seats," says Reginald Tan, president of Web Startup Society, who hosted the event in partnership with the U o T Entrepreneurial Society. Over 160 guests attended, well exceeding both the expected attendance of 100 and the room capacity of 150.

"We had to start turning people away after they exceeded the room capacity," said Nitish Peters, president of UTES.

Tan and Peters created DemoCamp2 to combat what they perceived to be a lack of entrepreneurial spirit in the University of Toronto's technology field.

"At Stanford, it seems like every single computer science student was creating a startup," said Tan. "But when I went to U of T, I didn't really see anything like that going on."

Peters attributes U of T's focus on high GPAs as a detractor from the "startup culture" found at other institutions. "DemoCamp fosters an environment where people can define their own success and show how they are following their dreams as opposed to the stereotypical environment right now where people are very marks-focused," he said.

It wasn't just U of T students who attended, students from all across Ontario came for the presentations as well.

"A lot of people from Queens and York showed up and really loved it, and said they wanted to start a DemoCamp at their university, which is really cool. I'd like to see that happen," said Tan.

In contrast with last year's DemoCamp, which was run solely by WSS, this year's collaboration with UTES focused on the utility and marketability of students' web applications, as opposed to nitty gritty tech details.

"The audience at this one was much more focused on the startup aspect, rather than the craft of making the project," notes James Cash, the only presenter to even mention code in his demo for the Google Chrome extension, ComicNav.

Three of the eight demos were presented by student entrepreneurs with no technical knowledge. Danial Jameel of OohLaLa, a mobile app for discount student coupons, hired student developers with money he won from business competitions. First-year commerce student Donny Ouyang, of the tutoring site Rayku, similarly hires developers out of his own pocket.



Bijan Vaez (above) demoes his app Event-Mobi at DemoCamp2. *LI-FAN CHEN/THE VARSITY*

"Donny buys websites, hires developers to make improvements, then sells them off for five times the profits — instead of flipping real estate, he flips websites," said Tan. "Rayku was his first start-up."

When Khaled Hashem of NoteWagon.com was asked a technical question, his response was, "I don't know, ask the tech guy."

The other five presentations were given by so-called "hackers." First up was fourth year electrical engineer Bijan Vaez with EventMobi, an iPhone application that allows users to view important details about the live event that they are attending. Next were Lori Lee and Andrew Danks, undergraduate students in computer science who developed LoveUT, a dating site exclusively for U of T students that has accumulated over 800 users. Michael Rice, a second year computer science student demoed Remember To Watch, an SMS reminder for TV shows recently featured in *PC Magazine* and lifehacker.com. After James Cash demoed ComicNav, wunderkind Vincent Cheung took the stage and demonstrated his massively successful Shape Collage, an automatic photo collage maker.

Cheung emphasized the value of every utility-based web startup in his presentation: "A lot of [the entrepreneurs in the audience] laughed at the ComicNav extension, but I liked it. You never know, it really could be the next big thing."

When the event ended, Reginald Tan appeared very pleased with the results.

"Ultimately, what we wanted to achieve from DemoCamp is to glorify these student hackers and hustlers. And we did just that. Democamp UofT encouraged students to do what they do best: build great things. And the great thing about the Internet is that you can make an immediate impact on the world if you create something really valuable."

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

University comes together for holiday season

Student union and administration connect with fundraiser and toy drive

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

The University of Toronto Students' Union, the Family Care Office, and the Student Housing Office are organizing their ninth annual food and clothing drive to help support needy families for the holidays.

"Every year, we help anywhere between 75–100 families. It's a rather big project, and we want whatever little bit of help we can get," explained Marketing and Events Coordinator at the Student Housing Service, Jerry Zhuang. "Every single bit of contribution will make a huge difference.

Drop boxes have been set up across campus to collect toys and canned food. Once items are collected, UTSU Member Service Coordinator Terri Nikolaevsky explained how the goods will be distributed. "The donation of new toys will then be distributed through the campus food and clothing bank to families in need on December 10 and 17 at our site location, 569 Spadina Avenue, in the Multi-Faith Centre between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m."

"While the food and clothing bank runs all year long, we specifically collect toys at this time of the year to ensure that our student families have a great holiday season in the face of tight budgets," continued Nikolaevsky.

Zhuang hopes U of T will come together this season and improve upon last year's results. "We delivered around 200 toys last year. Looking to deliver to the same number of families, maybe a bit more, it's definitely growing."

Despite being roughly aligned with the Christmas season, Nikolaevsky stresses that all faiths and cultures are encouraged to participate. "This year we welcome Multi-Faith groups to the fold who are actively seeking donations for our students and student families."

"We're doing things a little differently this year," Nikolaevsky added. "Our efforts extend further to include an annual fundraiser for the food and clothing bank [that will] showcase [...] exceptional U of T talent, a wonderful three-course dinner, and an auction."

Jennifer Bennett, manager of the Student Housing Service, said the food drive is a very key community-building event.

"The food drive is important because it's raising awareness and creating a community between people during the holiday time, which is such a hard time for so many."

Cheryl McGratten believes that beyond just fostering a community, the fundraiser is a way of making those who are studying abroad or are new immigrants to the country feel more welcome. "The U of T food and toy drive is one way to help those recently separated from their countries, and share some encouragement, joy, and fun," explained McGratten, adding that she hopes they will also enjoy the diversity and multiculturalism of this city.

"It's a great feeling, to be standing in the middle of a mountain of toys, and knowing that lots of kids will be having a wonderful winter holiday," explained Zhuang.

In helping promote the fundraiser, the co-coordinators' favorite catch phrase is: "We want people to help us gift a smile."

CORRECTION

In the Monday, November 22 issue of The Varsity images on pages 12 and 13 were credited to David Pike. The photos were actually taken by Remi Carreiro (http://www.flickr.com/photos/purplepick/).
The Varsity regrets the error.

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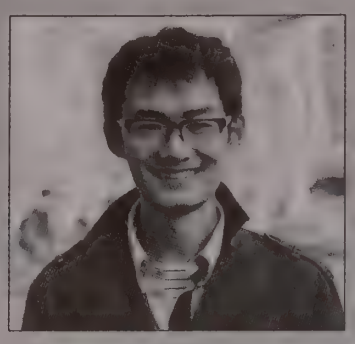
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Where do you go to study?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Guan
4th Year, Commerce
"The Graham Library at Trin. It's cozy — especially in the winter."



Andrew
3rd Year, Sociology
"The Munk Centre because it's close to the gym."



Saviz
2nd year, Economics
"The basement in Gerstein. It's so secluded."



Mariam
3rd year, English and Psychology
"Kelly Library at St. Mike's. It's kind of cozy."



Hector
Graduate Studies
"Gerstein. I can get the most work done there."



Rabia
1st year, Commerce
"Robarts because I can get some real peace and quite there. Also, it's a huge peacock!"



Katrina
1st year, Commerce
"Robarts because it's big and pretty."



Renato
2nd year, English & Biology
"Beneath any nice tree on campus will suffice."

LIBRARY

UTSC Library operating hours shorted

Change invokes complaints from students

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto Scarborough Library has launched reduced hours in response to recent pilot studies, stirring mixed feelings from staff and students.

Last year's 24/7 service ran 10 weeks through fall and 13 weeks through winter. This year, the service is scheduled only during exams from December 7 to December 21, and from April 9 to May 1. This represents an almost 80 per cent reduction from the previous year. For the remainder of both semesters — after Thanksgiving during fall and after February 7 during winter — the new extended hours stretch from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Mondays to Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Fridays and noon to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays.

"The library worked very closely with students in determining hours that will best serve their needs," said Victoria Owen, UTSC's head librarian. "We spent years conducting pilot projects, [...] consultations, surveys, and focus groups to establish a schedule that is most beneficial to them."

Since 2005, the library has been running a series of pilot projects that test the efficiency of various operating hours. Last year's study showed that after 2 a.m., average student usage fell to 31 before exams and to 78 throughout the exam period. The numbers continued to drop until 7 a.m. when they reached an average of 17 and 50 respectively, followed by an upward trend throughout the day.

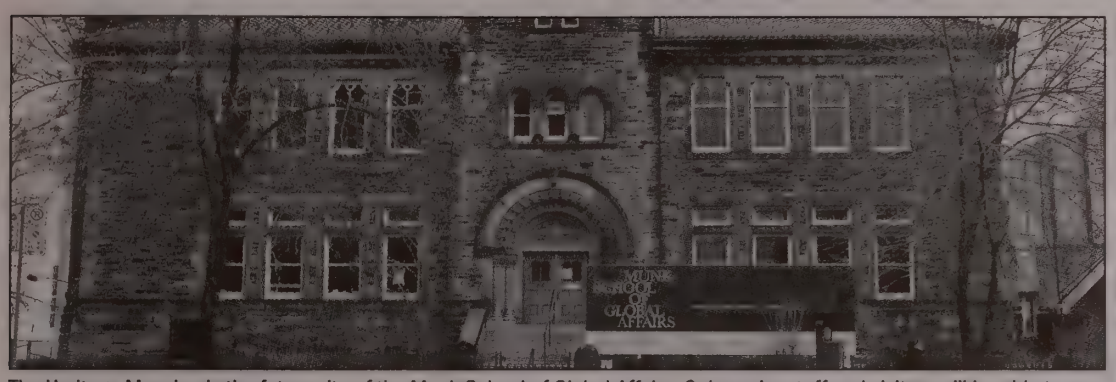
Owen explained that the changes were "designed to maximize resources and meet student demand where it exists," but some are concerned that the library's current layout is still not quite meeting students' needs.

"As a university, we aim to educate students and have them attain academic

SEE 'LIBRARY' – PG 5







The Heritage Mansion is the future site of the Munk School of Global Affairs. Only senior staff and visitors will be able to use the front doors. *RYAN KELPIN/THE VARSITY*

'DONORS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"influencing the academic mission of the university."

Misak says that reporting to the charity is a matter of accountability, not agenda-setting.

"When people give, they give for a purpose. They want to know the money was actually used for that purpose," said Misak.

"You just want to have a check to make sure the money given to where it's intended. Occasionally, when someone gives a lot of money [...] they want the school to be really great, not just sort-of-great. So it's [the initial] $10 million donation and then we review that it's on the track to greatness."

"We need to revisit the structure of governance at the University of Toronto," said Hamel, adding that he and Valleau are now examining other donor agreements and have started presenting to other faculty members.

They also take issue with the agreement's space usage of the school, located in the Heritage Mansion at Bloor Street West and Devonshire Place.

The donor agreement states that the Canadian International Council, a corporate think tank including Peter Munk and Munk School director Janice Stein, gets up to 25 per cent of the building.

"We're having a space problem at this university," said Hamel. He admitted that CIC will pay rent for its space, but noted it will share areas like meeting and dining rooms.

"There's not enough space for classrooms, study space, but they get space," he said.

Of the agreement's requirements, Hamel finds the front door policy the most bizarre.

The agreement states that "the main entrance of the Heritage Mansion will be a formal entrance reserved only for senior staff and visitors to the School and the CIC." Others must enter at secondary entrances.

"It's so pernicious," said Valleau. "It seems so out-of-touch with the social mores of the university [and] doesn't seem to be an important contribution to scholarly life."

"I can even walk into Simcoe Hall in the front door, like anyone else," said Hamel. "The point of this university is not to make it hierarchical and exclusive in certain domains, the point of the place is to make it open to everybody. And here explicitly written in the agreement, and agreed to by the university, is precisely the opposite."

The point of the place is to make it open to everybody. And here explicitly written in the agreement, and agreed to by the university, is precisely the opposite.
–Prof. Paul Hamel

He also noted the agreement's emphasis on branding. For all eight years of the donation, the foundation will contribute $250,000 annually to branding. The university will hire a media-tracking service to examine the school's media coverage.

"To agree in advance to [the branding campaign] seems like an extraordinary thing to do as it appears to limit university authority," said Valleau.

"[This] runs completely counter to the essence of what an academic place is supposed to be, because branding and marketing are really often antithetical to academic work," said Hamel, asking if academic work unfavourable to Munk's corporate involvement would be publicized.

"It's amazing how much emphasis is put on branding in the document."

Misak says the university community has achieved much because of its benefactors.

"We don't get enough funding from government and tuition to make these investments. I get a little exercised over this," said Misak. "What we've been able to do over the past decade because of our benefactors: public health, nursing, global affairs, social work; these are all our biggest gifts from the past decade. We need to celebrate our donors."

But Valleau says it's a question of independence.

"[U of T] is under pressures and the question is how it's coping in satisfying these pressures," said Valleau. It appears there is no governing structure serving the university in a meaningful way."

Hamel said he believes university administration is glad he and Valleau are looking into donor agreements, since universities are about critical thinking. He noted that administration provided the donor agreement quickly upon request and without question.

The Peter and Melanie Munk Charitable Foundation, which shares a phone number with Barrick Gold, did not return an interview request by the time of publication.



UTSC's library has dropped its 24/7 service by almost 80 per cent based on student demand. *DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/THE VARSITY*

'LIBRARY' – CONTINUED FROM PG 4

success — longer library hours will help us achieve [this] mission," said Fran Wdowczyk, special advisor to the chief administrative officer and chair of the study space working committee advocating for the increase of 24/7 study spaces on campus.

"Some students have approached me troubled with the reduced hours," said Scarborough Campus Students' Union VP Academics Sulaimaan Abdus-Samad. "They just want a place where they can focus for long periods of time and not have to think of leaving at a certain hour."

Third-year student Philip So has his own reservations. "Though a 24-hour service is ideal, we are throwing away resources by keeping the library open when less than one per cent of the [student body] is using it," said So.

The Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre is the library at UTM, a campus of similar size to UTSC. It holds extended hours until midnight and also offers 24/7 services only around exam periods.

"UTSC has some of the longest hours among the U of T libraries," asserts Owen, but Wdowczyk believes that there is still room for improvement.

"Increasing hours is a move that will propel the students towards success, and we will continue to work with the library so that the needs of students are realized."

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What happened to Bill C-393?

Parliament's attempt to kill a bill that will give cheap drugs to AIDS sufferers in Africa

Sahar Golshan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

What has the support of 80 per cent of Canadians, could improve the lives of millions, yet is being destroyed in the House of Commons? The answer: Bill C-393.

In observance of World AIDS Day 2010 on December 1, I'd like to share the true story of a groundbreaking Canadian idea to fight HIV/AIDS.

Once upon a time lived an act called Jean Chrétien's Pledge to Africa. Born on May 13, 2004, it was the first of its kind, representing a bold attempt to circumvent the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in favour of greater global access to medication. That year, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham announced "Canada is very proud to be the first country to take concrete action to implement this important decision, which will go a long way toward improving global health."

In 2005, an all-party agreement transformed the act into the Canadian Access to Medicines Regime. Despite the nice words on paper, CAMR is fraught legislation, and has been from the start. CAMR poses numerous barriers to developing countries, and is not financially feasible for pharmaceutical companies.

In the past five years, the only "success" CAMR has to its name is a sole shipment of only one kind of drug to a single country. Contrary to the view of many Conservative MPs, the isolated shipment to Rwanda in 2008 does not render CAMR a successful Canadian law. Far from facilitating access, CAMR is nearly unusable.

CAMR's practical failure was met with a hopeful alternative in May 2009. Bill C-393 is a private member's bill submitted by New Democratic MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis. Bill C-393 is an act to amend CAMR in an effort to create a "one-licence solution." Passing the bill into law would mean that a generic pharmaceutical company like Apotex Inc. would only require one licence in order to distribute its low-price drugs to multiple countries on multiple occasions. Apotex is Canada's largest generic pharmaceutical manufacturer, and has made a pledge to export low-price drugs to developing countries should CAMR embrace the simpler "one-licence solution" proposed in Bill C-393.

Make no mistake: Bill C-393 has defied odds. Now in its second reading, the private member's bill was submitted to the Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Technology in March, 2010 once Parliament resumed after prorogation. Die-hard supporters include former prime minister Paul Martin, former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis, and Founder of Dignitas International James Orbinski. The bill also has the support of 37 humanitarian organizations.

To the immense shame of a Canadian legacy, Bill C-393 has now made a turn for the worst. On November 1, 2010, Liberal critic of industry, science, and technology of Marc Garneau, amended the bill by eliminating the crucial clause which called for a "one-licence solution."

Garneau's amendment undermined the entire process, rendering the bill meaningless and irrelevant. It is now time to go back to the drawing board for the MPs, activists, and humanitarian organizations who have fought endlessly for this life-saving bill.

What's more, Garneau's rationale holds no water. The Liberal MP disregards the WTO's Doha Declaration, which states that "the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to protect public health." This explicit statement welcomes the immense reform demanded by supporters of Bill C-393.

According to UNAIDS, 10 million out of the 33.3 million people living with HIV still do not have access to medicine. The epidemic of HIV/AIDS is a long-proven threat to global public health and must take precedence. Intellectual Property Rights need to take the backseat.

What can we do in the face of Canada's frustrating double standard?

"Shut the F#$% up."

Remember Senator Nancy Ruth's notorious statement prior to this past summer's G8 Summit? After Canada announced its exclusion of abortion from the country's Maternal Health Initiative, Ruth cautioned development organizations to keep quiet.

"This is not about women's health in this country," Ruth said. Her words depict the precise problem of the Canadian double standard.

Is Canada — a country dedicated to the right to universal health care — truly concerned with the health care of non-Canadian adults and children who live with HIV/AIDS?

Though it looks grim, it's not the end of the story for Bill C-393. Its survival depends on our own political will to speak up.

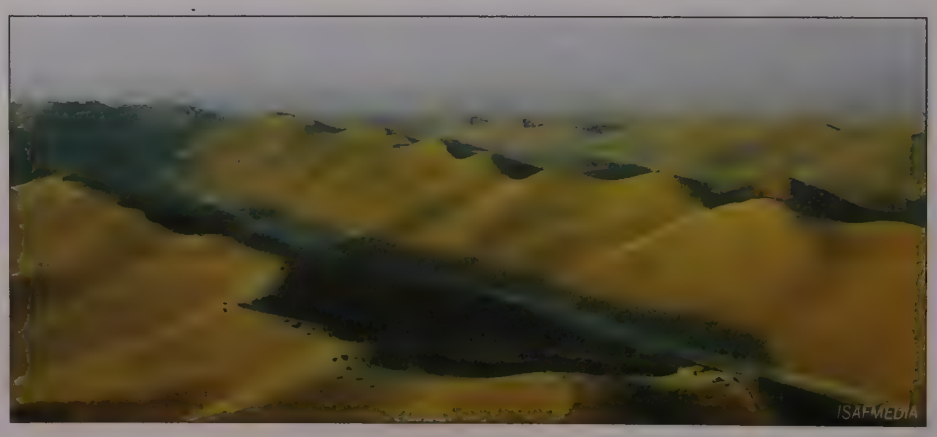
Although last May Senator Ruth warned us to "be quiet for five weeks," this December we need to remind ourselves of the words of Canadian AIDS activist Stephen Lewis.

"Every day counts."

Mission extended

Why we should be upset that 950 Canadian troops will be in Afghanistan until 2014

Jon Foster
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR


ISAF MEDIA

We were promised by Prime Minister Stephen Harper that our troops would be leaving Afghanistan originally in February 2011. The deadline was then pushed to July 2011. Now Harper tells us that we are keeping 950 troops in Afghanistan until 2014 — the deadline NATO has set for a complete withdrawal and the turnover of security to the Afghan military. Harper says that this falls within the scope of the vote that occurred in the House of Commons and that it is his government's executive authority to make such decisions without another vote in Parliament. This attitude goes against both what Harper promised in his last election platform and what he said to Parliament four years ago.

A recent Canadian Press Harris-Decima poll has found that Canadians are weary about the fate of the Afghan mission. While sentiment is split on the new role of training the Afghan military, an overwhelming 60 per cent of respondents said they oppose outright any military presence in the region, and only 37 per cent support it. Canadians do not wish to see any more fatalities, and feel that the 152 soldiers we have lost in the nine years since this mission began is enough.

So with this sentiment, it needs to be asked — where is the opposition? Why are we letting a minority government make such a monumental decision that could cost the lives of more Canadians?

The answer is simple — it comes down to party politics.

Michael Ignatieff has not denounced the government's decision, nor has he called for any public debate in the House of Commons or demanded a new vote, while the NDP and Bloc Québecois have cried foul. Having been quite un-engaged on the matter, Ignatieff has said very little about this important issue.

The Liberal leader has two main reasons for not forcing a proper debate and vote in Parliament on this issue.

It would be advantageous to allow Harper's Conservatives to make this decision, which is incredibly unpopular, as a form of political suicide. The next time there is an election which could come any time in this minority parliament, Ignatieff is likely to use the decision as fodder to help the Liberal campaign. They will position themselves as the party that truly listens to the people, and ride on the coattails of the unpopularity that is sure to dog Harper's Conservatives. We must not ignore the fact that the Liberals and Conservatives are currently in a virtual tie in the polls, according to EKOS Politics, and if an election were to be held today the Conservatives would garnish 29.4 per cent of the popular vote, compared to the 28.6 per cent for the Liberals. This means that an election result is completely up in the air, so any advantage one party has over the other is worth exploiting.

Also, the Liberal caucus is incredibly divided on the issue of extending this training mission until 2014. Ignatieff simply cannot let these divisions show or else his party may lose some of the confidence the Canadian public has in them to form the next government. Simply put — Ignatieff does not have the support of his party to oppose this decision that Stephen Harper has forced upon Canadians. So, he will keep the criticisms in check, and smile and nod for the decisions that are being made.

What is more disturbing is the idea that Canadians will not be in military combat — something that Canadians are vehemently against. The government is spending $85-million to transfer the Canadian Forces Base at Kandahar to Kabul, where they will train the Afghan military. Stephen Harper wants us to believe that our 950 troops will be safe there, and will be free from combat. But how can he guarantee this? The Taliban, which has been battling NATO forces in the region for nine years now, is not going away. They are continually finding ways to attack NATO troops. Sure, the Canadians will not be going out looking for a fight, but there is no guarantee that the fighting will not come to them.

All in all, it comes down to the fact that we were lied to. The Conservatives are going back on their election platform, and the Liberals are letting them. The only parliamentarians looking out for us are those in the NDP and Bloc. Too bad neither of those parties are going to form the next government.

Watch where you're driving!

The consequences of reckless driving in Toronto

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Walking and cycling can be dangerous methods of transport in a city where one pedestrian is injured every 4.3 hours and one cyclist is injured every 8.8 hours. *DAVID PIKE/VARSITY ARCHIVES*

Every 9.6 minutes, a vehicle has a collision. One pedestrian is injured every 4.3 hours, and one cyclist is injured every 8.8 hours, as per the Collision Report 2009 from the City of Toronto. Following another near-death experience while navigating the mean streets on my lowly legs, I started wondering what could be done to make it better. Obviously, the possibility of causing death or bodily harm to others is not enough of a deterrent for drivers to be a little more patient and a little more aware. How many times have you crossed the street at an intersection, obeying the light, only to have cars turn into or in front of you? I always stop when I see a car coming directly at me, which drivers always take as a concession of the right of way. It's actually more of a "I don't really feel like getting my legs broken today, but thanks so much for the offer," than a "Please, go ahead!" but that's alright.

Education and awareness of road safety are always important. Everybody on the road needs to be careful and follow these rules, as this is not an "us vs them" debate. But I think people know these things, they just choose not to act in accordance with them. Most of the issues with reckless driving involve a lack of common sense as much as they involve not adhering to the Highway Traffic Act. Do not speed. Stop at red lights, stop signs, when streetcar doors are open. Do not drive into people when they have the right of way. So what else can be done? What can serve as an effective reminder? Harsher penalties! More enforcement! Maybe more red-light cameras could also deal with this. Maybe fines could be increased. Maybe the concept of fines is more tangible to some drivers than injuries and deaths. Maybe.

I have been lucky. Many have not. The City of Toronto Transportation Services website has wonderful reports outlining statistics and specifics of vehicle collisions involving pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles, complete with recommendations to make streets safer. The most recent concrete statistics available are from January to March 2010, which state that out of the 557 pedestrian-motor vehicle accidents, 520 resulted in injury and 9 were fatal. 296 were caused by drivers failing to yield the right of way. In the same period there were 127 cyclist-vehicle collisions, 104 resulted in injuries, and 43 of them were drivers who failed to yield the right of way. Of course, that isn't biking season, so statistics from summer 2009 give a better idea of cyclist-vehicle collisions in the city. Between 120 and 180 accidents happened every month from May to October, with 993 causing injuries out of the total 1,155 accidents reported that year. And those are standard annual statistics. Most accidents happen downtown, during rush hour, and for pedestrians, over the winter months. Police say that when people bundle up, visibility is reduced. This was cited as a possible factor in the November 19 death of a man hit by a streetcar when crossing Spadina. He was the second cyclist and 36th person to die in a collision this year.

All of the reports recommend improvements in infrastructure, education, and enforcement. Although people respond well to enforcement safety campaigns, they fall back into bad habits when the campaigns end. Red light cameras have proven their benefit by reducing collisions by 25 per cent where they are used, and accidents typical of red light running by 60 per cent. Ontario increased the fine for running red lights from $180 to $325 in January 2010, recognizing the importance of treating these offenses seriously. Right now, the penalty for not stopping for open streetcar doors is $20 to $100, disrespecting pedestrians at crosswalks is $150 to $500, "careless driving" is $400 to $2,000, imprisonment, or license suspension, and speeding is at worst $9.75 per km and points from a license. It is true that when accidents happen, serious criminal charges can be brought and the costs are far greater. But there is no dollar value on a life. There is no dollar value on a life of disability and chronic pain. Perhaps cameras and increased fines can do for careless driving and other infractions what they have done for running red lights. In the meantime, let's all keep our heads up and follow the rules of the road.

LETTERS

Re: Muslim women in sports, November 1

With regard to the article by Betina Alonso on Muslim women in sports that appeared in the November 1 issue of The Varsity I would like to commend the effort on raising awareness of this issue. Women in sports have historically been demeaned and overtly sexualized. In professional sporting events women are forced to dress as scantily as possible. This is clearly evident in tennis and beach volleyball where the most provocative angles make it to the airwaves. Female athletes in advertisements are used for their sexual appeal instead of their skill assets.

Practising Muslim women, when not provided with the option of being clothed, will choose to remain covered and be physically inactive. Those that can, will take memberships at women-only gyms and some may do physical activity at home exclusively. But, we attend a university and these girls pay the same levy fee that everyone else does to the athletic centre. Therefore, as stake holders, they deserve accommodation. It's important to be able to access proper equipment and have access to knowledgeable instructors to avoid risk of injury and learn proper techniques.

In the past, there has been some uproar when women's only hours were introduced at the University of Toronto. Some of this commotion was caused by other women who claimed Muslim women should learn to assimilate. But Muslim women are not the only ones to benefit from women-only hours or the only ones who feel more comfortable being covered while playing sports. Such accommodations work for the vast majority of the female population. The goal of the university, and its athletic and varsity centres should be that of introducing physical activity to as many people as possible so that the value of physical activity can be instilled for a lifelong period. The more physically active our population is, the less our future healthcare bills and taxes will be.

Anas Ingar

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

I am writing in response to the article recently published in the Varsity entitled "*Toike* fosters homophobia." I read about the piece *Toike* printed called "Faggots! All I see is Faggots!" on Facebook and was appalled. A *Toike* staff member was quoted in your paper saying, "I don't think there's anything racist [sic] against gay people in it. It's just the word faggot." For him to suggest that a person can use a word like "faggot" and divorce the term from its history of oppression and hatred against gay people is illogical. If we have moved beyond homophobia in our society how does he explain the onslaught of recent teenage suicides as a result of homophobic bullying? There are also serious ramifications when the word "faggot" is used. Whether it was intentional or unintentional on the part of Mr. Nourian, the end result of printing a headline called "Faggots! All I see is Faggots!" is a perpetuation of homophobia. It is not a funny term and especially not to those of us who have experienced homophobia throughout our lives as a result of our sexuality and have suffered because of it.

Catherine Paquette

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

It is in my opinion that the article in the Varsity concerning the *Toike Oike*, or the *Toike* as it is commonly referred to, is heavily biased and completely preposterous. The liberal, ultra left-wing ideologies that are represented in the majority of newspapers currently produced by the student body at the University of Toronto leave any sane conservative individual feeling lost and lacking a sense of comradeship. By demanding the removal of all the *Toike*s published last month*, the Varsity is completely contradicting everything it stands for. This is a case against freedom of speech, regardless if it offends any individuals. Contributors to the *Toike* do not encourage anyone to read their newspaper (I'm pretty sure they do not even read it), and if content does indeed offend people, they should look to radical liberal publications, such as yours, for a shoulder to cry on. I for one do not touch your publication (much like how I avoid the Star) for fear of contaminating my superior mind with the gibberish found in your newspaper. I do believe the tree-loving, G20-protesting, flower children that you have contributing for your fine publication take it upon themselves to exaggerate such things of menial importance to extreme levels; this certainly comments on their poor skills as journalists.

I would like to thank you for your time.

P.S. I am also appalled at the content of your newspaper on page 4 (I believe) when someone remarks "smoking lots of weed and listening to Kanye West." To think that the University of Toronto, the finest institution of higher education in all of Canada, is being represented by such remarks by students is completely outrageous. I demand that you scrutinize future publications and that all allusions to cannabis and/or recreational drug usage be removed immediately. This is unacceptable, and I shall press for further consequences if it occurs again in the future. Additionally, who the hell listens to Kanye after he interrupted Taylor Swift?

C. Valentini

**[Ed. Note: The Varsity did not demand the removal of Toike issues from the stands.]*

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

I am writing in regards to the article "*Toike* fosters homophobia", dated November 22, 2010 by Elizabeth Kagedan. I find it a piece of sensationalist journalism that does little to back up the headline and launches a personal attack on a member of U of T's engineering community.

The article makes the argument that printing the word "faggot", in any context, is unacceptable. It does so by quoting a single individual from the board of LGBTOUT. While this individual has a right to his opinions, I hardly think that they constitute the *Toike* Oike newspaper fostering homophobia. Printing such a headline is libelous.

The word "faggot" was printed in the October 2010 issue of *The Toike Oike* in a "Point-Counterpoint" piece between a homeowner and a homeless man. It is obvious that neither of these men are real people. I believe the "homeowner" is an exaggeration of someone who is very well off, while the "homeless man" is an exaggeration of one of the many people with Tourette Syndrome and perhaps other mental disorders that live on the streets of Toronto and shout various things at passersby. In the ranting and raving of this caricature of a man, the word "faggot" is used. This is the instance of the word that your paper has latched onto and has used to print that the *Toike Oike* fosters homophobia: the words of a homeless, rambling, non-existent man.

Your paper doesn't stop there

though. The "*Toike* fosters homophobia" article also reprints two rather offensive images, that were pulled from the October 2010 issue of the *Toike Oike*, for no reason, as far as I can tell, other than to give your newspaper a flashy cover and to further attack the character of the current *Toike Oike* editor.

The printing and subsequent pulling of those images is an issue altogether separate from fostering homophobia, and was dealt with on the 28 of October in a formal apology from both the president of the Engineering Society and the dean of Engineering. Your paper's reprinting of the images 27 days later demonstrates a lack of sensitivity and judgment. I had thought The Varsity to be a better newspaper.

Please consider revising the article "*Toike* fosters homophobia", and issuing a formal apology of your own. Should you take no action, I will do everything in my power to ensure that no one I know ever picks up another copy of The Varsity.

Lukas Helt
Ph.D. Candidate in Physics
University of Toronto

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

While I don't believe the *Toike* "fosters homophobia", I do not think it would be all that bad if they diversified their repertoire a little. It is a little unfortunate that such brilliant young minds still choose to hold the notion that this kind of stuff represents the avant garde of humour. I am not offended by the alleged homophobia or the sexism, just the unabashed lack of innovation.

As a 4th year student in chemical engineering, I know that the kind of work load we have is used as an excuse for lack of critical examination of media so as to allow for mindless consumption of it. I think publications within Skule have a responsibility to foster critical thinking on levels outside of what our technical education provides for us. The *Toike* routinely fails to do that.

Aadita Chaudhury

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

I am writing about the article regarding Navid Nourian and the *Toike Oike* published yesterday in the Varsity; http://thevarsity.ca/articles/38373

I am an avid *Toike* reader, have friends who write for it, and have enjoyed the publication since first coming to the University of Toronto. In the article recently published in the Varsity, some of the issues being discussed have been grossly misrepresented. Don't just take my word for it - there has been a lengthy discussion in the comment section where Navid (among others) have shone more light on the specifics of the article that your author simply failed to mention or research. I am astounded that an article like this was allowed to make it to print, let alone be prominently displayed on the front page.

First and foremost, the *Toike* is a humour publication. Of course it makes jokes that are not PC, but that's kind of the point. Yes, there is a line and it can be crossed, but simply using the word "faggot" is far from that line. I feel like I shouldn't have to say this here, but because of some of the misinformed comments on the page of the article, I probably should, I am a female, some of my best friends are homosexual, and I am not the slightest bit racist. And again, I find the *Toike* articles to be a good laugh. If I thought its writers were actually serious, well, that would be a different story.

The fact that the Varsity would even think to publish an article like this one, on the other hand, offends me infinitely more than the *Toike* possibly could. For a newspaper that is intended to be a serious, balanced representation of viewpoints to publish an article called "*Toike* Fosters Homophobia", include the images that were immediately taken down by the *Toike* team (as they recognized them as overly objectionable), and misrepresent some quotes the way it clearly has (based on the extensive discussion in the comments) — this is beyond offensive, and just plain wrong. Despite appearing like it intends to present a balanced view of the issue, the title of the article and quotes/images used, in my opinion, bias the reader strongly towards a negative view of the *Toike* and its authors. I would have expected a better effort on the part of Elizabeth Kagedan, the lead author on your article, to ensure that the quotes being used were done so in a valid context and that the issues were truly being represented as balanced.

This issue needs a better resolution then a lengthy debate in the Comment section. Navid and the rest of the *Toike* team deserve better. Shame on you for allowing this article to be published as is.

Please let me know what you are planning to do in response to this. As a team who prides themselves on journalistic integrity and a fair and balanced representation of views, I trust you will agree that this issue cannot remain unresponded to. I expect to see some sort of follow-up article appearing within the next few days.

Jessica Lovelock
Student, Engineering Science, Class of 2013

Re: *Toike* fosters homophobia

I remember seeing the newspaper in my first year, when I was still in engineering. I was still a relatively closeted gay youth back then. You would not believe the impact it had on me. I had expected to come to a faculty that would be open and respectful to my opinions: instead, I found that they endorsed cartoons as these ones.

As Ben pointed out, there have been many suicides among gay youth reported by the media in the last month. Navid, you cannot estimate the immense feelings of isolation that gay teenagers experience. In engineering, gay students may already find it hard to identify with others and find others to talk to about their sexual orientation. Your newspaper is perpetuating these barriers and thus the isolation the that gay teens who may be coming into your faculty may feel.

"We're in no way saying that the word 'faggots' is okay for normal conversation, we're in no way saying it is acceptable"

No. You're simply saying that it is okay for gay people to be treated as objects of ridicule so that others can be entertained.

"The more you use 'faggots' in a context that has nothing to do with homosexuality, the quicker it's going to become a word that has nothing do with homosexuality"

Did you see all those gays on the street inserting the word 'faggot' into every sentence they said so that it would quickly become a word that has nothing to do with homosexuality? Didn't think so.

"Timmy Mo"

CLARIFICATION

Last week's article "Toike fosters homophobia" was updated on **thevarsity.ca** with the headline "Toike accused of homophobia" and with a quote attributed to Toike editor Navid Nourian by another individual removed.

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions submissions are also welcome.

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The Great Debate.



Can religion be a force for good in the world? **CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS** and **TONY BLAIR** square off.

words by **ALEX ROSS**
photos by **ANDREW RUSK**

RELIGION VERSUS REASON. Faith as a means of peace versus faith as a means of destruction. These are the dichotomies that have been drawn for the Munk Debate on Religion between Tony Blair and Christopher Hitchens. Two men who have such complex personalities resist easy categorization. Tony Blair, on the pro-religion side of the debate, only recently converted to Catholicism after leaving the UK premiership in 2007. His father is a militant atheist. Hitchens, on the con side of the debate, is the author of the anti-religious polemic *God is not Great* yet he observes Passover and his brother Peter has written extensively about his own transition from atheism to faith.

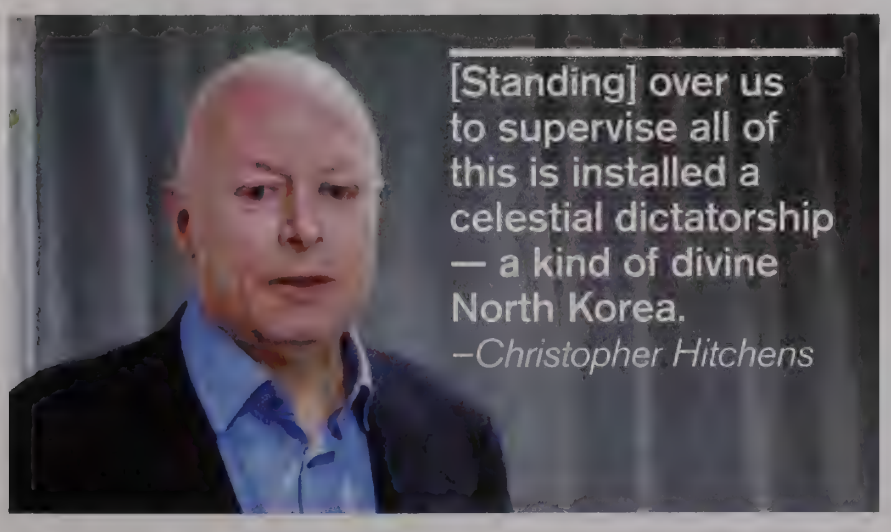
Outside Roy Thompson Hall, freezing in my brown cotton blazer, I watch as a large crowd is excitedly gathering to pick up their tickets for the evening's event. The one thing distracting me from the cold is a small coterie of protestors who have a large banner unfurled saying: "Bliar!" and yelling "Bliar! Bliar! Pants on fire!"

After getting through extensive security, we're finally let in to the auditorium. There are three video screens that hang above the stage, and the right and left screens flash the night's debate question — "Be it resolved religion is a force for good in the world" — followed by different quotes from Blair and Hitchens praising or condemning religion. Blair: "Faith can be a civilizing force in globalization." Hitchens: "Everything about Christianity is contained in the pathetic image of 'the flock.'"

At 7:15 p.m., the lights dim and Peter Munk walks onto the stage to begin what I've determined to be the philosophical equivalent of a rock concert.

"There seems to be a degree of excitement," says Peter Munk, "and the excitement seems to be also noticeable beyond the hall, and beyond the city. I heard rumours — I hope they're false — that people pay stupid, crazy prices for tickets. I wouldn't want to quote them, because I may be charged by the S.E.C. for insider trading, so I'm not going to quote them [audience laughter]. But it just indicates that the level of excitement is growing."

Munk hands over the debate to the evening's moderator, Rudyard Griffiths, one of the main organizers behind the Munk debates.



Griffiths explains the format of the debate, which will consist of a seven minute opening statement given by each debater, two formal rebuttals, and then questions from audience members through audience cards, online discussion, and some from those on stage. With the rules outlined, Tony Blair and Christoper Hitchens make their appearance. Blair looks as parliamentary as ever, as if he were about to deliver a speech to the House of Commons. Hitchens, though clearly ravaged by his esophageal cancer, has a defiant resiliency in his expression. Hitchens delivers the opening statement.

"I have a text.... It is from Cardinal Newman — recently, by Mr. Blair's urging, beatified and on his way to canonization. His apologia made many Anglicans reconsider their fealty and made many people join the Roman Catholic Church. He is considered, quite rightly, a great Christian thinker. My text, from the apologia: 'The Catholic Church,' said Newman 'believes it better for the sun and moon to drop from heaven, for the earth to fail, and for the many millions on it to die in extremest agony then that one soul, I shall not say be lost, not commit one venial sin, tell one wilful untruth or steal one farthing without excuse.' [...] What we face here, taken from no mean source, is a distillation of all that is troubled and immoral in the faith mentality. [...] Its essential fanaticism, its characterization of the human being as raw material, and its fantasy of purity," Hitchens tells the audience.

According to Hitchens, religion presupposes that we are "created sick and ordered to be well" and furthermore: "[Standing] over us to supervise all of this is installed a celestial dictatorship — a kind of divine North Korea." This comment elicits a hearty laugh from the audience. Hitchens asks: "Is it good for the world to appeal to our credulity and not to our skepticism? Is it good for the world to worship a deity that takes sides in wars and human affairs?"

Tony Blair attempts to extinguish Hitchens' assault by admitting to some of religion's mistakes in the past, but emphasizing all of the good that has come from those inspired by their faith.

"It is undoubtedly true that there have been people [committing] horrific acts of evil in the name of religion. It is also undoubtedly true that people do acts of extraordinary common good inspired by religion. About half of healthcare in Africa is delivered by faith-based organizations, saving millions of lives. [...] There is the fantastic work of Muslim and Jewish organizations. There are, in Canada, thousands of religious organizations for the mentally ill or disabled or disadvantaged or destitute." Blair emphasized that despite the "perversion of faith" wrought by some, religion "creates a deep well of compassion," and the common ground of all faiths is that "serving and loving God is best expressed by serving and loving our fellow human beings."

It is also undoubtedly true that people do acts of extraordinary common good inspired by religion.
–Tony Blair

These are the two main positions Blair and Hitchens argue throughout the evening. Blair maintains that some people have committed evil in the name of religion, but this has been completely outweighed by its goods. Hitchens continually denounces religion as fostering a mentality that makes "good people do unkind things."

Hitchens is unconvinced that charity is enough to make religion out to be good, arguing that secular organizations do much more good work. He contends that the work of UNICEF to eliminate polio in the Third World would have succeeded if not for religious groups telling children that taking the vaccine was against God's design. Hitchens also disputes religion's monopoly on the Golden Rule:

"The injunction not to do to others what you find repulsive unto yourself is found in the Analects of Confucius. [...] That's found in the heart of every person in this room, everybody knows that much. We don't need divine permission to know right from wrong."

Blair attempts to strike a more conciliatory tone on behalf of religion.

"First of all, I don't think we should think that because you can point to examples of prejudice in the name of religion that bigotry and prejudice are wholly owned subsidiaries of religion. There are plenty of examples of prejudice [...] that come from outside the world of religion." Blair later adds: "I am claiming one very simple thing: if we can't drive religion out of the world — it's influence is growing and not diminishing — let's at least see how we can use religion as a force for good."

Hitchens disputes this narrative of religion as being anything that is capable of good by arguing that if this were true he and Blair and others would not struggle so long on the behalf of political and social endeavours to make the world a better place.

"We could rely on people being innately good, which we know we can't rely upon, and I never suggested that we could," Hitchens says.

The analytical side of my brain is piqued. Let's discuss what they've both said so far.

On the one hand, Hitchens has stated that we don't need divine permission to know what good action is, but he has also stated that we can't rely on people to be innately good. So then what standard do we rely on? We never find out. Blair, on the other hand, has argued that we shouldn't blame religion solely for the world's problems. So then, what is it about human nature that causes some people, in the name of religious and political systems, to do bad acts? This question is also never answered.

During the latter portion of the debate, the elephant in the room is the support both Blair and Hitchens gave to the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Blair is asked about the invasion and its relation to his statement: "What faith can do is not tell you what is right, but give you the strength to do it." Blair contends that the invasion of Iraq was a matter of policy and not of faith.

"As I used to say to people, you don't go into church and look heavenward and say to God: 'Right, next year the minimum wage — is it £6.50 or £7?' [...] The major decisions that are to do with war and peace that I've taken, they were decisions based on policy," he says.

Hitchens is asked whether he believes that George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq had anything to do with faith. He disputes this and then criticizes religious organizations for opposing the Iraq War: "It's those who would have kept a cannibal and a Caligula and a professional sadist in power who have the explaining to do."

One of the most interesting parts of the debate comes when instead of making a closing statement, Blair and Hitchens decide to take one last question: 'Which of your opponent's arguments do you find most convincing?' Blair answers first.

"I think that the most convincing argument is — and the argument that people of faith have got to deal with is actually the argument Christopher has just made — which is that the bad that is done in the name of religion is intrinsically grounded in the scripture of religion. That is the single most difficult argument." Blair concludes that we should look at the essence of faith and use that as key to understanding religion.

Hitchens says: "The remark Tony made that I most agreed with this evening, I'll just hope that doesn't sound too minimal, was when he said that if religion was to disappear, things would by no means, as it were, automatically be okay." Hitchens feels that there is a sense of transcendence that we can obtain by other means such as art and architecture that are unlike "superstition and the supernatural, which are designed to make us fearful and afraid and servile."

We have come to the end. The two philosophical warriors receive a standing ovation from the audience. Overall, I found the debate to be both intriguing and enlightening but I still can't help wondering if it missed an opportunity to explore a fundamental question: what really makes humans good or bad in the first place?

Burtonesque ®

Arts Editor **WILL SLOAN***'s thoughts on the Tim Burton exhibition at TIFF Bell Lightbox*

They always start with the Danny Elfman music. It's never quite the same, but it's never too different, either. The overture plays while the credits roll, and the camera floats through a space and follows a drifting object. The Penguin's bassinet, or a Wonka chocolate. A flying saucer, or a drop of blood.

Duh DUH Duh duuuuuuUUUHHH Duh DUH Duh duuuuuuUUUHHH
La La LA LA La La la la La La LA LA La La la la
Duh DUH Duh duuuuuuUUUHHH Duh DUH Duh duuuuuUUUHHH
Doodle-ee Doodle-ee doo-aaaahh – Doodle-ee Doodle-ee doo-aaaahh

There will be graveyards, with mist and moonlight and tombstones as crooked as Ed Wood's. There may be suburbs, with pastel houses and freakish hairdos, like Frank Tashlin meets John Waters meets Dr. Seuss. It will star an outsider, preferably of the tortured variety, too quirky or damaged to fit in the mainstream but cuddly enough to become a toy. Probably Johnny Depp. Probably in a funny hat.

What do we know about Tim Burton? He is Quirky. He is Weird. He has a Personal Vision but works with Hollywood studios. He is a Genius Of The System.

He usually works with Johnny Depp. He always works with Danny Elfman. His movies are Gothic, and Dark, but playfully so. They cost and make millions. *Batman* created the modern blockbuster. He is an Outsider®.

He is an Artist®, with Recurring Motifs®. He has a Personal Vision®, and has applied it to Batman®, and Willy Wonka®, and the Planet of the Apes®, and Walt Disney's® Alice® in Wonderland®. He is the first director to get a retrospective at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto's $200 million centre for film culture, with an art exhibition from the Museum of Modern Art. "Tim Burton [...] drew the third-highest attendance of any exhibition in the museum's history. He is now in the rarefied company of Picasso... and Matisse," says The *New York Times*, quoted in the publicity materials.

There is an exhibit of his early work. A realistic sketch of Lon Chaney; a not-quite realistic portrait of Vincent Price; a comic strip of the *Mad Magazine* variety; an anti-litter poster; a list from 1977 of his favourite horror films (*Plan 9* is there); an art school sketch of a nude woman, with a little monster in the corner.

Whenever it was he found his style, it stuck. Squiggly lines and zebra stripes and polka dots and puddles of watercolour. Giant, big-breasted women not unlike his onetime paramour, Lisa Marie. Maniacal clowns and crooked trees. Sad little boys with huge heads and tiny bodies — like "Stainboy," a moonfaced child with a cape and a big 'S' on his little chest. "My name is Jimmy, but my friends call me the hideous penguin boy."



MINHEE BAE/THE VARSITY

We see his first short, *Vincent*, on a monitor. We see his concept sketches for *The Black Cauldron*: ghastly creatures with the round eyes and big, crooked grins we see later, in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Disney shelved these — too creepy for kids.

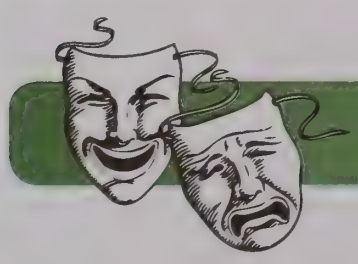
Oh, it's fun to see Batman's cowl and Catwoman's leather suit — those movies meant so much to me. And a Beetlejuice sandworm, and Ed Wood's angora, and a Jack Skellington puppet, and storyboards that state, in no uncertain terms, that Large Marge sent ya.

And then the exhibition continues. The helmets from *Planet of the Apes*? Willy Wonka's braces? A little doodle of the Mad Hatter? Hey, these plastic puppets — shouldn't they be at the *Nightmare Before Christmas* table? Wait, no, the label says "*Corpse Bride*." There's a letter from Burton to Depp, suggesting a line for Wonka. (Not a very funny one, but they used it anyway. Maybe they trust each other too much). "After The *Nightmare Before Christmas*, Burton's film projects often favour pre-existing, immediately recognizable subjects." This label is diplomatic. It's next to the *Planet of the Apes* material.

Does anyone love these movies like I loved *Ed Wood* and *Pee-wee*? The program guide is hyperbolic. "The most successful film of Burton's career and one of the most successful of all time." "Roald Dahl's carnivalesque whimsy and deliciously morbid sense of humour make him an almost too-perfect match for Burton." "*Planet of the Apes* sees Burton revealing the blockbuster chops so often concealed behind his image of the perpetual outsider and dreamy fantasist." The perennial Outsider® still does blockbuster business.

Would I love these movies if they were my first Burtons? Would I love these little doodles of Willy Wonka if they were at the start of the exhibition? Have I seen too many round-headed boys and zebra-striped clowns? I hear his next movie is a stop-motion remake of his own *Frankenweenie*. Then it's a remake of *Dark Shadows*, set to star (wait for it...) Johnny Depp. Will he ever surprise me again? Maybe his fans are excited. The ones with the Jack Skellington T-shirts and the Corpse Bride backpacks, who want another trip to that misty cemetery with the crooked tombstones.

Tim Burton came to town last week. For an hour he signed merchandise from the gift shop. You can still buy them, his books and DVDs, with greeting cards just in time for the holidays. "Toxic boy's Christmas was really quite weird / his fumes accidentally burned off Santa Claus' beard." Or you can get a coffee mug, or perhaps a set of Tim Burton's Tragic Toys for Girls and Boys: stick-thin, big-eyed, huge-headed misfits rendered in plastic. Collect them all, and you too can be a Misunderstood Outsider.



Campus Stage

Equus doesn't horse around

Hart House Theatre's production proves to be much more than "the play in which Harry Potter got naked"

Brigit Katz
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Peter Schaffer's Equus was an instant success when it hit the stage in 1973, but the surge in its popularity since a 2007 revival starring Daniel Radcliffe can largely be attributed to Equus' reputation as "the play in which Harry Potter got naked." Hopefully, this association will prove to be short-lived, because Equus is a remarkable play in its own right and Hart House offers a powerful production of this cornerstone of contemporary drama.

The action of Equus centres on the disturbing crime of a seventeen-year-old boy named Alan Strang, who for seemingly inexplicable reasons deliberately blinds six horses with a hoof pick in the stable where he works. Instead of being imprisoned, Strang is placed in the hands of Martin Dysart, a child psychologist at a psychiatric hospital. As Dysart probes Alan's mind, he uncovers the boy's sexual fascination with horses, which became conflated with religious veneration and escalated to the point that Alan now worships horses as a sort of sexualized godhead.

In an innovative staging of the play, Hart House's production uses swings to convey Equus' dramatic arcs. Across the stage, wooden planks hang from long, chain-link strands, an astutely selected design for a play preoccupied with the notion of enchainment. The chains of the horses' bits fascinate Alan because they remind him of a painting of Jesus being crucified. Dysart initially believes Alan to be chained to his madness, but slowly comes to realize that perhaps he is the one who is enchained, tethered to a humdrum existence devoid of any passion, depraved or otherwise.

While the swings occasionally distract from the play's action (it can be difficult to pay attention to dialogue when an actor is fiddling with the stubborn chains of a swing in the background), they are nonetheless effective because they successfully capture the emotion of the plot. When a scene is calm, the actors swing together at a leisurely pace; when it is tense, a male chorus clad in horse masks sharply twists the swings' chains. In the most captivating scene of the production, a single swing occupies the stage, framed by a central spotlight, while Alan and a member of the chorus stand on its wooden plank, propelling it to go increasingly faster. This motion not only conveys the accelerated galloping of Alan's favourite horse as he urges it forward, but also the increasing intensity of his sexual and religious fervour.

Blue lighting casts a cold, austere glow over the stage in every scene except the ones that take place in the stable, which are instead bathed in a warm, orange light. A haunting score occasionally accompanies the play's action, but the production's real accomplishment lies in its use of sound effects. When Alan approaches the horses, a muted thumping echoes throughout the theatre, like the sound your heart makes when you can hear it pounding in your chest. A faint ticking noise also plays softly during several scenes, highlighting the volatility of the characters, most of whom seem on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The play's two male leads face extremely challenging roles and both give compelling performances. Peter Higginson plays Dysart with a commanding authority, but allows this front to crumble away and reveal a disillusioned, almost pathetic character whose main source of vitality lies in trying to relive ancient Homeric texts. The real standout of the show, however, is Jesse Nerenberg as Alan Strang. He plays the character with a child-like directness, but never lets this completely mask a mind tortured by distorted notions of sex, power and God. When Alan begins to reveal the events that led up to his crime, it seems almost a natural progression of his conflicted psyche. Nerenberg's ability to capture both the vulnerable nature of Alan's character and the terrible outcome of this vulnerability makes the audience want to understand Alan, and ultimately to forgive him.

David Mitchell v. The Orcs of Infinity

The celebrated author of Cloud Atlas *talks about his latest book: "I was crazy to take this book on."*

Jade Colbert
VARSITY STAFF

Reading interviews that David Mitchell has given over the years, there emerge three preoccupations he has with himself as a writer (not to be confused with the preoccupations of his books). He's in this for the long haul: he wants to be a writer for a long time, and worries about one day fizzling out "as some writers can do, writing variations of the same novel"; he tries not to write the same book twice.

Consequently, he is constantly pushing himself into new forms to see what they can do. He is a structure wonk in a world lonely for structure wonks, and finds many a work by other authors to be stylistically spot-on but structurally sloppy. All of his books use structure — some more overt than others, but always there — to push the novel in new directions. His chosen structure for a book will create new problems that need to be resolved, and in resolving them he covers new ground in what a novelist can do. He describes structure as being like the last frontier of literature. As he mused at a recent event in Toronto, "Why write an easy book, hey?"

It is slightly astonishing to remember that David Mitchell was unknown a dozen years ago. Yet in the 11 years since he published the widely acclaimed *Ghostwritten* at the age of 30, he has produced a series of works matching his debut's inventiveness: *number9dream* (2001), *Cloud Atlas* (2004), *Black Swan Green* (2006), and this year, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* (pronounced de Zoot — it's Dutch).

The virtuosity that comes from this concentrated experimentation leads to his third preoccupation. All writers suffer from this, but Mitchell seems to suffer it acutely, because again and again in interviews he complains about infinity: any of his books could go anywhere, be anything, even though a single book can't be everything.

As Mitchell stated last month in a roundtable talk at the International Festival of Authors, "The big enemy when you start out a new book is infinity. Every writer has different techniques to filter out infinity, reduce all the possible Borgesian books from the library of a book. You have to get rid of all the others to get to the one: 'That's what I'm writing.' The first-person narrator is one such filter [...] keeping out the Orcs of Infinity. Structure is also a kind of scaffolding."

Jacob de Zoet is Mitchell's first historical novel and it doesn't have the same whiz-bang pyrotechnics of his earlier books — no confessions of soon-to-be executed fabricants, though the plot does go for a loop through speculative fiction territory. The experimentation is more subtle, less showy. Is it also fair to say that it is quieter than his earlier books? As he revealed later in this interview, the author views the 480 pages as "tightly disciplined," adding: "I cut off far more fat from the book than there is left of it."

The novel opens in 1799 during the Tokugawa shogunate in Japan. The country is hermetically sealed from the outside world except at the trading post at Dejima, a tiny, walled, artificial island in Nagasaki Harbour operated by the ailing Dutch East India Company and closely watched by Japanese authorities. The dozen or so traders on the island are practically prisoners. Among these is Jacob de Zoet, a young clerk who has joined the company hoping to earn enough money to marry his sweetheart, Anna, back home. But once on the island, his eye catches Orito, the daughter of a samurai doctor.

* * *

The Varsity: *Tell me what it was about Dejima that inspired you. I take it that the place itself was the inspiration for the novel.*
David Mitchell: Yeah. It's a historical anomaly, and anomalies are good news for novelists because an anomaly is already a cliché-buster. Yes, everyone knows from James Clavell's book and film [*Shogun*] that Japan was shut for 240 years. But anomalously, it wasn't quite: the door was very slightly ajar at Nagasaki, where the Dutch were permitted to operate a trading post. And what a trading post! Not just another one in the empire where white guys could come in and rule the local roost. They were confined on this little island — only translators and prostitutes and merchants allowed on — [the Dutch] were almost never allowed off. They were spied on, cheated. The arrangements were quite cutthroat and designed to keep them in a state of subjugation. And there were scholars gathered in Nagasaki hungry for this trickle of Enlightenment knowledge. Now, if I can't find a halfway decent novel in that, I'm not much of a writer.
TV: *Having these characters who can never leave this space unless under very specific circumstances: did that pose issues as you were writing?*
DM: You bet! Yes, I thought, "What have I done?" Of course! It's an engine designed to keep out the accidental. That's why, really, only one-third of the novel actually takes place on Dejima, the first third. It's a meaty third, maybe the meatiest, but of course — how do you get a relationship going? The chance encounters that relationships, even real ones, need to ignite in the beginning, they can't happen there. It's designed to stop them. It's designed to stop interaction. "Damn!" I thought, yes.
TV: *The other two locales of the novel are a ship — also very confined —*
DM: And the weird nunnery.


DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

"Curiosity is a wonderful thing. It makes life great. Lack of it makes life intolerable."

TV: *And the weird nunnery. Was that confinement something that you ended up just constantly having to work around?*
DM: Early on, I identified it as a sort of theme, because some books bring their own themes to the party whether you want them to or not, and confinement is one, almost one I can't take the credit for. It's like, writing about Dejima, you write about confinement whether you like it or not. Novels need walls, otherwise they spill over — even TV series need walls. Stories need walls. It keeps out infinity and keeps you focused on the story and a relatively small cast of characters at hand. So Dejima and the ship and the weird nunnery have ready-made walls.

Historical authenticity: for most of human history we've led hugely confined lives. Easily 9,999 out of 10,000 of our forebears would have been indentured labourers or slaves or serfs or peasants or factory workers. You didn't have more than the barest whisper of a say about how our lives would be conducted. Our time was not our own. Our money wasn't our own, our labour wasn't our own — nothing was our own, except our bodies, and very often for women their bodies weren't their own. So what looks weird in a historical novel, it was simply normal, and has been normal for most of homo sapiens' experience up to, what, the 1930s, the 1940s or so?
TV: *I'm also thinking of morality and social convention, because once you do have Jacob meet Orito, there are conventions that he can't trespass.*
DM: Or if he does, he knows that you have to pay a fine when you trespass.
[Both laugh]
It won't be free. Yeah! Well, he has a pious background. I wanted to write an uncool, pious character, because that's more of a challenge. Rebels are easy to do. Readers know when you've done something easy. They know when you haven't sweated and agonized over.
TV: *When you have these three confined spaces of the island, the nunnery and the ship, the power of translators is immense.*
DM: Absolutely, yeah.
TV: *You have these characters whose languages are Japanese and Dutch for the most part, and yet you're writing in English. Every once in a while you throw in a little phrase, you know, "so-and-so said, in perfect Dutch."*
DM: Yeah, I remind you that we're speaking Dutch here. Yes, a tricky one, language, it's hard to get right in a historical novel anyway. If you speak as we would have spoken 200 years ago, it sounds like *Blackadder* —
TV: *[laughs]*
DM: Yeah, it does, and there goes your suspension of disbelief, you're laughing, and you do when you read it. Gadzooks, you laugh! But then, if it's littered with neologisms, if you have a word like brinksmanship in it — "Did people say that then? No, they didn't." So you always have to consult Webster's Online Etymological Dictionary to find the first usage. And then there's, say, words that didn't exist back then: brushstroke is really late, it's like 1880, 1890 —
TV: *Really?*
DM: Yeah! Really late, but when you've got Japanese people, you've got to use the word brushstroke, there's nothing else — [mimes making a brushstroke on the desk] — you can do! Caligraphics? No, it's got to be brushstroke! So you have to be wrong to be right.
TV: *How much research do you do before you begin writing a historical novel, and how much is determined by the chapter, the paragraph, the sentence?*
DM: You do a big lump at the beginning so you've got a formed idea of the world — enough to construct a plot, anyway. And then you get to work on the plot, break that down into scenes, and scenes need their own staging and costumes and background stuff to break up the dialogue. Otherwise, it's a film script. Then you have to conceal the fact that you did all this research. Otherwise it looks like you're showing off and that also pricks the bubble of fiction. So the big stuff you research ahead of time, but the costume and background — just the papier-mâché of each scene, the poly filler for each scene, you have to research on the hoof as you go through, otherwise you start with stupid, big, practical list.

Fastening clothes! That's a big one. Buttons — because there's no zippers, there's no Velcro. Buttons cost money, they were expensive — this was before plastics. You needed wood — but then, if you're a captain, you can't be seen with wooden buttons, it's got to be brass, metal, and that's expensive stuff!
TV: *It's been said that each of your books is unlike those that preceded it. As the person who's writing these books, do you find that's true?*
DM: Yeah.
TV: *Yeah?*
DM: It's a conscious aspiration. I don't succeed as much as I'd like to, but — yeah. I want to do that. Not sure why. [laughs]
TV: *The challenge?*
DM: Partly. It makes you a more omnivorous writer. Curiosity is a wonderful thing. It makes life great. Lack of it makes life intolerable. Omnivoracity of diet as a reader and aspiration to omnivoracity of output as a writer: this really enhances my life. I get to be really interested in clothes fastenings. It's great.

This interview has been abridged for print. For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

POWERDRINK!!!

3 a.m.? Still haven't finished three months of poststructuralist readings? SEAN MACKAY *and* TOM CARDOSO *test out the best methods to hype up, liquid style!*



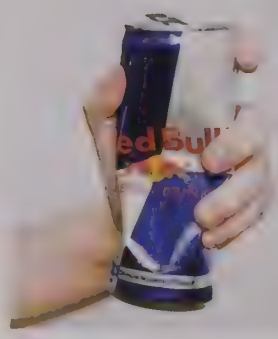
NITROUS MONSTER

This thing looks freaking radioactive. Bonus points awarded for the resealable can — very nifty. To be honest, we're kind of afraid of drinking this. Red Bull's got nothing on this beverage: double the taurine, and triple the amount of caffeine in as many mLs. It's basically a heart attack in a can and recommended only for the experienced energy drink connoisseur.



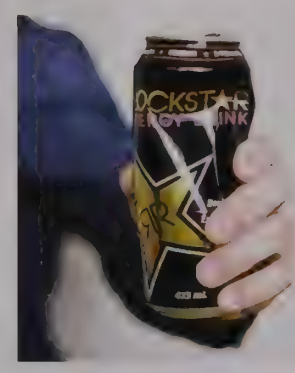
AMP ALERT

Its bright, neon orange colour made Alert look as though it should glow in the dark (it didn't, we turned off the light). Unfortunately, the colour is a tease — never had we sipped on such a bland energy beverage. It's as if the drink was having no effect whatsoever.



RED BULL

Red Bull is everyone's first energy drink. If you haven't had one before, consider yourself a total energy drink virgin. The taste is indescribable to the uninitiated. You'll be repulsed by it at first, but power through the first one and you'll eventually learn to love it. Like the liquid courage you gain from taking a swig from the whiskey bottle before a date (or is that just me?), Red Bull instantly gives you the liquid motivation you need to conquer any essay. Just remember: it's no miracle worker. Make sure you don't get distracted and squander your Red Bull buzz on Facebook.



ROCKSTAR

Rockstar is the eternal second fiddle to the energy drink juggernaut that is Red Bull. Though it comes in a wide variety of flavours, Rock Star somehow comes off as less versatile than its big brother. Where Red Bull is known for its 250 mL can, Rock Star is famous for its larger size. The problem is that after 500 mL of this stuff, you'll be lying on a couch clutching your stomach or running laps around Robarts, trying desperately to work off the excess energy. It's not ideal for essay writing or all-day cramming. Instead, this pairs well with a night of binge drinking.



HYPE ENERGY

Hype looks like a carbonated rosé or some variety of cherry soda. It's sickeningly sweet, fruity taste reminds us of a plain, generic juice. It may be a relatively healthy beverage, but that's not always what you want from this type of drink. To be honest, it's just kind of boring. Do yourself a favour and don't believe the hype.



GURU

Vegans beware: this thing tastes like crap. Though it's marketed as a "100% USDA approved natural beverage," that does nothing to make it worth your $3. The aftertaste is especially painful and makes Guru an all-around disappointment. If there is such a thing as energy drink nirvana, you certainly won't be finding it with Guru.

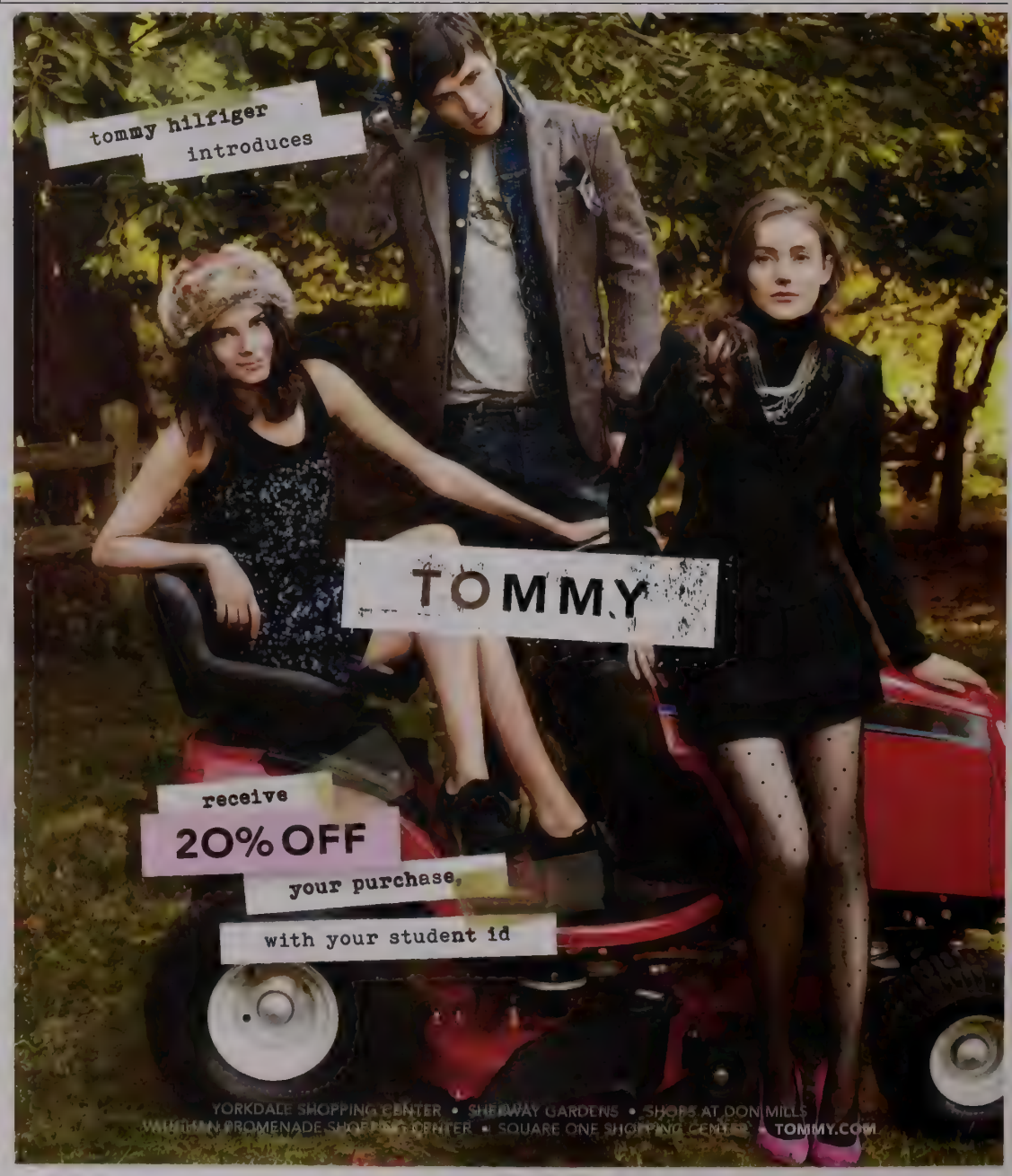
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The girls are back

The Varsity's **SHAUNA KEDDY** *sits down with Azure Ray, to discuss their latest album,* Drawing Down the Moon, *marital troubles, and the duo's unique style*



After a six year hiatus, Saddle-Creek Records' beloved alternative rock duo, Azure Ray, return to the music scene. With their fourth album *Drawing Down the Moon*, Maria Taylor and Orenda Fink have just as much heartache and raw emotion to share, set to lovely harmonies and soothing melodies.

Azure Ray were one of the first bands to record on Saddle Creek Records, along with Bright Eyes and Cursive. Azure Ray's lyrics pull at the heartstrings and put to words universal heartache, giving a sweet tune to troubled thoughts.

"Whatever it is we are going through — everyone is always going through something shitty — it is our way to be alone and write about it," explains Fink. "Our songs are cathartic for us…"

After attending a performing arts high school in Birmingham, the girls both went on to Athens, Georgia, where they met Eric Bachmann and Saddle Creek Records musician Andy LeMaster. Although the two met in high school in Alabama, the first time they ever wrote a song together was on the most recent album for the track "Dancing Ghosts." After three releases as a band, Fink and Taylor branched off into solo projects, which were a bit different than their work together.

"Surrendering to the nature of our collaboration creates its own unique sound and vibe. We had always worked together, so when we went solo we defined our individuality," Fink says.

"So this has been about finding our common ground again as a band," Taylor smiles.

"Riding that wave," Fink adds. "It's not easy to quantify how [our musical styles' are] different; we can just feel that it's different."

"Yours is more storytelling, mine is more poppy. When we come together, it comes from all over the body, mind, and soul," Taylor muses.

"Reconnecting with Maria was a big inspiration for our current album, and [upon] moving to L.A. I asked all my friends their favorite songs of all time, and so even though they weren't my favorite necessarily, I was inspired by that," Fink says.

"I lived in L.A. for two and a half years, so I wrote about everything that was going on in my life at that time. It was not necessarily about writing about stuff from our past, but I did revisit the same emotions as I wrote about in songs before, if they still apply to what we are going through in the present," Taylor adds.

Azure Ray are most recognized for the tracks "Sleep" and "Rise," both off of their 2001 self-titled debut album. These songs are often used in television shows such as *Grey's Anatomy*. "Sleep" was used to help score the film *The Devil Wears Prada*.

These inclusions have not helped the band as much as this high caliber of exposure might suggest.

"It hasn't really changed things at all," Taylor laughs, "I mean people buy single songs without looking into the artist a lot of the time. I'm guilty of it too sometimes, but it's just frustrating because people often won't know it's even your song."

Azure Ray is the kind of band you can feel personally connected to; their music is emotionally raw, and incredibly intimate. It's break-up music at its best.

"Almost one hundred per cent of our songs are personal experiences, or the personal experiences of others," Fink says.

"When our lives get really boring — that's when we'll start writing fictional songs," laughs Taylor.

In the song "Larraine" from their new album, Fink sings a horrifying story of family abuse, inspired by Fink's grandfather's abusive relationship towards Fink's mother.

When asked if writing about these stories helps Fink to process emotionally, she explains: "I'm not sure how it does, but it just does… If I didn't, I would definitely be seeing a psychiatrist — and I probably still should. Romanticizing dark things is a way of working through it and feeling better about it. When you are writing it, it's really intense, but once it's done you've given birth to it, and it is diffused out into the world."

"We recorded the new album in Asheville, North Carolina," Fink recalls, "Eric Bachmann, our producer, set it up because he was friends with people in the area. He played a lot of the instruments with us during recording, and otherwise we just hired local people that played classical music."

Fink first met Bachmann when he was recording for his band Crooked Fingers' debut album in Athens: "He needed a female back up singer," Fink adds. "Right after that, he came to one of our shows."

Taylor continues: "Our friend had the idea for him to produce our songs, and we had been working on a side-project of songs we had no intention of recording… Our friend told us he was starting this label and that we should let his friend Bachmann produce it. We were so naïve, we didn't question or research it, and we were just like okay! […] So then it turned out great, of course," they both laugh. Warm Records went on to release their first two albums, *Azure Ray* and *Burn and Shiver*.

"Other people have said you can hear the difference, but I'm unaware of it. Our friend said 'this album sounds so Los Angeles' and I never ever thought that. I'm too in the middle of it to see it," Taylor said.

"It's mostly weather. In any town, the weather probably dictates the overall mood. But it definitely affects the songwriting to a certain degree," Fink said.

Fink has had an even larger change that has affected her songwriting, and that is her marriage to fellow Saddle Creek musician Todd Baechle of the band The Faint: "It affects it, it's not easy. It's funny to say that, because being happily married makes it too easy, because it makes it harder to be creative. Todd and I talk about this because we both suffer from it. It makes it more difficult because you definitely need to make a separation from your life. It's a lot easier when you are alone to tap into a really unique and introspective microcosmic core, which is harder when you are used to completely sharing your life with someone, and be in certain moods, and be with them all the time and not have time alone… it makes it difficult but I wouldn't give it up."

Although Azure Ray clearly fits into the niche of Saddle Creek independent rockers, they have a varied and classic list of influences: "We always go back to the same old ones — Nina Simone, Leonard Cohen, the Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, and Elliot Smith," Taylor says. "We've been listening to a lot of our friends — Nik Freitas, Taylor Hollingsworth, Morgan Nagler," she added. Freitas and Hollingsworth joined Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst for his two releases with the Mystic Valley Band, which also included Jason Boesel of Rilo Kiley, and Bright Eyes mainstay Nate Walcott. Taylor and Fink became close with Morgan Nagler upon moving to L.A., as she is the lead singer of an independent rock band from the area called the Whispertown 2000.

> **"Whatever it is we are going through — everyone is always going through something shitty — it is our way to be alone and write about it," explains Fink. "Our songs are cathartic for us…"**

"I'd be making music no matter what I would be doing," Taylor explains. "It's what I do best and what I do most naturally. I love that I get to travel and meet people, and I love drinking red wine [laughs]. My job is: drinking red wine, meeting people, going to new cities and doing my hobby. Even collaborating with people, coming together in another way besides just talking — it's this whole other way to communicate."

Although Taylor moved to a Vancouver-based record label called Nettwerrk, she still maintains ties with the Nebraska base. "The cool thing about Saddle Creek is that they are friends of mine, and they were friends before I started putting out records with them. There will always be a connection no matter if I keep putting out records with them. I will always feel a connection with the all Saddle Creek guys. I love the Nettwerrk people too. Generally I make sure I really like people before I work with them. They are so different — Nettwerrk is a bunch of awesome girls and Saddle Creek is a bunch of good ol' boys."

"We are going to do separate things for a year before we do another Azure Ray record," Taylor says. "Andy LeMaster and I will be putting our project on hold for a bit." The two toured this summer to practice playing together again for their new project.

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Pelee Island Shiraz Caberne (2009)
$9.95 at the LCBO

A glass of wine has the amazing ability to ease the stress at the end of term. Pour a glass of wine, briefly close your eyes, and imagine yourself studying Shakespeare in an oak-paneled, spiral case-laden, Old English library. This probably won't work, but if it does, it's certainly a welcome break from reviewing your postmodern film and literature notes in your peeling wallpaper student ghetto.

Wine connoisseurs be warned! A glass of vino can quickly turn into a bottle and hijack your studious afternoon. The key in avoiding this travesty is to pick a wine you can sip, not drink. The Pelee Island Shiraz Cabernet is just that wine. Like all Shiraz, this wine is quite peppery with a spicy herbal undertone. Medium bodied and dry, you can pair this wine with either pasta or a comfortable armchair.



What happens when you don't send poetry, short stories, visual art, and photography to Varsity Arts' Arts?

EDITORS GET SAD

arts@thevarsity.ca

Gird your loins

Researchers explore the effects of estrogen on female cognition

Bianca Lemus Lavarreda
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A recent study from Concordia University lead by Professor Wayne Brake has shown that high levels of estrogen in female rats interfere with their learning of previously encountered stimuli.

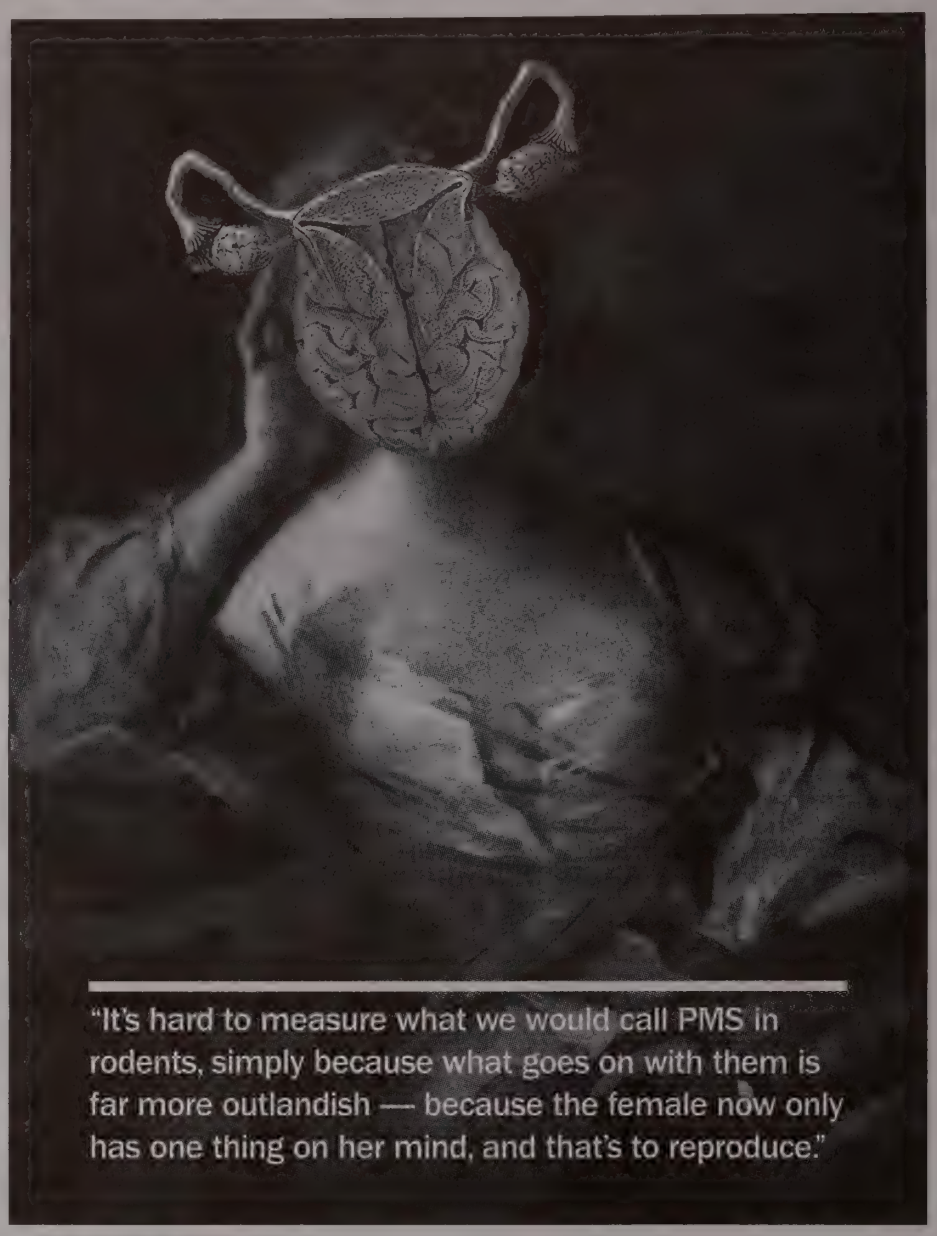
The study confirms recent findings that high levels of a major female sex hormone, called estradiol, interfere with latent inhibition. Latent inhibition is a kind of "hidden" learning that results in decreased performance on tasks.

Brake's study is a follow-up to a previous study in which estrogen was experimentally manipulated by removing the ovaries, replacing them with low or high doses of estrogen. Interestingly, both studies yielded the exact same results.

This study is the first to show that the interference of estrogen is based in the activational and not organizational actions of hormones. As U of T's Gillian Einstein explains in her book, *Sex and the Brain*, the cornerstone in the field of hormones and behaviour is the organizational and activational hypothesis. This is the idea that the organization of hormones early in development forms a circuit that is later activated at puberty. Fro example, these circuits set up the behaviour of "mounting" and "lordosis," in which a male rat will mount onto a female after she performs the receptive cue of arching her back.

Another key idea when thinking about estrogen is that its influence can either be beneficial, such as in memory and aging, or negative in that it can cause cancer. In response to the results of Brake's study, Professor Einstein explains that "the picture is a lot more subtle for [estradiol]."

In other words, we don't know whether the effects of estradiol on learning are "negative to behaviour, or positive to behaviour [when] interfering with latent inhibition. That could be positive in memory or it could be negative in memory. But it's the first [study] to show that this is based on the activation of actions of hormones," says Einstein.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

So what does this mean for human females? As it turns out, ladies and female rats are quite different. In contrast to a female human's average 28-day menstrual cycle, female rats cycle every four to five days, meaning that rats are continuously dominated by their estrous cycle. For the people out there wondering whether female rats experience PMS symptoms the same way female humans do, the short answer is no: the two species are riddled with complexities that make them difficult to compare.

As Professor Brake explains, "It's hard to measure what we would call PMS in rodents, simply because what goes on with them is far more outlandish — because the female now only has one thing on her mind, and that's to reproduce."

Both researchers stress that the effect of estrogen on mental resources involves a highly complex relationship.

When asked whether there was any task that was most likely to tax a woman's memory resources, Professor Brake responded, "I wouldn't even try to guess that. There are lots of cognitive tasks that people use in psychology that tax resources. Some tasks show that estrogen helps with these tasks, and sometimes it hurts."

Brake's study also supports the idea that estrogen affects women's abilities to problem-solve. "An example [of estrogen influence] would be mental rotation tasks. There is a huge sex difference in mental rotation tasks, in that men are much faster at figuring out this task than women. Women are usually only worse at this task when their estrogen levels are high. When their estrogen levels are lower, they perform just as well as men. The practical application of that is if you're the navigator on a road trip, you're going to be better at figuring out the map when your estrogen levels are low."

Although rats provide a decent window into human nature, it would be far too early to conclude that estrogen has either a particularly adverse or advantageous effect on female cognition. However, researchers like Brake and Einstein bring science closer to the answers, one rat at a time.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Boys of the bottle: Why men are more susceptible to alcoholism

Alcoholism is a disease marked by a physical dependence on alcohol, leading to uncontrolled drinking in spite of serious health and social consequences. Past research suggests that men are twice as likely as women to develop alcoholism within their lifetime, but the reasons for this discrepancy are not well understood.

To address this issue, Dr. Nina Urban and her colleagues from the New York State Psychiatry Institute conducted a study examining how men and women respond to the rewarding effects of alcohol. Since dopamine mediates some of alcohol's rewarding effects, its release within the brain following alcohol consumption was selected as a marker for the degree of reward experienced.

By measuring the amount of dopamine released in the brain with positron emission topography scans, the researchers found that men's brains released larger quantities of dopamine than woman following alcohol consumption. This research suggests that men may find alcohol more rewarding than women, which may help to explain why men are at a higher risk of developing alcoholism. — ***KEN EULER***
Source: Elsevier

The Holograph: A new hope

Remember when Princess Leia sent her "Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope" message via that crazy, futuristic holographic system? Well, that craziness is no longer reserved for science fiction.

Nasser Peyghambarian and his team from the University of Arizona have created a hologaph that can transport a moving 3D image from one location to another in near-real time.

The new device projects a 3D colour image onto a special sheet of plastic using a fast-flashing laser. Unlike past holographic devices, which show only a static image, this can update its image every two seconds, or in less than one second over the Internet, giving the image the appearance of movement.

Bell Labs transmitted the first hologram over a television system in 1966. Since then, the idea of holographic movies has been a hopeful goal, with Stephen Brenton developing the first updatable holographic display at the MIT Media Lab in 1989. This new technique shows promise to advance the development of 3D film, if not at least revolutionise the industry of Star Wars paraphernalia. — ***ARIEL LEWIS***
Source: Wired Magazine

From Zero to love in 0.2 seconds

To what degree is love biologically based? Newly published results from a multi-national team in the *Journal of Sexual Medicine* may hold an important piece in the puzzle.

According to Stephanie Ortigue, the study's chief researcher, falling in love elicits a similar chemical response in the brain to euphoria induced by stimulants such as cocaine in less than a fifth of a second.

While psychologists often define love as a socio-cultural process, the study's results show that a person who falls in love also activates up to twelve areas of the brain to release euphoric chemicals like adrenaline, dopamine, oxytocin, and vasopressin. These chemicals affect cognitive processes such as social imaging, metaphors, and self-perception.

Love also stimulated blood levels of nerve growth factor, a chemical important in human relations.

The findings ground love on a scientific basis, not only helping to explain the effects of interpersonal relations, but also aiding mental health and neuroscientific research on depression and emotional stress. — ***KEEGAN WILLIAMS***
Source: Science Daily

Tipping the balance between male and female organ development in plants

The duplication of genes and their subsequent ability to take on new roles is regarded as a major driving force of evolutionary change. But how are these new functions acquired and what sorts of effects can they exert? A new study by the University of Leeds suggests that even the slightest adjustment in the coding sequence of a gene following duplication can have a profound influence on its function.

By studying a gene that controls the development of male and female organs in the plant species *Arabidopsis* (rockcress) and *Antirrhinum* (snapdragon), the research demonstrated that just a single amino acid change between otherwise identical duplicates can determine whether the gene specifies both male and female organs, or only male ones.

The study thus provides an elegant example of the subtle factors that tip the balance between male and female organ development in flowers, while also highlighting the dramatic changes in function that can stem from the simplest of alterations in a gene. — ***ED PARKER***
Source: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Homeless youths most often victims of crime: study led by York U researcher

According to a new report by researchers at York University and the University of Guelph, homeless young people — often perceived as delinquents themselves — are the most vulnerable to violence. The report states that they are victims of crime at rates that society would consider unacceptable for any other group.

The researchers interviewed 244 homeless youths across Toronto about life on the streets. Female street youth, especially lesbians and bisexuals, were more likely than males — 85.9 per cent, compared to 71.8 per cent — to be victims of crime, especially sexual assault. They were also more likely to report extremely high levels of violence and abuse from intimate partners. Most alarmingly, only 20 per cent alerted police about their victimizations.

The report concludes that the solution calls for a balanced response that, instead of relying mostly on emergency services, would balance preventive measures, an emergency response, and transitional support to move young people out of homelessness quickly.

The study was commissioned by Justice for Children and Youth, a not-for-profit clinic providing legal advice and support to homeless youth in Toronto. — ***KIM TRAN***
Source: York University

Green with envy

Buying green products makes you more likely to cheat and steal, Rotman researchers report



ANDREW LARSEN/FLICKR

Cristina Olteanu
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Ever wondered whether there's more than meets the eye to those green vegetables at your local supermarket? A recent study by Nina Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong of the Rotman School of Management shows that green products are tightly linked to ethical and social behaviours. Mazar and Zhong's research shows that purchasing food products goes beyond just price and quality preferences.

According to Mazar, "Our daily actions need to be viewed in a bigger context. Previous decisions and actions can affect subsequent decisions and actions."

The study uses theories of behavioural priming for the bulk of the research. Behavioural priming is based on the principle that showing a subject a stimulus in the environment will affect subsequent behaviour, even if this effect is unconscious. For instance, other researchers have demonstrated that seeing the Apple logo enhances creativity.

Mazar and Zhong suggest that, since green products are associated with environmental, humanitarian, and ethical considerations, exposure to green products should influence superior levels of conduct.

Mazar and Zhong performed three experiments to test the influence of green products on behaviour. In the first experiment, participants were asked to rate people who purchased organic foods, versus those who purchased conventional foods.

As expected, the people who purchased organic food were rated higher in altruistic behaviour and cooperativity than those who had purchased conventional products.

Although Mazar and Zhong predicted that being merely exposed to green products would increase altruistic conduct, on the basis of recent theories of moral regulation, they also predicted that actually purchasing green products would reduce subsequent altruism, due to the establishment of moral credentials. In other words, if you've done your good deed for the day, you're allowed to deviate from squeaky clean actions for a bit.

The second experiment showed that participants who were merely exposed to a green store shared more money than those exposed to a conventional store. However, participants who actually purchased products in the green store shared less money than those in the conventional store. Therefore, exposure to green products increases cooperative behaviour with others, while acting according to one's values — in this case, purchasing green products — establishes the moral credentials needed to later engage in deviant behaviour.

In the third experiment, Mazar and Zhong tested whether purchasing green products would increase the tendency for participants to lie. First, participants were asked to make purchases in either the conventional or green product store. Then they completed a visual perception task, in which they were asked to indicate which side of a computer screen contained a larger number dots when these dots flashed briefly on the screen. This was easy to identify, because there were always substantially more dots on one side than the other.

The first round of the task did not involve money, but subsequent rounds included payment for correct answers. The results showed that those who purchased in the green store tended to lie in order to earn more money. These participants earned on average $0.36 more than those in the conventional store.

"This paper is another demonstration of the licensing effect, and suggests that if people view the purchase of green products as a moral behavior rather than the norm without any moral association, the act of purchasing green products has the potential to boost our moral self-image, and thus, subsequently license more selfish actions," says Mazar. These three experiments provide key evidence to suggest that consumption is more tightly connected to our social and moral self than previously thought.

According to Mazar, "Our findings suggest that in order to achieve long-term societal welfare effects, we need to study actions and behaviors in their larger context, and observe whether they might have any counter-[productive] effects further down the road."

Conquering cancer

Inactivated protein might be key to curing rare form of cancer

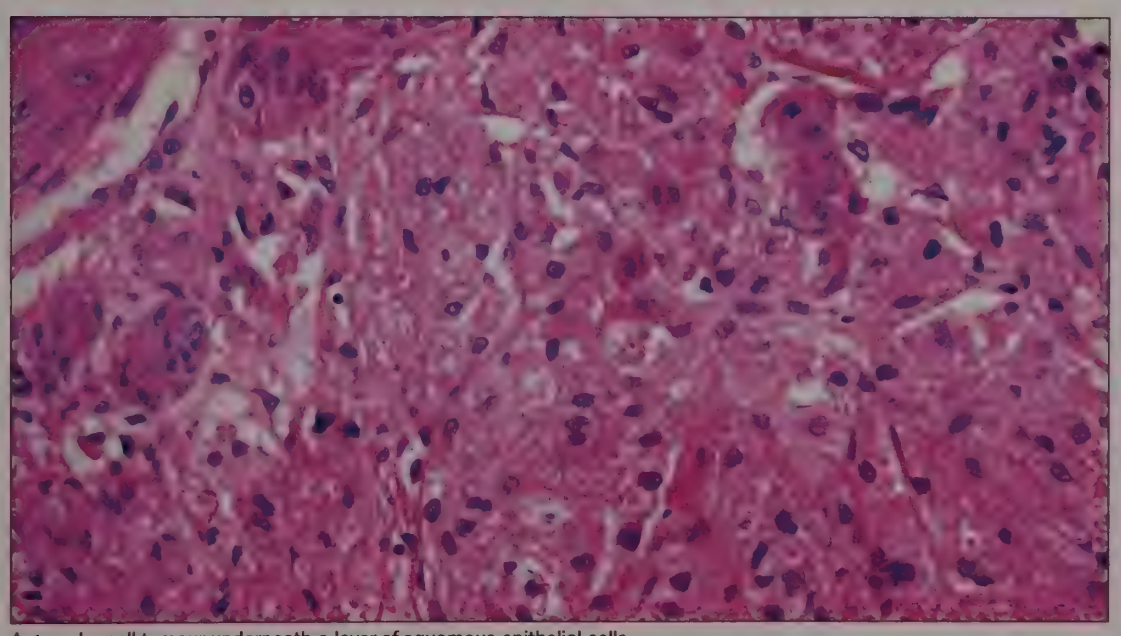
Heather Maughan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Cancer cells are an unruly bunch. Instead of listening to signals telling them to differentiate into specific cell types to form tissue, they ignore these signals and grow uncontrollably to form tumours.

Most cancer treatments take a brute force approach: kill all cells that are dividing. Although such treatments effectively kill cancer cells, they also kill non-cancerous cells in the process of normal growth — for example, hair follicle cells. This makes the identification of drugs that target only cancer cells critical to the effective treatment of cancer and to improving patient quality of life.

Selectively targeting cancer cells is precisely what scientists at the Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute in Boston have reported in the advanced online format of *Nature* this September.

A consortium of scientists led by James Bradner at Dana-Farber has identified the chemical inhibitor of a protein that is responsible for NUT midline carcinoma, a rare cancer of squamous epithelial cells, which



A granular cell tumour underneath a layer of squamous epithelial cells.

are cells on the outer layer of skin. The tumours produced in NMC are the product of uncontrolled proliferation due to a defect in a protein called BRD4.

Normally BRD4 interacts with chromosomes to help turn growth genes on and differentiation genes off. This interaction is tightly regulated and only occurs when cells should be growing. But in the case of NMC, the interactions between BRD4 and the chromosome are deregulated due to the rearrangement of two chromosomes and resultant gene fusion that produces BRD4-NUT, a chimeric protein.

BRD4-NUT constantly sticks to accessible parts of the chromosome, resulting in prolonged expression of growth genes, which ultimately results in tumour formation near the head, neck, pelvis, or other areas of the "midline." At present, there is no effective treatment for NMC, and death almost always occurs within months of diagnosis. Although NMC currently accounts for only seven to 18 per cent of poorly differentiated carcinomas, many physicians suspect it is often not recognized and diagnosed properly.

Scientists at Dana-Barber used the 3D structure of the BRD4 protein to identify and create chemicals that might be able to bind the protein and potentially inactivate it, eliminating the devastating effects of the BRD4-NUT chimera.

They tested these chemicals on BRD4 and found that its function was inhibited when combined in a test tube with the chemical (+)-JQ1. The function of the BRD4-NUT chimera was also inhibited. Patient tumors were also grafted onto mice, creating NMC models in which to test for overt toxicity of (+)-JQ1. Experiments using these mice showed that treatment with (+)-JQ1 resulted in smaller tumours, and that treated cancer cells began programmed dif-

SEE 'CANCER' – PG 16

'CANCER' – CONTINUED FROM PG 15

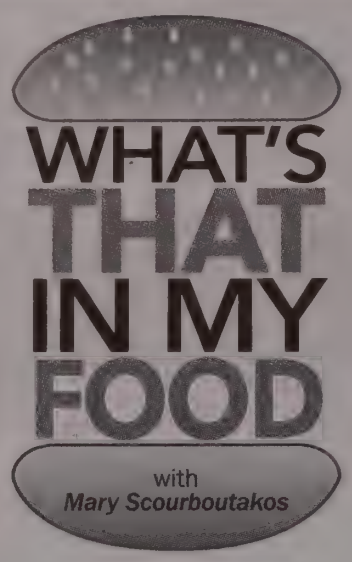
ferentiation into squamous tissue. In addition to halting growth and promoting differentiation, (+)-JQ1 had no obvious toxic side effects, indicating its potential therapeutic value for treatment of NMC in humans.

But how broadly applicable would this treatment be, considering the rarity of NMC? Perhaps one of the most exciting results of this work from Bradner's group is the potential to identify chemical inhibitors of proteins that are similar to BRD4. According to Dr. Corey Nislow, assistant professor at the Banting and Best Department for Medical Research and the Department of Molecular Genetics at U of T, Bradner and colleagues have "opened the door to a new target set and class of proteins."

Because there are over 40 genes in humans encoding proteins that are similar to BRD4, the potential for these proteins to be targets for drugs similar to (+)-JQ1 is far-reaching. This is particularly important because of the approximately 30,000 proteins in the human body, only a small fraction are predicted or known to be "drugable" — or in other words, can have their functions altered by chemical drugs. Nislow praised the efforts of Bradner and colleagues for identifying BRD4 as drugable, which could potentially lead to clinical treatments for NMC as early as one to two years from now.

What about side effects? If BRD4 is a protein normally needed to instruct cells to grow at the correct time, how will a chemical inhibitor affect the growth of normal, non-cancerous cells? In other words, would this treatment really target only cancer cells?

Nislow hypothesized that, because there are approximately 40 proteins similar to BRD4, perhaps one of those could 'cover shift' for an inactivated BRD4, taking advantage of the robustness of human protein-interaction networks. Of course, multiple stages of testing will be required before potential side effects are identified. But for now, there will be a few less cancer cells winning the battle.



Inulin!

Inulin is a fiber derived from plants such as Jerusalem artichoke, agave, and chicory. It is found in countless processed foods because of its use as an emulsifier and texturizer. It is one of the key ingredients that help make ice cream healthier, since it functions not only as a fat replacement, but also as a prebiotic.

Inulin is a fiber, and therefore cannot be digested by humans. Nevertheless, it is fermented by probiotics that live in our guts. As a result, it is classified as a prebiotic, meaning it is essentially food for probiotics.

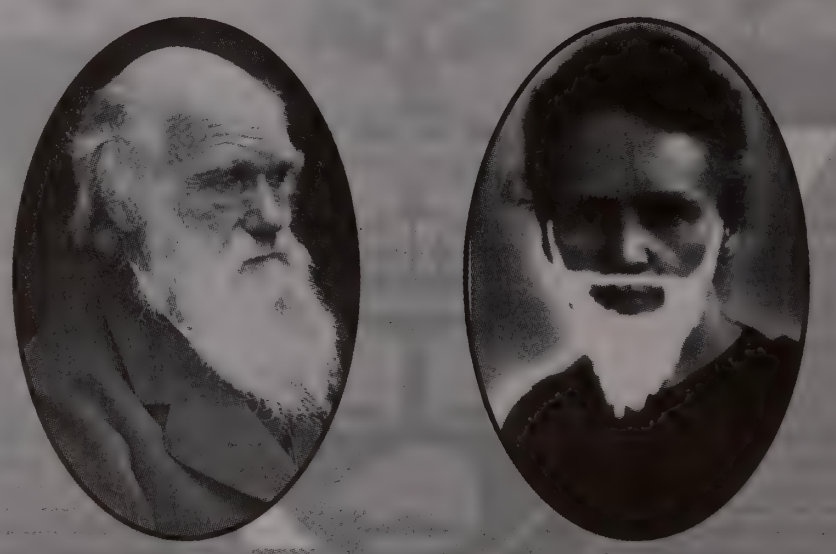
There are many health benefits associated with probiotics. These include everything from preventing infections to increasing calcium and magnesium absorption and reducing the risk of colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease. Therefore, as a result of their health benefits, food scientists are adding probiotics to foods where they are not traditionally found, such as ice cream.

You've probably seen ads for ice cream with just five ingredients, a marketing tactic in response to the growing number of ingredients found in ice cream. However, many of the extra ingredients in ice cream are not necessarily bad for you. Foreign-sounding ingredients such as inulin can be healthier than the whole cream and sugar found in traditional ice cream.

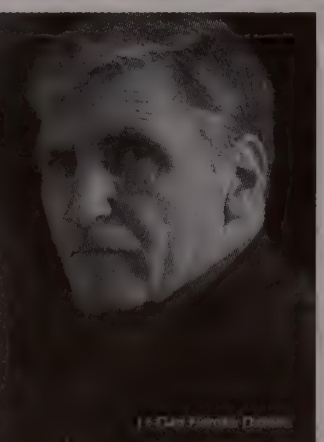
Thus, combining both prebiotics and probiotics in ice cream results in the production of what food scientists call synbiotics — aptly named because of the synergistic health benefits that result from their combination. Ice cream is an ideal vehicle for synbiotics because the added inulin not only functions to maintain a proper texture in the absence of fat, but also feeds the probiotics. By feeding probiotics with prebiotics, you increase the probiotic's ability to survive, which is essential for them to exert their positive health benefits.

In conclusion, inulin is not only a replacement for fat, but even more importantly, it is food for your food. Next time you're indulging in low-fat probiotic ice cream, you can feel less guilty by keeping in mind that you're probably consuming extracts from dandelions and wild yams, which can potentially keep you healthy.

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Is there room for U of T in the NCAA?

The Varsity Blues would fit into the Big Ten like a glove

Rich Baxter
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR


DAN EPSTEIN/VARSITY ARCHIVES

South of the border, American College Football is winding down its regular season with upcoming primary rivalry games and conference championships scheduled for the first week in December. Over the next five weeks, 70 teams will be playing in 35 bowl games scattered mostly throughout the warmer climates of the southern states. Wouldn't it be great if the University of Toronto Varsity Blues could participate? Perhaps they can.

The primary topic of discussion during the 2010 American College Football offseason concerned the expansion of the NCAA's Big Ten and its implications for all of the other conferences. The Big Ten is America's premier Division I organization as measured by attendance, athletic revenues, and academic standards (the Southeastern Conference is currently the best performer on the football field).

The Big Ten is incongruously named as it has 11 members, soon to be 12. The conference moves very deliberately and prospective members must pass many tests to be accepted into the group. They must be a "good fit" with membership intended to be permanent.

Only one school, the University of Chicago, has left since the founding of the conference in 1896 and that was 64 years ago. Only three schools have been added since then.

The "good fit" has been described as excellence in academics, including membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, contiguous borders with the existing geographic footprint, and competitive athletic programs.

A new member school should be similar to the current membership — a large flagship public university with an enrollment between 20,000 and 50,000. Ideally, the school's team will command an army of television sets, as the new school should be accretive to conference coffers.

The Big Ten Network has been a smashing success and is one of the reasons that expansion is being studied.

If the right schools are added, the quality of content on the network will improve and cable TV companies will subscribe to the service at elevated fees in the new Big Ten territory. The whole experience can be improved while increasing each school's annual TV payout over an already staggering $22 million each; the conference divides all TV revenues equally between the schools.

The Big Ten indicated that its expansion study would address adding "at least" one school and perhaps several more. Many prognosticators forecast an ultimate super-conference of 16 schools.

This past summer, the conference added the University of Nebraska beginning in the 2011–2012 academic year. The Cornhuskers are a powerhouse franchise with the nation's largest contingent of traveling fans. What they do not add in TV sets (Nebraska is thinly populated) they make up for in cachet — improving the content of the BTN and filling all of the stadiums they will visit during the football season. They also became the 12th team, which enabled the Big Ten to move to a two-division system with a lucrative championship game.

The ties that make intercollegiate athletics so compelling suggest that the Varsity Blues would be a great addition to North America's premier collegiate athletic organization. The school has a storied tradition on the gridiron as well as the hockey rink.

The primary object of the Big Ten's expansion desire was the University of Notre Dame. However, it did not meet several of the tests described above; it is a small private school and does not belong to the AAU. But bringing the Irish on board would be a home run for the conference.

Notre Dame, which rests right in the heart of the conference map, has a national following among Catholics, many residing in major population centers, and is the only team in the sport with its own national TV contract. The Irish continually insist that they intend to remain independent in football, but developments in the sport suggest that the storied school may be joining the Big Ten mid-decade. Notre Dame's $15 million national TV contract with NBC pays less than the Big Ten's $22 million payout to each member.

Scheduling is getting much more difficult for Notre Dame as most teams are only playing within their conference during October and November. Finally, a playoff system may be devised whereby seeding is based upon winning one's conference. The Irish do not want to be left standing when the music stops. It is likely that they will eventually join the Big Ten — probably after their TV contract with NBC expires in 2015.

This is where the Varsity Blues come in. They would fit into the Big Ten like a glove.

The University of Toronto boasts an enrollment of 45,000 students, is one of two Canadian members of the AAU and is a flagship institution in Ontario. The Varsity Blues would effectively add the province, if not all of Canada, to Big Ten Network territory, and would be natural rivals to several nearby programs including Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, and Penn State.

The ties that make intercollegiate athletics so compelling suggest that the Varsity Blues would be a great addition to North America's premier collegiate athletic organization. The school has a storied tradition on the gridiron as well as the hockey rink.

Granted, the football Blue and White have not impressed for a generation. This change in paradigm may be just what is needed to bring back their championship-caliber program. It would be a great opportunity for the program to step up. It would benefit all of the school's 26 sports and expand their competitive horizons.

There is already a roadmap in place for schools to move up divisions. The University of Connecticut moved from Division II to Division I in 2000 and enjoyed a winning record by its fourth season. It was bowl bound its fifth year and has played in bowl games the past three seasons.

The NCAA, the governing body, currently offers Canadian schools a path into Division II. Big Ten sponsorship could likely do the same with Division I. Count on a four or five year transition.

What's the downside? What would the Varsity Blues necessarily give up? Two words: Canadian Football, which they have been playing at the U of T since the 19th century.

For purists, this may seem like quite a sacrifice. Would the transition to American Football be worth it?

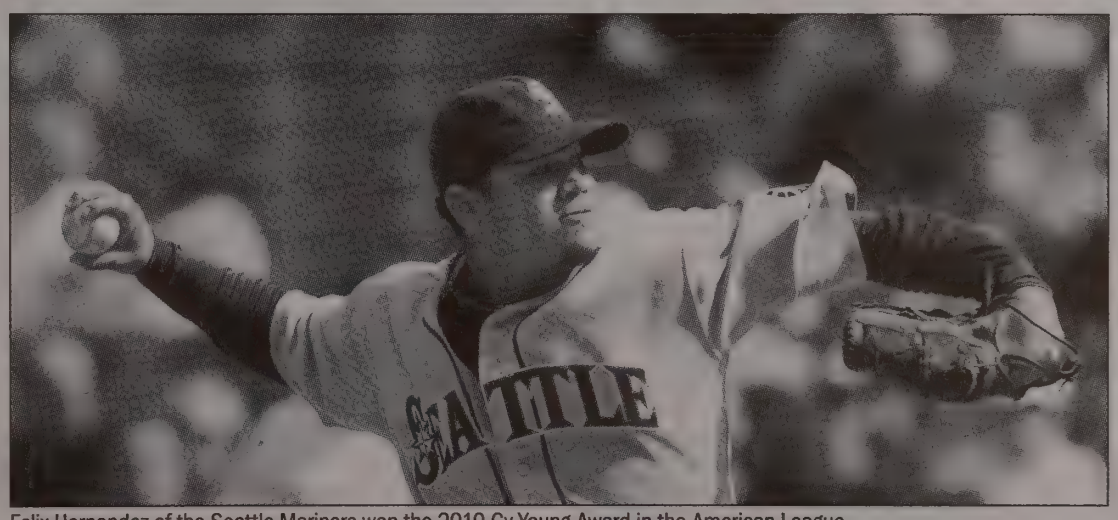
From a fan perspective — as measured by attendance and TV viewership — it's no contest. Varsity Centre holds 5,000 fans, though they did not

SEE 'NCAA' – PG 19

A good sport

Between now and spring training

The Varsity's KEVIN DRAPER *takes a look at some of the biggest MLB storylines of the offseason*



Felix Hernandez of the Seattle Mariners won the 2010 Cy Young Award in the American League.

While the baseball offseason is just heating up, there has already been a lot of chatter and no shortage of subjects to chatter about; there's only more to come as the free agency period gets rolling. Chances are some of today's major storylines are really going to take off between now and mid-February when pitchers and catchers report to sunny Florida and Arizona for spring training.

Toronto native Joey Votto was the near-unanimous pick for National League MVP. The Cincinnati Reds' first baseman has terrorized opposing pitching by leading or being at the top of most major offensive categories. It's a feel-good story all around because as recently as a couple of years ago, Votto was best known for spending time on the disabled list for mental health issues.

Over in the American League, Josh Hamilton took the MVP prize for his dominant offensive showing this year. His story is also one of battling demons — he was out of baseball for several years due to an alcohol and cocaine addiction, and has finally realized his potential.

Former Blue Jay Roy Halladay captured a well-deserved National League Cy Young Award for being the best pitcher. 'Doc' truly deserves it, having tossed a regular season perfect game and a playoff no-hitter.

'King' Felix Hernandez triumphed in the American League, in a rare victory for stats-geeks. Despite posting a mediocre 13–12 win-loss record, the baseball writers voting on the awards recognized that Hernandez's other statistics were superb. His win-loss record only reflects how poorly the rest of his team played around him, and it's nice that the voters separated that from his personal performance.

With the awards dished out, all eyes are now squarely on the free agent pool. The New York Yankees are leading the charge to acquire star left-handed pitcher Cliff Lee, who beat them in the playoffs as a member of the Texas Rangers. Look for him to get a contract in the range of five to seven years for about $20 million per year. The Rangers want him back, but the Yankees have the biggest chequing account.

Derek Jeter, however, might not be as sure a bet as Lee to be a Yankee in 2011. He just finished a 10-year contract that he signed at a far younger age, and the Yankees are hesitant to pay him what they once did because, as his age increases, his skill set goes south. Don't expect to see a nasty divorce in the end, but it could take these two a while to reconcile.

To bring it back home, our very own Toronto Blue Jays have also found themselves in the thick of the rumour mill recently. In the most unexpected story of this offseason, the Jays have been linked to aging slugger Manny Ramirez, who wants to play for their new manager, John Farrell. Whether or not the Jays actually pull the trigger and bring Manny to the Rogers Centre remains to be seen, but it'll sure be fun to watch this develop.

How to stay stress-free this exam season

As students begin to inhabit Robarts and close-to-campus coffee haunts full-time, their bodies start to run high on caffeine and low on sleep. In an ideal world, I'd tell you to hit the gym for at least 30 minutes each day: go for a run, to the yoga studio, or one of the many campus pools during free-swim time. In reality, I know that many of us find it hard enough to just flip over to the next page in our textbooks. To beat exam heat, here are four exercises to stay healthy and cut-down on stress.

By **ARIEL GARNEAU**, photos by **DAVID PIKE**.



MEDICINE BALL CHEST-THRUST
Take a medicine ball (as heavy of one as you want), hold it to your chest, and squat down keeping your back straight and knees over your toes. When standing up, thrust the ball against a wall, and catch it when it bounces back at you. Repeat the sequence 20 times, and then recover to complete the set. Do three sets.



BOSU BALL WALL-TOSS
Sit on a BOSU ball facing a wall, about one foot away. Lean back slightly so that the middle of your back is resting on the slope downwards, with your feet off the ground, knees together. Toss a medicine ball against the wall and catch it when it bounces back. Repeat 20 times, and then recover to complete the set. Do three sets.



ISOMETRICS WITH 2-5LB WEIGHTS
Hold weights out in front of you, straight-armed at a 90-degree angle to your body for six seconds. Bring your arms down slowly and controlled. Repeat six times.



PLANK, SCUTTLE, PUSH-UP
Start in a straight-arm plank. Lift your right arm and right leg simultaneously and shift them to the right. Lift your left arm and your left leg and shift them to the right. It's like you're 'scuttling' right-of-centre. Repeat this five times and then do a push-up. Move back to centre by doing five 'scuttles' back to centre. Do a push-up. Now 'scuttle' left five times and do a push-up. Scuttle back to centre and do a push-up to complete a full set. Repeat the set five times.

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Where to workout at U of T

The Varsity travels from one end of U of T to the other to check out the athletic facilities

Story and photos by ROXANNA DEHGHAN

ST. GEORGE

The Athletic Centre

As a Varsity athlete I know the Athletic Centre very well. The main level boasts a very large weight room, and at first glance it can be slightly overwhelming. Once you take a look around, however, you'll appreciate where everything is placed. Through the blue doors on the fourth floor, you'll find the indoor track surrounded by elliptical machines and treadmills. There's even an area for pole vaulting. The middle of the track is open space, and is commonly used by the track team for discus throwing and high jumping. The AC offers community swimming lessons and has both a 50-metre pool, which is used by the Toronto Swim Club as well as the Varsity Blues swim team, and a 25-metre pool. At times it can get very busy, so I would suggest if you want to go and work out, between noon and 3 p.m. is best because this is the quietest time.

Hart House

Hart House, the original gym at U of T, is one of the cornerstones of the university community, but can be a tad difficult to navigate on first visit. Once you go up the stairs to the track, however, you'll relax. Unlike the monstrous AC, Hart House is modest. The track at Hart House is surrounded by treadmills and stationary bikes. The track is smaller than the AC but it's in such a gorgeous building that at times you forget you're in downtown Toronto. It has three squash courts, and a spinning room. Hart House's pool, however, is very small. If you are just learning to swim, they offer a great deal of programs for new swimmers. If you are a masters swimmer, I would suggest going to the AC.



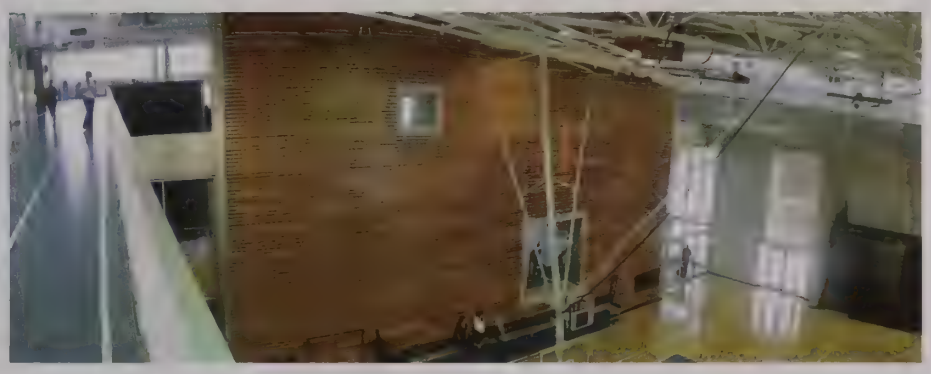


UTSC

On the east side of the city, we have UTSC's athletic facilities. Although the facilities, originally built in 1968, have since undergone many renovations, none compare to the multimillion-dollar overhaul that will take place before the 2015 PAN-AM games touch down in Toronto. Proposed is a $170 million state-of-the-art aquatic complex, complete with two Olympic-sized, 52-metre swimming pools, a 10-metre diving tank, multipurpose gymnasiums, a running track, racquet courts, and fitness and training areas. UTSC's facilities may be modest at the moment, but there is still a gym that can accomodate two regulation size basketball games. It is commonly used for intramural sports. There is a small weight room, complimented by elliptical machines and rowing machines. What UTSC lacks in indoor facilities, however, it makes up for outdoors. There is a spectacular rugby field, soccer pitch and baseball diamond. The Varsity Blues men's rugby and baseball teams both play their home games at UTSC. If you're the outdoor-type and are in the Scarborough area, this is definitely the place for you.

UTM

About 40 km west of Toronto is U of T's satellite campus in Mississauga. Because UTM is my home campus, I am probably at this gym every other day. The Recreation, Athletic, and Wellness Centre (or "RAWC," as it's known as around campus) was built in 2006, and many would say it's 'under-used.' It has 10 weightlifting units and a 177-metre elevated track above of an open-space concept facility that boasts new elliptical trainers and stationary bikes. To the side of the track, there are 15 rowing machines. The Varsity Blues rowing team is based out of UTM and has ties with Port Credit Row. For those who like the idea of an open space workout area, this facility is the place to be. Having done spinning classes at both the RAWC and Hart House, I much prefer the RAWC because you are not enclosed in a room. Instead, you are in a breathable, open space. The RAWC has a 25-metre pool that is used by the Mississauga Aquatic Club. The RAWC often hosts swim meets for nearby high schools, like Erindale S.S. In addition to suggesting this gym to UTM's student population, I highly would recommend it to novice athletes in the Mississauga area.



'NCAA' – CONTINUED FROM PG 17

once fill the house in 2010. In fact, The Blues typically drew less than 2,000 fans. This is not big time football.

The Big Ten is as large as it gets in collegiate athletics. Essentially, each game is televised and the average attendance is over 70,000. If the hometown Varsity Blues simply matched the visiting Buffalo Bills Rogers Centre attendance from early November, they'd bring in about 50,000 fans per game, roughly the same as Big Ten members Purdue and Minnesota and ahead of Indiana and Northwestern.

The Big Ten season would run for 13 weeks, with 12 games played beginning the first week of September. The Rogers Centre with 54,000 seats would become the home field and would often be full with the likes of the Michigan Wolverines and Ohio State Buckeyes coming to town.

Hockey would be moved to Ricoh Coliseum (capacity 8,140) to accommodate larger crowds to see Big Ten games. The Big Ten is contemplating adding hockey as a sport, again, pursuant to BTN programming.

Five conference schools currently play in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and Western Collegiate Hockey Association, and Penn State is adding the sport. If two more hockey teams were added, for eight total, it would likely be added as a conference sport.

If hockey is not added to the Big Ten, the Varsity Blues hockey team could take membership in the CCHA. The basketball team would move its home to Varsity Arena, until they outgrow it.

What, then, is the suggestion? That the 12-team Big Ten will simply add the University of Toronto for a baker's dozen?

No — I expect th[illegible] Ten will add teams two at a time. Toronto and Notre Dame could both be added for 2016 or 2017, which would give the Varsity Blues the opportunity to transition in. It would give the Irish the chance to wind up their contract with NBC and fully honor their schedules, which are largely set through 2016.



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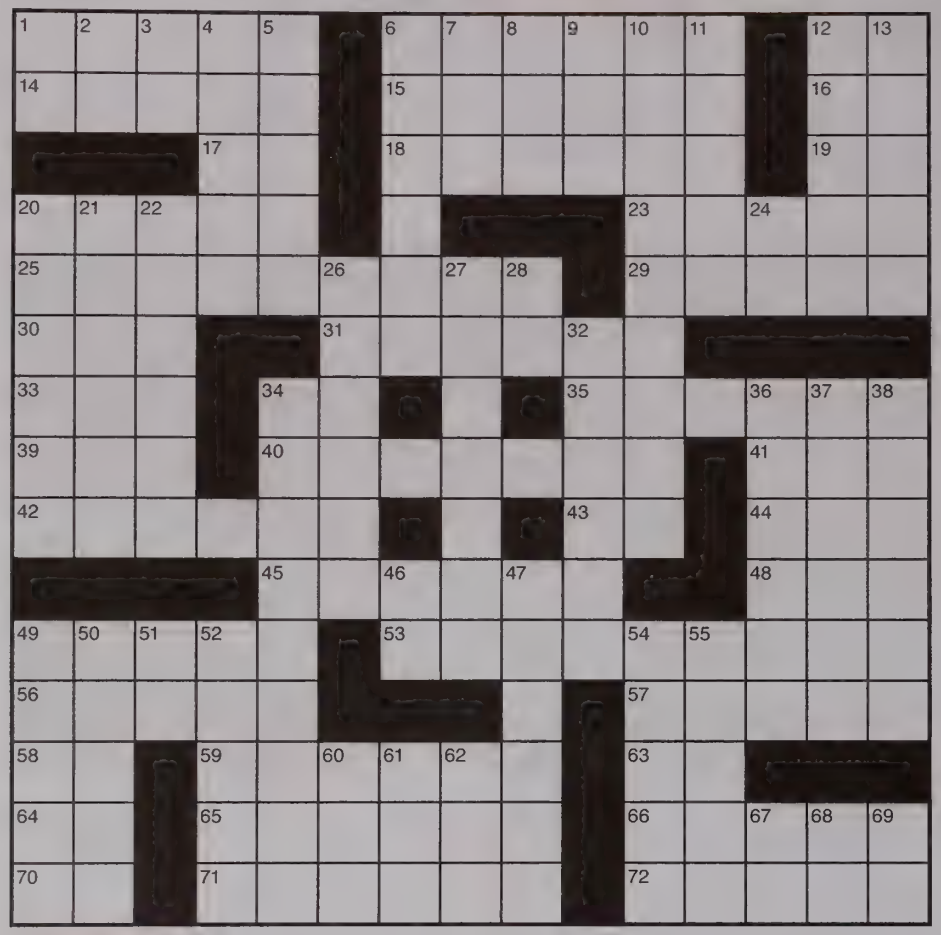
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VARSITY CROSSWORD ALL AROUND THE WORLD

by Buster Cherry and the Experienced Gentlemen



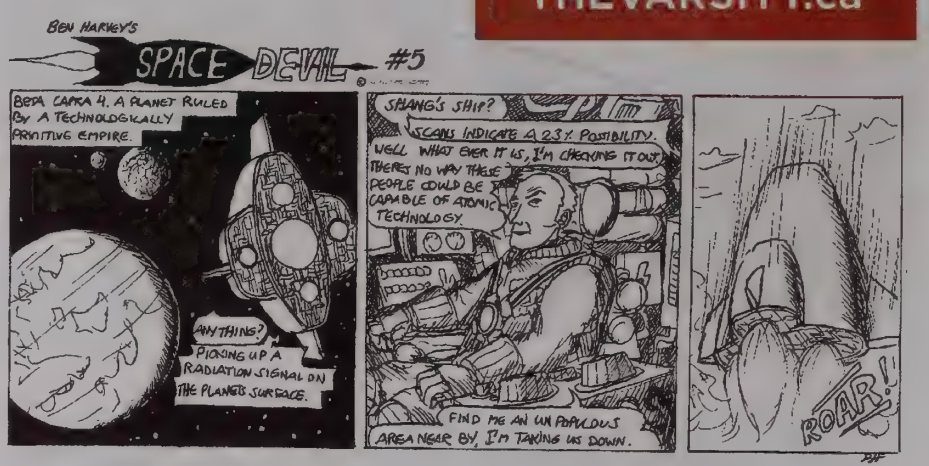
ACROSS

1. Painter of The Kiss
6. Zionist immigration
12. In the year of (our) Lord
14. Popular with cowboys
15. Dave, of McSweeney's
16. Initials of Charlie Sheens' ex
17. This is not a province
18. Plural quadrilateral
19. American malt liquor brand
20. ___ and desist
23. Foot, in poetry
25. Poetic verse with 8 beats, in England
29. Totally, in text message slang
30. BLT, hold the lettuce, extra tomato
31. ____ of the pack
32. Fifth-longest river in the UK
34. In Greek mythology, daughter of Inachus
35. Santa's first reindeer
39. Popular online poke site
40. Champion racehorse, Sea___
41. King of Wessex from 688 to 726
42. Epidemic in Toronto and New York
43. Tao-__ Ching
44. "Unbelievable" band from the UK
45. Respiration prefix
48. US Armed Forces domain
49. Male thespian
53. Stephen Harper's favourite
56. Pace, musically
57. Minor and major in the kidney
58. Too many drugs
59. State of being petrified
63. System of short-distance radio
64. communications
    Continent colonized by Europeans,
65. beginning in the late 15th century
    Italian for tied together
66. Muslim legal scholars
70. Medical drama
71. Causes you to wear earplugs to bed
72. Death or abdication can end it

DOWN

1. South Korean internet domain
2. "Fuck You" singer, Cee-___ Green
3. A bouncer's demand
4. For high IQs only
5. Stipulated ancestor of clan
6. Introducing air
7. Let's get high, text message abbreviation
8. Ancient Chinese boardgame
9. You Enjoy Myself, for Phishheads
10. Dispute settlement, no courts involved
11. Cafe Lumiere director, first name
12. Photoshop creator
13. D in LBD
20. Internet "corn"ography
21. Exact copy
22. Maybe ____ing
24. Alberta's time zone
26. To carry away, to conceal
27. Luke Skywalker fights this creature in a pit (British spelling)
28. This horse can talk
32. The Varsity has several
34. Over-the-counter NSAID
36. Related to winter
37. Feeling hostile
38. Mallet-to-knee test
46. More than a single, too short for an album
47. Sauron's home
49. Make amends
50. Coniferous tree
51. Unregistered trademark
52. Birthstone for October babies
54. Happen
55. King of Hollywood, last name
60. Research Grant Office
61. "Dirty Little Secret" rock band
62. Institute of Transportation Engineers
67. Government provided financial assistance
68. Atomic number 12
69. Article before vowel

For the solution, please visit THEVARSITY.ca



EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CEREMONIES:

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
This ceremony, hosted by the Status of Women Office at U of T, will focus on actions that make a difference. Presenters will share ideas on how to work towards change. Join the conversation, all are welcome.

- *December 6th at 1 p.m.*
- *Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, room 548 (246 Bloor St. West)*
- *Free!*

COFFEE HOUSES:

Active Minds at U of T Coffee House
This night will be marked with free coffee, delicious snacks, good company, live music, and an enthralling discussion on mental health awareness and de-stressing. An open mic will be set up for interested performers. Keynote speakers will give de-stressing tips.

- *November 30th at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*
- *Cumberland House (33 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

DISCUSSIONS:

Global Access: A World AIDS Day Event
Industrialized countries have the ability to produce generic drugs to address the severity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the developing world. Join Oxfam U of T for a discussion on access to HIV/AIDS medication, combining perspectives from policy, government, and NGO backgrounds. Speakers include Richard Elliot, Anne-Marie Zajdlik, and Aria Ahmad.

- *December 2nd at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.*
- *OISE, room 2212 (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *Free!*

LECTURES:

Architecture and its Interpretations: Context, Ritual, and Re-Presentation
The three Teetzel lectures will explore the ways in which we engage with architecture from the past. What are our questions? What sources do we use? The medieval monastic site of Saint-Jean-des-Vignes in Soissons, France will form the locus for the exploration of these questions. No registration necessary.

- *November 29th, 30th and December 1st at 4:30 p.m.*
- *University College, room 140 (15 King's College Circle)*
- *Free!*

TOURS:

Astronomy Public Tour
This tour is hosted by the U of T Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Graduate student Emma Lloyd will present a lecture titled "Star Children: The Past, Present, and Future of Space Travel." The lecture will be followed by an observing session through telescopes. You can also sign up to see shows in their new planetarium at astro.utoronto.ca/StGeorge_tours.html.

- *December 2nd at 8:10 p.m.*
- *McLennan Physical Labs, room 102 (60 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

FUNDRAISERS:

Toronto Poetry Slam Team
This is a fundraiser for Toronto's own Poetry Slam Team, who spent a lot of money going to the National Poetry Slam in the US this year. The team will be showcasing solo pieces as well as team pieces, using several voices and many recitation styles. There will be door prizes.

- *November 30th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *The Boat (158 Augusta Ave.)*
- *$10*

SHOWS:

300 Tapes by Public Recordings
This show was created by Ame Henderson and Bobby Theodore who, along with seven other Canadian artists, developed 300 tapes featuring the life stories of performers Joe Cobden, Frank Cox-O'Connell, and Brendan Gall. The piece merges groundbreaking techniques in storytelling, sound art, and photography.

- *December 1st until December 12th, various showtimes*
- *The Theatre Centre (1087 Queen St. West)*
- *$15 with student ID*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**



Monday, December 6, 2010 | University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880 | Vol. CXXXI, No. 16

UTSU

Campus divides at AGM

Partisan politics and semantic bickering dominate UTSU event

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Partisan politics emerged as a key theme of the UTSU annual general meeting that took place last Thursday. The three-hour meeting saw all agenda items pass and publicly unveiled a right-leaning student group critical of UTSU, which featured prominently in discussion and debates.

As in past years, the meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. started late. At about 6:30 p.m., Chair Ashkon Hashemi, who also serves as internal coordinator for CFS-Ontario, called the meeting to order. Many UTM students were also in attendance.

NO Q&A

Five minutes into the meeting, student Brett Chang asked if there would be a general question period for business not stated on the agenda. Hashemi replied that discussion would be limited to motions already stated on the agenda.

Peter Buczkowski, a board of directors representative for UTM, attempted a motion to add a period for general questions onto the agenda, but Hashemi replied that general questions can be asked after the president's address.

Michael Scott asked why there would be no separate question period held. Hashemi reiterated that questions could be asked after the president's address and invited Michael Scott to make a motion moving the address to the meeting's end. Mischa Menuck made the motion, which was defeated.

Throughout the meeting, student Brent Schmidt stated that motions had to be submitted by a November 17 deadline that he described as ill-advertised.

"I feel that there's many people in this room who came here wanting to talk about things who haven't been able to," Schmidt said.

Invited guest-speaker Leslie Jermyn, chair of CUPE 3902, touched on student political engagement "in these difficult times."

In his address, UTSU President Adam Awad spoke about recent UTSU successes that included both increased student participation in events and a rise in movie

SEE **'AGM'** – PG 3

ROSI

ROSI prepares for retirement

Replacement focuses on transparency and ease of use

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

A new service is being developed to replace the student-dreaded ROSI. This new program, known as the Next Generation Student Information Services, is in its early stages of development and plans to be an ambitious expansion to what the existing ROSI system currently has to offer. NGSIS will attempt to streamline everything from a student's four-year academic plan to the fastest route from one class to another.

"The whole driver behind this is enhancing the student experience and supporting student success," explains Robert Cook, chief information officer. "[NGSIS wants to] make the kind of administrative things that have to happen as transparent and easy as possible, so students can focus on academic success. Students didn't come here to register for courses. They came for the interaction with professors, libraries, and the whole learning experience."

The goal of NGSIS far exceeds what ROSI currently has to offer. Among other things, ROSI allows students to sign up for courses and check their academic history. When using ROSI, students have to go trifling through pages of the U of T Course Calendar, along with the Anti-Calendar. The concept behind NGSIS is to streamline this type of information into one hub, and consequently make it easier for students to access.

"Students, when thinking about ROSI, think about a system," explained Marden Paul, director of planning, governance, and assessment. "We're looking towards making a platform project as opposed to a system." NGSIS is being envisioned as a project that will continuously develop, ready to adapt as students as well as technology changes.

"Rather than building or buying a particular system, we are seeking to develop a modular, flexible, and decentralized hybrid system," Vice Provost Students Jill Matus explained.

Scott Mabury, vice provost academic operations agrees. "NGSIS is a hybrid in many ways; we might buy off-the-shelf software, hire programmers externally, or hire students, or do the programming internally," he said in a media release. "The idea is that the system should allow the addition of components, and we will acknowledge investments by divisions. Where we see the value of a project for the entire university, we will negotiate with the developers to make it available system-wide."



JENNY KIM/THE VARSITY

It's still in its early stages, but NGSIS is slowly trying to bring information together. Some information will become streamlined in the near future, while other ambitious ideas might take a while to develop. The NGSIS team has even brought in the former U of T students behind Project Augur — a system being designed to map out a student's four year academic plan, creating a map as a student informs the program of the courses he/she wants to take. "[We] brought them in and hired them [...] had them in for four months to try and develop the concept further, and we are going to try and work on that concept," explained Paul. "It's a special concept because it's driven by students; it's how the student perceives how to select courses and plan your academic career."

The NGSIS system is being funded by the University of Toronto itself, as well as receiving funding from around campus. "Everyone is helping out because the service is going to be beneficial for everyone," said Cook.

"We are still in the process of consulting and figuring out what the elements are and how they will pull together," explained Cook. "But most critically, we know that it's not 'We do that once and get it right.' It's an approach which we are trying to position ourselves to support."

"Students have to navigate all kinds of different processes from the moment they apply until the time they graduate, explained Matus. "They have to select and register for courses, develop a timetable, pay fees, get transcripts, and on and on. At all points along the way, we want the processes students navigate to be user-friendly and student centred — simple, streamlined, and efficient. NGSIS is conceived in such a way as to allow continual development and improvement."





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Facebook-based group emerges as potential UTSU slate

UTSU Annual General Meeting draws debate

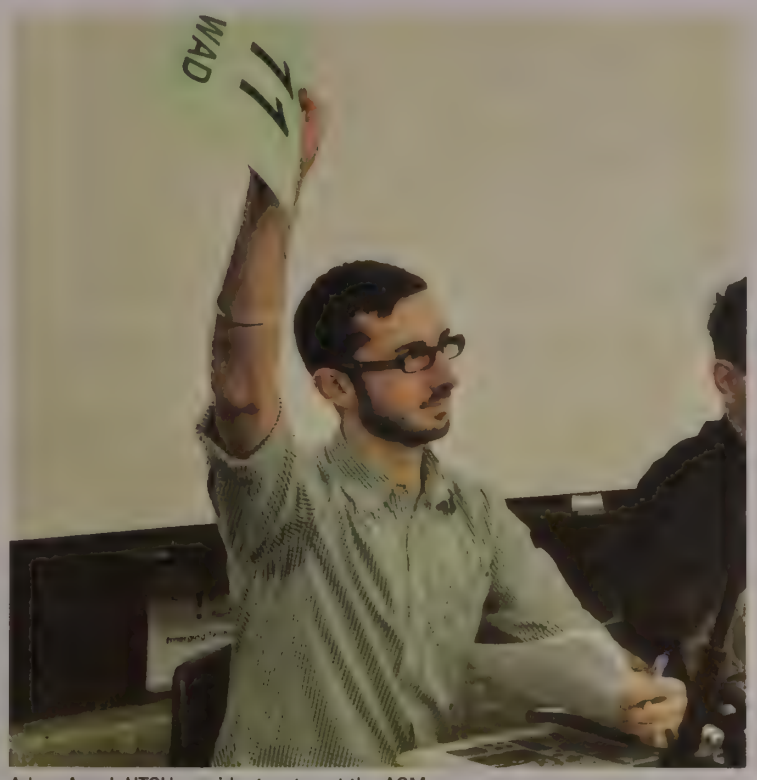
'AGM' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

and event ticket sales from 200 per week to often over 200 a day. Awad also criticized university administration for their handling of the G20 and the Faculty of Arts and Science academic planning.

PARTISAN ACCUSATIONS

Schmidt and Chang both accused UTSU for only increasing clubs funding by 15 per cent while raising the campaigns budget by 120 per cent. They both claimed that students are better represented by clubs they participate in than what they allege to be "partisan advocacy campaigns."

Awad explained that campaigns often represent all members and include the recent protest against flat fees and academic planning proposals from the Faculty of Arts and Science. He added that percentages are misleading and that he considers campaigns to be underfunded.



Adam Awad, UTSU president, votes at the AGM. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

"If you feel unrepresented, it's important to engage with the organization," said Awad. "Coming out to this meeting is a great first step, but it requires coming often, it requires sending emails, and asking 'What's going on with this?' [...] It requires going out to meetings on a regular basis because all members have a vote every time we have a commission meeting.

"If people have specific issues that they want to see the union take up, it's a matter of engaging with us and actually coming out and participating and that's the only way that we're going to be able to respond.

"But if we don't ever hear from you, we're not gonna know what your issues are.

Michael Scott criticized UTSU-run events such as disOrientation for "not embracing a diversity of opinions," citing the pamphlet's "blatantly one-sided" stance against ideologies such as capitalism and neoliberalism. Awad replied that UTSU sponsors a diversity of events and cited its participation in a Campus for Christ fundraiser.

Menuck challenged Awad to name a UTSU-run event that strained from its normally left-leaning ideology. Awad reiterated that students have to participate in UTSU to have their views voiced.

"We haven't been approached by a group that has a completely opposite ideology from the groups that did disOrientation," admitted Awad. "That has nothing to do with our capacity to deal with groups that have different beliefs doing events. It's about people using the student union as a structure for organizing engagement with issues on campus."

One specific club was mentioned during the discussion.

"The basic principle of a democratic society is that people of different ideologies and opinions should be heard and should be given equal treatment," said Jorge Prieto, before explaining that the University of Toronto Free Democrats, a group whose website declares its advocacy for "traditional democracy and free market capitalism," was denied funding.

Prieto alleged that the group was denied funding after it was "deemed to be right-wing and elitist," before noting the funding of multiple left-leaning political groups.

"My question is should the purpose of UTSU be to provide services and things that are good for all students," asked Prieto, "or should it be to promote a particular ideology that tends to divide rather than unite the campus?"

Awad responded that services are just as political as campaigns, citing how offering health and dental plans is done in response to a lack of comprehensive drug and dental coverage. He then referred club funding allegations to VP Campus Life Corey Scott, who called the allegations "upsetting" and said the process is not political.

"Reading over the application, I didn't even get the idea that it was a right-wing club," said Corey Scott. "I don't know where you're getting your information from, because we are denying any clubs on the basis of ideology. There were actually several clubs I didn't even want to fund, but I would because it's not my place to be saying that and the committee agrees."

In a follow-up email to The Varsity, he noted that the club did not apply for funding for the current academic year

"Our correspondence shows that the club applied for clubs recognition on October 9, 2010 and sent an email inquiring about long-term funding on Friday, October 15, 2010 — the deadline for long-term clubs funding applications," said Corey Scott. "This club has not attended the mandatory Club Executive training session which is requisite for long-term funding. We have not received a hard or digital copy of a funding application to date."

He added that the club is still eligible for short-term funding if a representative attends club executive training and noted that Prieto was not one of the official contacts UTSU was corresponding with.

After Awad's address, both UTMSU President Vickita Bhatt and board of director member Mariam Sheikh praised UTSU for their work for UTM students. Neither mentioned their affiliations with UTMSU.

NAME CHANGE SEMANTICS

A motion passed to legally change its name from the current "Students' Administrative Council of the University of Toronto" to "U.T.S.U." after the name change was approved in a 2004 referendum.

Awad explained that senior administration would only allow the use of "University of Toronto" if it was able to approve all by-laws, audits, elections, and more. He said "a bit of creativity was needed," admitting that having to use initials only "is a bit ridiculous" but ultimately useful since UTSU will save legal fees by not having to change documents related to the student commons project.

Awad then presented three proposed name changes for commission, "to make them more accessible to students."

While replacing "Equity Commission" with "Social Justice and Equity Commission" generated little feedback, the other changes provoked substantial debate.

Two students criticized switching "External Commission" with "Community Action Commission" for being less value-neutral, while most controversy surrounded replacing "University Affairs Commission" with "Academic and Student Rights Commission."

"Personally I don't think UTSU works for students' rights. I think UTSU has been actively working against the entire student body to target specific groups. I don't believe their policies focus on the lives of students and improve them directly," said Chang. "Until UTSU begins to represent students, not just one group of students [...] I don't believe they have the legitimate right to change their name to student rights."

Michael Scott disagreed with the change for another reason.

"There are lots of student issues external to the university that should be brought to a commission that don't necessarily fall into the community action label. I think renaming it as such will have the affect of self-selecting out [students] who don't identify themselves as activists."

Jiayi Zhou noted that she participates in all three commissions and said that "there is value in asserting" their roles.

"I dispute the idea that Community Action Commission must mean 'Activist' Commission," said Zhou. "Community action has a much broader and more important meaning than the narrow pigeon-hole the opposition had tried to put it in."

CRITICISMS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A handful of students who participate in commissions criticized detractors for not doing likewise. Schmidt gave an impassioned response.

"I think it's maybe a little a bit offensive to those students who are in this room who find it hard to even find the two hours of day to come to this AGM, to be told that our opinions only matter if we come to the commission meetings.

"'Cause quite frankly I study a lot to attend this university; I do a lot of activities in the community, and to be involved in student politics as well is a heavy burden. And I do want to participate and I try to come to meetings, but I do not believe that my opinion is only valuable insofar as I attend one of those meetings."

Schmidt was met with an indirect reply from a single-parent student who says she commutes four hours each day.

"It really upsets me when I see students who don't participate in the community," she said. "When you put yourself into that ring and file a complaint and stand up and make statements at the podium, you need to be accountable for how much time you've invested into student affairs."

After conversation digressed, the motion was called to question and was passed. A five-minute break was then called.

BY-LAW CHANGES

Seven changes to UTSU by-laws were approved, most involving minor rephrasing. One proposed ammendment generated about half an hour of discussion. It would change the three executive appointees to the Elections and Referenda Committee from the top executives positions to any three executives.

VP Equity Danielle Sandhu clarified that the was motion intended to "avoid situations of conflict of interest" that UTSU executives have had to manoeuvre around for years, since many executives have sought reelection.

"I find that there's actually a truckload of things that could be put under this category of elections," said Schmidt, explaining why he would abstain from the vote. "I don't think this deals with any of the things that students came here to talk about."

After some confusion, Daniel Bertrand, UTSU representative to the Students' Law Society, clarified to attendees what a conflict of interest entails.

One student moved that the board, rather than the executive, be made responsible for choosing which executives sit on the committee. Hashemi ruled the amendment out-of-scope from the original proposal. He welcomed an appeal to his ruling, which was discussed in depth before being defeated.

A motion was passed to remove chairing the Blue Crew, a campus cheering squad, from the list of responsibilities for the VP Campus Life. Sandhu explained the group had become redundant after four years of inaction and replaced by other campus spirit groups, although Chang and Michael Scott said the motion was defeatist.

Hashemi closed the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Didn't attend the meeting and think our article is long winded? 6 fun facts from the UTSU AGM:

Last year's AGM started at 6:45 p.m. and finished at 11:00 p.m.

Hashemi asked a moustached Bertrand if he was aware that movember was over.

Noting the success of pancake brunches for commuter students, Awad observed that UTM students seemed to eat four times as many pancakes as St. George students.

There was slight confusion as Hashemi addressed "Scott," pointing in the direction of both Michael Scott and UTSU VP student life Corey Scott.

Sandhu said she was relieved at not having to wear the Blue Crew over-alls

Awad mentioned that UTSU could focus more on offering movie tickets, but stated he's more of a bookworm.

A CHALLENGER APPEARS

Student Political Action Committee (SPAC)

SPAC's Facebook group describes itself as "a forum for ideas of how we can pursue the mission of increasing accountability, efficiency and realism in our student union" to confront individual grievances with UTSU.

Co-founders Schmidt (top) and Chang (bottom) stressed that the group will launch next year and is a non-partisan advocacy group. A significant amount of members participate in right-leaning groups on campus. When asked if they would be running for election, Chang told The Varsity he would not, while Schmidt declined to comment.





Photos by Andrew Rusk

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What are you doing over the winter break?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Dennis
2nd Year Political Science
"I'm going to have my third beer and eat with my family for once."



Olivia
1st Year Life Science,
"I'll be spending time with my family and celebrating Christmas."



Mike
2nd Year Philosophy,
"I'm going to win the belt."



Joanna
2nd Year Political Science,
"I'm going home and will be eating lots of food."



Nicole
2nd Year Political Science,
"Going home to Chicago."



Frank
4th Year History and Italian,
"Studying for all the things I have to do in January, while making lemonade."



Frank
3rd Year Italian,
"I'm going to recover all the sleep that U of T has taken from me over these past weeks."



Francesca
Masters of Teaching,
"I'm going to NYC and will be doing as little homework as possible."

HEALTH INSPECTION

What's that in my food?

UTSC haunt had license temporarily revoked

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

After receiving a conditional pass from a Toronto Public Health inspection last October, University of Toronto Scarborough restaurant Rex's Den is getting back on its feet by enforcing stricter sanitary rules and updating their employee training procedures.

Outlined in the TPH's Establishment Inspection Report, Rex's Den fell short in 11 areas including proper washing of room surfaces, providing towels in the food preparation area and thermometers in the storage compartment, proper use of utensils, containers and wrappings to avoid contamination and hand contact with food, and ensuring the food-handling room's ceiling is kept clean and in good repair.

In compliance to TPH stipulations, Rex's Den displayed a yellow conditional pass on its front entrance for 48 hours, when the follow-up inspection was set to occur assuring that their infractions had been corrected. The sign also acted as a way to inform customers that they faced potential health risks by choosing to eat at the restaurant at the time.

But patron Alline Kazarian maintains that seeing the yellow pass did not discourage her from ordering her usual. "After a brief conversation with one of the servers, I decided that these infractions weren't serious enough for me to reconsider my choice to eat at Rex's."

Echoing Kazarian's comment, it is outlined in the TPH's "Food Premises Inspection and Disclosure System" that having "a potential health risk to the public" does not necessarily indicate that it is "unsafe" to eat at that particular establishment.

Joel Clark, business manager of the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, who also own Rex's Den, explained that all infractions were corrected either during or a few hours after the inspection, garnering the restaurant a green pass, which indicates that the premises is in compliance with the TPH's sanitary standards.

SEE 'FOOD' – PG 5

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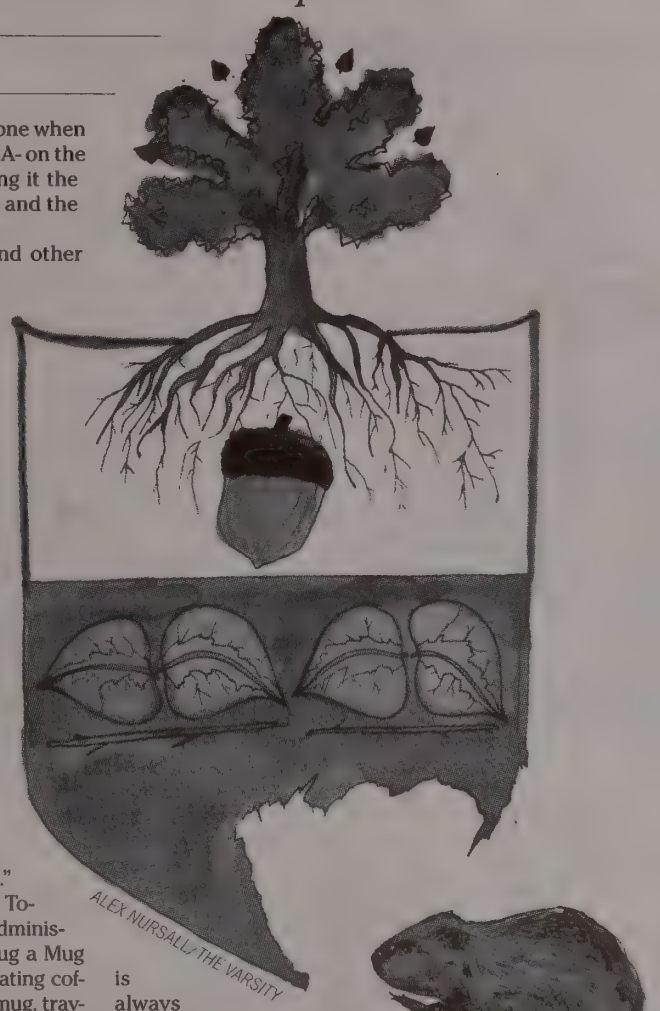
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GREEN CAMPUS?

It's not easy being green

U of T amongst the best in 2011 report card

Robin Buller
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



This year, the University of Toronto is number one when it comes to green campuses. U of T received an A- on the 2011 College Sustainability Report Card, making it the leader of over 300 schools surveyed in Canada and the United States.

"I hope it will make students and faculty and other members of the U of T community more aware of the fantastic things the university has been doing in this area for a very long time," said Vice President of Business Affairs, Cathy Riggall. "Too many people are not aware of our leadership in this area and are not aware that we have been a leader for so long."

The report, prepared by the Sustainable Endowments Institute based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, uses seven categories to evaluate how well an institution meets its own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. In administration, food and recycling, student involvement, endowment transparency, and shareholder engagement, U of T achieved As. The remaining categories — climate change and energy, green building, transportation, and investment priorities — yielded Bs.

"There are a lot of really cool initiatives coming out of the university," said President of the Arts and Sciences Student Union, Gavin Nowlan. "And there are a number of campus groups that are really pushing for a more sustainable campus."

Specific programs that add to the University of Toronto's green image have come from both the administrative and student bodies. These include the Lug a Mug program, which saves students $0.25 at participating coffee shops on campus when they bring their own mug, trayless dining at New College, and post-consumer composting which was introduced in cafeterias last winter. Last year's sustainability office piloted a project that encouraged paperless teaching. "Faculty members signed on to a pledge to reduce paper consumption in their offices," explained Nowlan. This fall, the eco-tray program was launched in an effort to replace disposable takeout containers with reusable ones.

"Many of our programs have been in place for a number of years," expressed Anne Macdonald, director of ancillary services. "So in some ways it is a little surprising that we were not recognised with higher scores in previous years."

Under the leadership of Director Jaco Lokker, U of T's food services increased their emphasis on sustainable food procurement. Having been in partnership with Local Food Plus since 2006, food services have striven to increase the amount of local, organic, and vegetarian-fed products used on campus.

According to Macdonald, the Chestnut and New College residences stand out as having especially sustainable cafeterias when it comes to both local procurement and waste reduction. Along with University College and Aramark locations, these cafeterias also have organic and vegetarian-fed options.

Riggall assures students that the administrative team is always investigating new technologies and methods to keep U of T eco-friendly. The university hires managers to look after their investments, but U of T's Responsible Investing Committee is currently considering how to encourage managers to take sustainability into account in their decision-making processes. The administration plans to maintain a focus on options that make financial sense, such as installing interactive displays and other modes of promoting awareness. Currently, there is a display up in the lobby of the exam centre on McCaul Street that shows the history of sustainability at U of T.

Nowlan thinks the university needs to tackle other concerns such as waste disposal on campus.

"This is an issue we've brought up with the admin before," he said. "Many students don't know that the university doesn't use the city's garbage services. The university has its own garbage service." He went on to explain how improper recycling increases waste disposal costs, which is ultimately felt by the students. "We're continuing to put pressure on the university to tackle larger issues like [this]."

U OF T RESEARCH

U of T gives nurses a check-up

New research explores role of 500 nurses in Ontario's provincial correctional system

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

A new study on the trials and tribulations of Ontario nurses working in correctional facilities has recently been released. Generally, correctional nursing is an unexplored topic, but the results of this new study reveal the problems unique to the profession.

"It's a study that hasn't really been looked at. No one has really examined the work environment of these nurses before," said Joan Almost, co-principal investigator exploring worklife issues in provincial correctional settings. Approximately 500 nurses work in Ontario's provincial correctional system, caring for almost 9,000 people. The study included interviews with 17 nurses from different jails, prisons, and detention centers. The study also surveyed 30 managers.

"Understanding the perspectives [of] correctional nurses [...] is critical to providing appropriate support," said Linda Ogilvie, manager of corporate health care at the Ministry of Community and Safety and Correctional Services. Results of the study show the following main issues with correctional nurses' working environments: heavy workload, lack of up-to-date nursing education, and the prioritizing of security over health care.

"The main focus of correctional facilities is security," explained Almost. "Security hinders their scope of their practice and thus they have limited control over it. They can't control their practice due to the security focus of their setting." Explaining the intricacies of this specific problem, Joan points to the issue of the correctional officer always having to be present in the health unit. "If the officer is busy, a potential medication delivery might be delayed. If the inmate has to be moved from the cell, and the officer is not around, medical attention is delayed.

"Correctional officers are really in control," she added. "Officers can either limit the role of the nurse or be a great asset to them."

These problems, according to Almost, "Ultimately impact job satisfaction, and job burnout. The correctional nurses need support to do their jobs effectively."

The study compared with older national reports of nurses outside correctional facilities showed interesting contrasts. Correctional nurses surveyed said that they had more emotional and relational disputes with their colleagues. They also showed a lower sense of personal accomplishment than nurses in other sectors. "However, correctional nurses reported similar levels of autonomy as well as similar levels of collaboration with physicians," explained Almost. Correctional nurses reported lower levels of burnouts and higher intent to stay in their job. "Even though they had higher dissatisfaction, they stay in their jobs because they do enjoy them," said Almost.

Discovered in the study was the statistic that while emotional abuse is high within nursing in correctional facilities, physical abuse is hardly present; there is more physical abuse found in regular hospitals. "It's a security issue, and the goal is to maintain safety of everyone working there. Because security's the main focus, it makes sense that there is a lot less physical abuse," explained Almost.

While correctional nurses seem to be dissatisfied with a lack of support towards problems in their profession, they also seem to be very satisfied with the work they do. "It's very satisfying seeing progress made with the inmates," explained Almost. "The combination of the autonomy and being able to do a lot more in their role are one of the many reasons why correctional nurses enjoy their profession.

"The next study we're hoping to do is to make some sort of educational process for the nurses. Since they are short staffed, they don't have the opportunity to go to educational sessions outside their work." Almost added that correctional nursing is very unique. "As a profession, we haven't looked at it closely. We should explore and look at their work environment and try and improve the support for their role."

'FOOD' – CONTINUED FROM PG 4

Receiving the conditional pass, Clark said, was the product of a series of unfortunate incidents and bad timing. "The inspector came in at lunch hour, which caused him to witness a lot of things that [were] still in the process of completion."

He cited the issue concerning the kitchen's ceiling as an example, explaining that there was a "water leak on the system the day before the inspection and when the inspector came, facilities management were still finishing their work."

Despite the gravity of the incident, Customer Service Manager Alexander Gemitti believed that Rex's Den had benefited from the experience.

"It certainly contributed in bettering the way we serve our customers — we are taking what we have learned from our inspections and incorporating them in our system."

Gemitti said that every employee, old or new, is always in constant training and that checklists have been put in place to ensure that everyone is performing their tasks properly and up to par with the restaurant's new standards.

Clark also added that ever since the inspection, it has been stressed that "a task doesn't end with food preparation and is only completed when [each staff has] cleaned everything and put away [cutlery] and foods in their proper stacks."

Some students, however, like frequent Rex's Den patron Morgaine Craven, are still wary about the implications of the conditional pass. "Even with these improvements in place I am still concerned about the restaurant's issues regarding contamination."

She believes that standards concerning food, once set, should never be broken. Craven is worried that "the practises that were fixed directly after the inspection will once again be committed in the near future."

Rex's Den has undergone a total of four inspections since 2009 and received passing results in three of these inspections.

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WikiLeaks no friend of democracy

Despite Julian Assange's claims, the controversial website does more harm than good.

Grant Heaslip
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



MINHEE BAE/THE VARSITY

Last Sunday WikiLeaks, a non-profit organization that seeks to enable anonymous sources to leak confidential information to the world, began to release over 250,000 confidential American diplomatic cables. WikiLeaks and its supporters claim that they are doing the world a service by releasing these documents. However, the reality is that this is a reckless, shotgun approach to whistle-blowing, with no clear aim apart from disrupting US and international diplomacy. It is irresponsible at best. The release has the potential to unravel years of hard work and complex negotiations, has put lives at risk, and is likely to cast a shadow over future diplomacy that will end up making international relations more insular, not more open and transparent.

Julian Assange, the organization's charismatic leader, has a long history of distrust of government. His goal, as he describes it in his 2006 manifesto "Conspiracy as Governance," is to "[prevent] or [reduce] important communication between authoritarian conspirators, foment strong resistance to authoritarian planning, and create powerful incentives for more humane forms of governance." In his mind, the US government which he describes as an "authoritarian conspiracy," is "a system of interacting organs, a beast with arteries and veins whose blood may be thickened and slowed until it falls."

Thus WikiLeaks' release shouldn't be seen as an act of journalism (as Assange has tried to frame it), but an act of calculated sabotage against the American government and the international system to which it belongs. These leaks aren't designed to unveil any specific wrongs, but instead to "reduce total conspiratorial power via unstructured attacks on links."

Unfortunately for Assange, these releases don't seem to be having their desired effect. By shining light on these private American diplomatic wires, WikiLeaks has revealed that American policies were overwhelmingly responsible and nuanced — perhaps more so than many believed — and the absence of a smoking gun to justify this scattershot attack on American diplomacy is telling.

The American government has spent years (many during the Bush administration) pushing back against Arab states' pleas to attack Iran, and has remained quiet while the leaders of said countries publicly denounced American policy, took credit for American military operations, and funded terrorists. It has been balancing knowledge of clearly irresponsible and hostile Chinese policies — such as their hacking of foreign government computers and refusal to denounce North Korean aggression — with the need to maintain a healthy relationship with China's growing power. The wires demonstrate frustration over Russia's lack of true democracy, its rampant corruption, and its sale of weapons to countries supplying terrorist organizations, but an understanding that open confrontation would do more harm than good. The "New Start" arms control treaty, which was negotiated earlier this year and is now being met with Republican consternation in the US House of Representatives, is an example of the good that comes from this kind of moderation in foreign policy.

It's assuring to know that despite American political discourse becoming more and more ridiculous, there is still good, well-informed, evidence-based work being done behind the scenes. Unfortunately, a lot of this good work is being damaged by this reckless leak. Diplomacy is a constant balancing act in which trust is a key component and the secrecy of internal communication is vital. A world in which all negotiations could take place in public and stated policies could match what takes place behind the scenes is an understandable ideal, but an untenable one in today's world. This leak is going to strain vital American relationships in the world's most unstable regions, where governments often seek to distance themselves from the Americans publicly while working with them privately. Disengagement isn't in anybody's interest, and WikiLeaks would do well to learn that complicated problems almost never have simple solutions.

Furthermore, there is no defence for releasing the names and locations of the brave confidential informants whose work has no doubt saved American and Afghan lives. It's easy for those who aren't putting their lives on the line to claim that the risk has been exaggerated — and maybe they're right — but it's hard to imagine that the risk of being outed without warning isn't on the mind of current and prospective informants.

This release isn't going to make the world a better place, and that shouldn't be surprising to anyone — Assange's goal isn't to expose any particular wrong-doing, but to destroy the very institutions that make the United States a great, if at times flawed, nation. Those who believe in liberal democracy and think that the way to improve the world is to work within the system and expose specific wrongdoing when appropriate — rather than attempting to upend the table — should be calling this what it is: an act of sedition, not journalism or civil disobedience.

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Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people.

—Oscar Wilde

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What makes cops so special?

Until abuses by G20 police are prosecuted, our sense of civil society will remain broken

Dylan C. Robertson
VARSITY STAFF

Police chief Bill Blair is certainly good at making enemies.

He lashed out last week at the Special Investigations Unit for concluding that excessive force was likely used by police in two incidents over the G20 weekend. The unit, which deals with police infringements, said it couldn't press charges since the officers couldn't be identified.

One case involved Adam Nobody, a man beaten by six officers, apparently for not running fast enough. A video of the incident went viral, showing what seems like a mob of riot police chasing and beating an unarmed citizen. A false badge number was written on the incident report.

Blair slammed the SIU force for suggesting excessive force, saying his cops acted according to the highest standards and claimed the tape had been altered. Luckily, the SIU has reopened the investigation.

What Blair doesn't realize is that some G20 police acted wrongly. Regardless of how difficult the circumstances are, police are expected — at all times — to protect the public and obey the law. Many Torontonians have stories of being kettled, chased by police, arbitrarily searched, and even beaten, often by riot police that were seemingly impossible to identify. There are lasting repercussions.

As *Eye Weekly* columnist Shawn Micallef put it, "when you mess around with [cities'] sense of basic liberty, the collective civic brain is short-circuited."



The civic brain of Toronto was short-circuited when our basic civil liberties were violated during the G20 Summit. *TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY*

Many Torontonians have a shaken sense of civil society. After my own G20 run-in with the police — albeit minor — I still get uneasy when I see a police cruiser drive by.

Until justice is done and guilty officers are prosecuted, Toronto's public safety will remain compromised. The only way to fix our civil society is to restore trust in the police. The only way to do so is by prosecuting those police officers who acted wrongly — which shouldn't be that hard, considering the many camera-wielding locals who went to protests and the thousands of tweets detailing every minute of the action. There's plenty of documentation available, including photos of Toronto cops who illegally removed their name tags.

Right after the summit, Toronto Police Services launched an appeal for photographs, seeking information through social media to hunt down the Black Bloc protestors who caused the most damage. TPS dedicated many resources into finding the culprits, putting cops on the prowl full-time.

Given this, it's ridiculous to assert that the police wouldn't be able to identify their own. It would be prudent for community groups to organize a similar appeal for photos and start a private database of malignant cops.

There could be profiles for police that citizens allege to have used excessive or illegal tactics. The goal would not be to mount a smear campaign, but rather a concerted effort to organize documentation and bring the bad cops to justice. With no public inquiry in sight, it might be the best we as a society can achieve.

Innocent police don't deserve to be distrusted, and nobody wants a boy-cried-wolf situation. Weeding out the bad apples — the relatively small number of officers who are guilty — will reintroduce public confidence in our police.

Similarly, the public deserves to know that no one is above the law, including the authority figures charged with enforcing it.

The Toronto Star recently ran a series of investigations into SIU probes that went unpunished or were under-prosecuted. One included a cop who sped into an illegal right turn, hitting 67-year-old grandmother Mei Han Lee and killing her instantly. The cop, who wasn't on a call, lost 40 hours' pay.

We need to trust our authorities. Ensuring safe communities is a shared task: police enforce the law and citizens report infringements and dangers.

It's unreasonable for Blair to expect Torontonians to collaborate on solving crime when many feel disillusionment and indifference towards police. Until our authorities are bound by the rule, we will remain an untrusting society.

President Palin?

Why it could happen and what the consequences would be

Jon Foster
VARSITY STAFF

Few people in this world make me tremble in fear. One is hard-line Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad; another would be the ever provocative North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il. But now, there is a new person to add to my list; one that is a lot closer to home. That is former U.S. vice-presidential candidate and former Alaska governor, Sarah Palin.

Now Sarah Palin, you may say, is not in a position of power to influence anything on a global scale, unlike the two previously mentioned leaders who pose a constant threat to the security of the western world. But my fear comes out of her potential influence.

Recent polls in the States show that 49 per cent of voters do not wish to vote for Barack Obama in the 2012 Presidential election, and will actively seek an alternative. We must consider that the alternative could be Sarah Palin.

True, she would make history by becoming the first female American president, and sure some of her policies may seem tempting to many Americans, specifically resonating with those who are a part of the so-called "Tea Party movement," that stunned Democrats and Republicans alike in the recent mid-term elections.

My fear of Sarah Palin lies in the way that she can speak to the masses and move them towards fanatical conservatism; and she does this without knowing half the facts. Further, she presents herself as a down-home common woman, despite the fact that she is a prestigious multi-millionaire.

Palin has made some very serious gaffes in front of the media, including a recent mistake regarding the Korean crisis that has been much discussed in the news: Palin stated that "we need to stand by our North Korean allies." These gaffes are not new to Palin who when running for vice-president and asked by a reporter which dailies she reads regularly, her response being "all of them." Despite the obvious lack of understanding of American and international politics, she has become a political tour-de-force.


Sarah Palin is a political disaster and we should be worried about the influence she has. *SSKENNEL/FLICKR*

Since resigning as governor of Alaska in July 2009, 13 months before her term was to end, she has come out with two best-selling books (*Going Rogue: An American Life* in November 2009 and *America by Heart* in November 2010), joined Fox News Channel for a multi-year contract as a political commentator, and hosts her own show on TLC, called *Sarah Palin's Alaska*. Further, her daughter has achieved fame with a recent appearance on ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*. She has become, for lack of better expression, a complete media-whore. But, whatever you do, don't criticize her in the media; else a "pit bull wearing lipstick" will be all over you.

So, assuming Sarah Palin becomes the next president of the United States what could her presidency actually look like?

For starters, I think the strength of the American military would be incredibly compromised and continually challenged by America's foes, if only out of the total lack of knowledge Palin has shown towards international relations, and her extreme hard-line stance that overshadows her abilities to be diplomatic in the face of danger. Second, I feel a lot of the liberal advances in the United States that occurred over the past two decades would be reversed — we would see Obama's health care plan scrapped; we would see abortion rights challenged; gay rights reversed; taxes and social programs cut; and fiscal deficits increased. The latter has already been proven by her track record in Alaska where she spent $6.6 billion dollars in an annual operating budget — the largest in state history — and at the same time cut $237 million is social programs and infrastructure.

Further, remember the enormous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico this past summer? Under a Sarah Palin administration it would very likely happen again. Republicans have been well known to be sympathetic to the big oil companies, and a Palin presidency would go along with several high-risk projects in the interest of getting more oil for the American people, despite a current call to find alternatives for fossil-fuels.

One last point that I want to make is Sarah Palin and the Republican Party's dislike for further nuclear arms treaties with Russia. At a time where America should making peace with the world, these representatives of the United States want to maintain American exceptionalism — a very untenable position to now hold.

So I guess my primary point of contention is this: the notion of Sarah Palin as US president. She does not know enough about international relations to be an effective diplomat. A Palin presidency would further alienate America's foes, and may lead them to the brink of conventional, if not nuclear, war. Unfortunately, it looks as though she might be on her way to the White House. If that turns out to be the case, let's just hope we are still around to see the end of her term.

Is Canada a democracy?

The recent defeat of a modest climate change bill in the Senate without debate raises questions

Arash Azizi
VARSITY STAFF

In the conventional language of today's political science, Canada is a prime example of a democracy because of its political stability, free elections, and extensive civil liberties.

I, however, mean to imply something deeper with this question. Democracy, in its Greek roots, means "rule by the people," but are Canadians the ones who are really calling the shots in Canada? Is this democratic parliamentary system truly democratic?

If you think these are just musings of a far-left socialist unsatisfied with bourgeois democracy, think again. For now there are thousands of Canadians asking themselves this question.

In the last two weeks, we've witnessed two events that have cast doubt over people's trust in this "democratic" system.

First, after the House of Commons voted for a very moderate Climate Change Accountability Act, it was the unelected Senate that killed the bill without debate in a snap vote. Parliamentary experts say this is the first time in at least 70 years that the Senate has killed legislation from Commons without a hearing. U.K. commentators point that even the House of Lords in their country hasn't done this for years.

Then Stephen Harper's Conservative government, with implicit support from the Liberals, decided to skip over the Commons for a decision that was apparently not all that important: keeping 950 soldiers in a "non-combat" role in Afghanistan until 2014. As such, the Harper government is not only going over the Commons' previous decision to end the mission in 2011, it has done so without even debating the issue in the place that is supposed to be the heart of Canadian democracy.

These events are not accidents, nor are they the result of a Prime Minister who is surprisingly arrogant and dictatorial in his style. These are in fact very consistent with the democratic system in Canada. This is how this system works. This is what democracy in Canada looks like.

One could easily list a good number of reasons why it is not the people who rule in democratic capitalist countries. I point to four here:



The unelected Senate is an example of what's flawed about Canadian democracy. SCAZON/FLICKR

1) The real decisions that determine the lives of the majority of people in this country are in fact not made in the House of Commons or even 24 Sussex Drive. Eighty-five per cent of the Canadian economy is controlled by just under 150 banks and corporations. They are the ones who decide whether you'll have a job, what you will buy, and how high your living standard is.

2) It's not very hard to see the revolving door between government and business in capitalist countries. Jim Prentice, Harper's former environment minister, just left "public service" to join CIBC in Toronto. It's debatable in which position he would be more useful. The reality is that the agendas of the Conservative and Liberal parties are primarily set by corporate interests. He who pays the musician, sets the tune. This is why, in 1933, farmers and workers in this country decided to launch a political party of their own that would represent their own interests. This was the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, which later fused with the Canadian Labour Congress to become the New Democratic Party. This was, to quote its founder Tommy Douglas, "a party of mice" as opposed to two parties of black and white cats. But the party that was supposed to radically alter this system (according to its founding Regina Manifesto) hasn't yet done so and is not exactly trying either.

3) The NDP has learned, as have other socialist parties around the world, that the capitalist state can't just be appropriated and used by a socialist party that aims to destroy it and bring about real, participatory democracy. Suppose the NDP came to power in Canada tomorrow. What would really change? How can it change the enormous apparatus called the State? You can vote to elect your MP and MPP, sure. But have you ever thought of the massive bureaucracies that work independently of the people you just voted in? They are the ones who really run the show. How many times have you voted to elect your local policeman, judges, or public corporation CEO?

4) Canada, like every other capitalist democracy, has what I call "Safety valves." Just in case a socialist party actually came to power bringing about real empowerment and democracy to people, there are quite a few unelected obstacles who have "emergency" powers to stop it from doing so: the Senate is one of them. The other more important one, is the Governor General who is but a humble "representative" of the Queen of England. And if you think the Governor General doesn't have any "real" power, try to remember how Mr. Harper made a cursory call to Michelle Jean to prorogue the parliament, twice in less than two years.

These are the realities that every Canadian has to think about. These are the facts that remind us we don't really run the show in this "democracy."

Fuming about the Senate killing the climate change bill, NDP leader Jack Layton shouted that: "The Senate should be abolished!" He is right. The New Democratic Party should aim not only to rid Canada of this 19th century relic of tyranny, but should also work to overthrow the modern tyranny of bourgeois "democracy."

Arash Azizi is a member of University of Toronto New Democratic Party Club's executive and a co-chair of the Marxist Discussion Club.

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LETTERS

Re: How to Stay Stress-Free This Exam Season, November 29

I'm a second-year kinesiology student, and although the four exercises provided by the article's author, Ariel Garneau, are good exercises, she left out some important factors. Two of the exercises are not for beginners, the BOSU ball wall-toss being the most notorious. You must first establish "core" (as in spinal flexors, extensors, lateral movers, and rotators) stability before beginning any of these exercises (and probably exercise in general). If you cannot sit in a stable fashion on the BOSU ball for two minutes without tossing the ball, you have no business continuing on to tossing the ball. Same can be said for the plank, scuttle, push-up — if you can't do planks for two minutes, then you shouldn't be worried about scuttling and pushing up.

Instead, I would recommend performing planks daily until you can hold it for two minutes, then continue on to add the scuttle and the push-up. Practice sitting on the ground first, then work up to the ball (if you can sit on the ground for two minutes, then move to the BOSU, if you can do two minutes of that then add in the toss). You could also throw in 3 sets of 20 push-ups.

Finally, I'll state that going for a one mile jog every day may be helpful. Besides going out, clearing your head, and raising your endorphin levels. Over the course of one year, if you were to jog a mile every day, you would burn 10.4 pounds.

NICK WOJCIK

Re: University isn't for everyone, November 21

It's almost amusing to read Dylan's article as The Varsity's response to *Macleans*' "Too Asian?" piece. Although he had a point, his main focus more or less replicated (or perhaps improved upon) The Toronto Star's article that he was laminating about — how universities are not for everyone. Some points he failed to discuss are how the community responded (there have been three speaker panels already); how *Macleans*' responded; how the authors, instead of "creating dialogue," created resistance and fear in the disguise of journalistic analysis and discussion; and as Ray Hsu, UBC faculty in Asian Canadian Writing said, by using the quotations and question mark, *Macleans* has distanced itself, "they can plant the idea in people's heads while protecting themselves from claiming responsibility for forwarding those questions." But the damage has already been done because the conclusion was written long before the end. Lastly, the *Macleans* article is an example of xenophobia. While essentializing an entire group of "Asian" people who are as rich and as diverse in histories, geographies, and cultures as "white" people. Part of the Canadian myth is our multicultural policy that aims toward "celebration of our differences" (with stuff like International Food Day, lets all make and share our ethnic foods!) without addressing systematic obstacles that continue to bar immigrants and minorities from social mobility, and when there is a tiny squeak of the wheels in accessing that power, we start to see the fear-mongering. An equity approach needs to address race — race needs to be talked about because it has real and material consequences for people's daily lived experiences. You will never know how it feels to wake up every morning and question where you belong because for as long as your skin isn't white, which remains the default of all measures of success, you will always be asked "Where are you from?"

The only people in my personal life that have ever called me a "Canadian" were surprisingly the Japanese and Korean international students at U of T's School of Continuing Education, after I told them I grew up here.

Also, in the previous issue of The Varsity's magazine, there wasn't a single non-white face on any of its pages. Yes, I counted, but only after I began to notice how freakishly hipster-orientated it was. It was also bizarrely barren of the reality in how the majority of students live. I mean, that was the focus of the magazine right? Student profiles? I lived with Joe, in that co-op housing he described. It had subsidized rent and was a rare luxury that changed my life. I also know Dylan. Both are intelligent and articulate people. What is at issue here is The Varsity's inadequate and cop-out response to the *Macleans*' article and its poor representation of the student population.

JIA-YUN KAREN CAO

The Way We Live Now

That kid with a passion for Greek or Chinese
Who might someday teach here if heavens so please,
Be sure that you warn him before he locks in
That the course with the future is Univ. Admin.
Univ. Admin.! Univ. Admin.!
Just follow the money to Univ. Admin.

* * *

Those bankers and financiers, you well know who I mean,
Their pockets stuffed with goodies, they skip smiling from the scene:
There's a law that all discover, while belts tighten till they burst,
That Fat Cats Get Fed First.

Now Rotman and the Fac of Law look thriving as can be —
Who'd ever guess they'd stoop to draw on folks like you and me?
But millions flow from us to them, till Nature seems reversed,
For Fat Cats Get Fed First.

* * *

If you have some dirty money
(We run a sparkeling launde-ree),
If you have some dirty money,
Give a little gob to the Universi-tee.

If you still have dirty money
(I can curb my yen for democra-cee),
If you still have dirty money,
Oh Mr M., please think of me!

JAY MACPHERSON, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

WOOF! THERE IT IS!

An epic journey to the dark heart of Canada's biggest dog show

by **Will Sloan**
photos by **Alex Nursall**

"SO NOW WE'RE GOING TO START WITH SOME FUN. I want to introduce our host, who was one of the finalists on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, and also is on CTV Comedy Network. So, welcome… Winston Spear!"

Winston Spear, in a suit and Santa hat, arrives onstage as "Happy Holidays" plays on the speakers. He dances slowly and mugs heavily for the song's duration; this is one of his signature bits, it turns out. Sixty dogs and their owners have assembled in the King Edward Hotel's ballroom for the press launch of Winter Woofstock, the first holiday edition of "Canada's biggest dog show," and the barking and woof-ing and arf-ing crescendos with the music.

Happy holiday, happy holiday
May the merry bells keep ringing
Make your ev'ry wish come true

"Hi everybody, welcome to Woofstock Winter," says Spear. "Before I start, I just want you to realize my cat is in the car crying. She just can't come. I told her, 'You just cannot come. You realize you're just not invited.'

"Now, we're going to start, this is the first Winter Woofstock, so thank you for coming out and supporting it, and we're gonna have, right now, a wonderful contest, right? We're going to have… Jamie is going to go around, and she's going to wander… dogs to come up to be part of this contest… uh, you can win prizes, there's first, second, and third prizes. We'll see, uh, learn about what each dog does, what it is, and what the costumes are, and we'll, at the end of this evening, we'll have a winner. So Jamie's going around, and if you want your dogs to be in this contest… uh, we've got two already lined up?"

"I want to know who's been a good dog!" Santa waves his index finger.

The dogs in their costumes start coming on stage, one by one, as Spear provides ad-libbed commentary and a few accredited photographers mill about. There's a Maltese with a purple mohawk dressed as Santa, a pug in a red and black quilt, a West Highland Terrier with fur dyed green, dressed as the Grinch, and a tiny Chihuahua in a black vest that says "BITCH" who runs around the stage and tentatively crawls onto Spear's hand. There are several puppy reindeer, and a lot of Santa dogs.

"I like the joke there — Santa Paws," says Spear of a Sheepdog in a Santa suit. The Sheepdog sniffs the stage from left to right, and then falls off.

I'm sitting in front with the photographers, and the dogs tend to lick me on their way back to their seats. A Yorkshire Terrier licks my recorder, and another pup gets slobber on my notepad. The dogs in the audience have been barking at each other for a while now, and the music panics them further. The barking and the woof-ing and the arf-ing send the room to pandemonium, and the owners struggle to keep the pets on their laps.

I slip into the lobby, where Santa Claus is still posing for pictures. "I know this is your busy time of year, so what brings you to the Woofstock launch?"

"To bring joy to the dogs. I want to know who's been a good dog!" Santa waves his index finger.

"You've been meeting a lot of dogs today. What do most of them want for Christmas? Pet treats? Squeaky toys?"

"Yes, they've been asking for no bones this year, but they have been requesting squeaky toys."

Back in the ballroom, some of the dogs are having costume trouble. Bowie, a Pomeranian, knocks her crown off the stage. Nibbles, a Yorkshire Terrier with a gift box on its back, keeps losing her balance. A Hanukkah dog's owner has to hold his little felt Menorah in place. By now, Spear is nearly inaudible over all the barking. He seems a bit tired, too. "Hunter and Lola! Dressed up like people… in some sort of a way!"

There's one Chihuahua dressed as Elvis, and another wearing blue jeans. There's a hole in the back, though. Dogs can't take off their pants to poop.

A woman brings up her Yorkshire Terrier dressed in a Santa jacket with red mesh skirt and big, sparkly wings, among other shiny frills. The woman is wearing a red leather jacket and black dress, with faux-diamond necklace and earrings. She has lipstick and mascara, and her silver hair is gelled into spikes. She is almost as made-up as her dog.

"This is Princess. She's a Christmas angel."

"Princess the Christmas angel," says Spear.

"But some people tell me she looks more like a Victoria's Secret angel, so I'll take that as well."

Spear follows Princess around. "She's, uh… got a lovely, um, fluffy sleeve… a nice skirt… red and white ball things… and, a nice little shiny, uh, hairband. Very nice." The terrier wanders around some more, until the woman gets on her knees and raises it by its paws. She rocks its little body to the music, and waves its little paw at the audience, and smiles a proud smile. She loves it so much. The dog's eyes widen, and it struggles to break away.

* * *

"Alright, who's ready for some Stupid Dog Tricks?" says Nathan Macintosh, host of Woofstock's Main Stage festivities. There is much barking, woof-ing, and arf-ing.

"Remember, that's Silly Dog Tricks," says the woman next to me to her son.

In the front row, an Airedale Terrier in a red bandana catches the eye of a Cocker Spaniel in the aisle seat. The two dogs circle and stare at each other for a while. They size each other up.

"Winners get a DVD of Disney's *The Search for Santa Paws*, which I didn't even know 'til now was a movie, but there it is…"

The Terrier raises a paw and barks. The Spaniel jumps back, and the Terrier darts forward. "Hey! Hey! Rocky! Relax!" says the owner, pulling the leash. "Sorry, he gets a little excited."

"And what's your dog's name?" Macintosh asks a thirty-ish woman.

"Caitlin."

"Caitlin. And what's your dog gonna do?"

"She's going to weave through my legs."

"She's going to weave through your legs. Okay, let's watch it happen."

The woman positions the dog between her legs and waits. She lifts her right leg, but the dog stays put. She pushes the dog, and it moves a little, but stops when she raises her next leg.

In the front row, more dogs have appeared. Peter, a Maltese puppy, sniffs the Cocker Spaniel's butt, while a Brittany Spaniel and another Maltese orbit them. Rocky, briefly abated by a chew toy, perks up, runs forward and barks. Their owners pull on their leashes, nodding and exchanging pleasantries.

"And what's your dog gonna do for us?"

"She's going to play the bongos."

"Wow — this dog is gonna play the bongos, everyone!"

I get up and wander through the vendors. You can buy your dog a hoodie, or pants, or a toque, or a bandana with a sassy saying. "Who's the boss?" "Bitches love me." "Don't just stand there — pet me!" "Get your nose out of my butt!"

Nearly everyone has a dog, and most of them are in costumes. A lot of T-shirts, and a lot of hoodies, and a whole lot of little Santa dogs, some with jingling bells. There's one Chihuahua dressed as Elvis, and another wearing blue jeans. There's a hole in the back, though. Dogs can't take off their pants to poop.

"Finally… DOG BOOTS! Your dog will love them and so will you!"

Someone has spilled popcorn on the carpet, and a bulldog with a "Security" T-shirt slobbers it up. Its owner yanks the leash to move it along. Another owner loses control of a leash when a Labrador Retriever rushes a water dish, and it spills everywhere. "Sorry… looks like he thought it was a swimming pool."

Many dogs try to fight each other. "rrrrrAAAAFF! rrrrrAAAAFF!" They knock off their hats and bells.

Little turds fall on the carpet. "Jack, Jack… oh god, he's shitting… Jack!" A clean-up crew materializes, and all that's left is a small brown stain.

I return to the Main Stage, where Macintosh is now hosting "Mr. & Ms. Canine Canada." It's the usual parade of Santa dogs and angel pups until a familiar woman in a red leather jacket appears. "Her name is Princess and she's a Yorkshire Terrier."

Princess runs around the stage for a while, once again decked out in her glittery wings and shiny jewellery. The woman beams with pride.

"Well, look at that," says a judge. "It's interesting what nineteen dollars will get you." They laugh.

"Yeah, I'd like to see its summer wear," says another. The woman grins a pained grin and chuckles a pained chuckle.

Once Princess is gone, I put on my coat to leave. On the speakers, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" has given way to "Jingle Bell Rock."

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun
Now the jingle hop has begun

On the way out I pass the lady with the red coat, already heading to the exit. Her high heels click and clack on the cement floor. She cradles her dog in her arms; she loves it so much.













THE ART SNOB









1 Girls – Broken Dreams Club EP Vinyl
($14.99 at Sonic Boom, 512 Bloor St. West)
This San Francisco indie pop band, led by the enigmatic former cult member Christopher Owens, isn't wasting anytime basking in the critical success of their 2009 debut and has instead released a collection of six memorable new tracks that sees Girls expand their palette and break a few more hearts while they're at it. Buy this on vinyl – way cooler than getting this shit on iTunes.

2 P-Sharan SQ-35 Pinhole Camera
($30 at Lomography, 536 Queen St. West)
When it comes to photography, you can't get more lo-fi than this. This camera takes 35mm film and uses a pinhole as a camera lens, guaranteeing some serious art snob street cred. Great for long exposures on snowy days or foot photography when you're feeling vain or kinky.

3 Drawing for Architecture, by Leon Krier
($24.95 at TYPE Books, 883 Queen St. West)
Leon Krier takes an illustrative approach to describing architectural theory in this book of sketches and doodles. What do you mean you don't get it? What better way to understand architecture than through flacid and not-so-flacid penises?

4 Peller Estates Icewine Private Reserve
($25.99 at LCBO, 55 Bloor St. West)
If you're gifting liquor, you can't go wrong with Icewine. This bottle is beautifully produced and features an irresistible sweetness produced by frozen Vidal Blanc grapes. Perfect for the hipster on your list, they'll be able to claim they liked this before anyone else did.

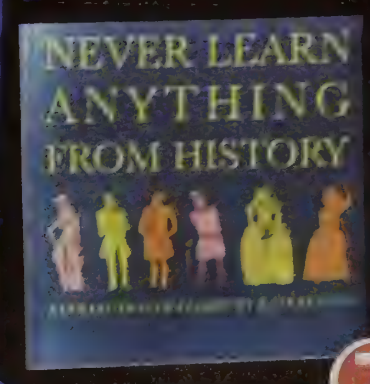
Snuggie
($20 at Showcase, Eaton Centre)
How many nights have you spent huddled under a blanket in Robarts, wishing you could turn the pages of that computational neuroscience volume without disrupting your perfectly distributed body heat? The solution is simple. The Snuggie's lush folds ensure thermal ecstasy, while its sleeves allow for superior agility for the page-turning ninja in all of us. All-nighters will never be the same.

iPad
($549 at Apple Store, Eaton Centre)
Okay, the iPad might no longer be the hottest new thing, but it's still pretty damn cool. With this baby, all of those readings on Portal start to seem a lot less daunting. Late nights at Robarts will never be the same – no need to lug your laptop and cable home in the early a.m. in an academic walk of shame. Plus, it's made by Apple, so you have to have it, right?

THE OVERACHIEVER









7 Never Learn Anything from History, by Kate Beaton
($19.95 at The Beguiling, 601 Markham St.)
We know you've been to all the classes, so you'll totally get Kate Beaton's digs at history and literature. The book – strips from Beaton's Hark! A Vagrant webcomic, essentially – will provide something to chuckle to as you wait for Robarts to open on Sundays. Just pretentious enough to almost justify getting a C when your McGill friends are getting an A doing half the work.

8 SportBand
($80 at the Nike Store, Eaton Centre)
Our Sports Editor said we needed a sporty gift, so here it is. This SportBand pairs with an iPod Nano to track your pace, distance, time, and calories burned. If you talk to it softly it might even do your taxes. Pre-emptively get rid of the holiday weight. God knows that sweater your granny's knitting for you won't fit otherwise.

9 Pilates Multi-Gym Resistance Workout Bar
($19.95 at Varsity Sports Store, 55 Harbord St.)
This is about as cool as living at home. Turn your mother's spare bedroom into the gym of your dreams. Yoga, Pilates, and any other body contortion will become a dream. The best part? Never again will you face creepy stares in the Hart House locker room.

10 "Honey I Washed the Kids" Soap
($12 at Lush, Eaton Centre)
Indulge yourself in the sensuously sweet scent of honey, now in a coarse cube of cleanser. No bees were harmed during the making of this soap.

11 Impulse Silver Bullets
($20 at Come As You Are, 701 Queen St. West)
When you're armed with a vibrating silver bullet, it technically only takes one to tango. But then again, two can play at that game. This double-bullet combo comes with two vibrators that can be controlled for speed independently. Gives you at least two more reasons to stay inside all day when the winter winds are a' blowing.

12 Betsey Johnson "Zipper Stripe" Bra and Panties
($57 (bra) and $27 (panties) at Beestung Lingerie, 2504 Yonge St.)
Just because you are hanging out at home doesn't mean you can't look cute! Dress to impress for that "slumber party" when your parents are gone for the night. Trimmed with lace, this bra gives you more support than a TA during midterms.

THE NESTER



THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / SCOTT THOMPSON

ARIEL LEWIS *sits down with a Canadian comedy legend to find out what happens when a Kid in the Hall becomes a kids' entertainer*

While Scott Thompson wearing a brassiere may be nothing new, his venue for wearing one certainly is. Well known for playing Queen Elizabeth II and the outspoken, flamboyantly gay socialite Buddy Cole, Thompson pushed the boundaries of queer comedy with his characters from the Kids in the Hall. The iconic Canadian comedy troupe merged the cynicism of the '90s and the silliness of Monty Python, articulating the art of dark humour.

Thompson recently reunited with his fellow Kids for their mini-series *Death Comes to Town*, but shortly before starting the Brampton shoot, the comedian was diagnosed with cancer. A year later and cancer free, Thompson is back in heels and back with the Kids, but this time they're the real kind. He takes the role of Plinky, the buxom dame in Ross Petty's family musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.



"Here's my theory: the reason males dressed as females works immediately as comedy is because a male dressed as a female is a fall from power, and comedy is like a science. Comedy is chemistry. Comedy happens when someone loses status."

The Varsity: *How did you come to play one of the lead female roles in this production?*
Scott Thompson: Well, these roles are always played by a man, it's traditional. I was just asked and I had nothing else to do. I thought my book was going to come out two months ago and I thought I could do it. I am doing it, and loving it.
TV: *You're coming out with a book?*
ST: I have a book coming out tomorrow. It's called *The Hollow Planet*. It's a graphic novel, the first of three.
TV: *Is it at all autobiographical?*
ST: No, it's a complete fantasy; a comedy fantasy adventure at the centre of the earth, pure pleasure. I took the two things that I love in the world, fantasy and comedy, and tried to put them together.
TV: *What prompted that?*
ST: Well I started writing it ten years ago as a screenplay. I took it around to a number of studios and they all said, "We love it, it's highly original, but we'll never make it," because it had giant women, mammoths, elves and trolls in a fantastical world and, you know, it was starring me, an obscure gay comedian from Canada — it was ridiculous. But I knew that it was a story that I had to get out, so I decided to turn it into a graphic novel, and that's what I've been doing the last two years.

It's the story of Danny Huskin. He's a very straight, middleclass, conservative businessman. I wanted to find a way out of the box I've been in, the stereotyping box. Because I've been openly gay my whole career, all people have wanted to give me were gay roles and the truth is most gay roles are really awful. They're roles that an activist would write, not what an artist would write. They're all about being a positive role model and all that crap. That's boring in drama. I created a vehicle with Danny so I could play something like a super straight guy. That was my thought behind it. Of course, it's ten years later and now I just want the story out. If it became a movie, that would be wonderful, but I'm very happy with it just being a graphic novel. It's a beautiful thing, the art is gorgeous, I'm extremely proud of it.
TV: *Speaking of the typecast box, when Buddy Cole was becoming a regular character on the show, did you have any apprehensions of being typecast?*
ST: Honestly, no. I had no idea. I didn't realize how narrow-minded people would be; it took me a long time to realize that if I was to get out of that box I had to do it myself. I'm no longer angry about it — I was for many, many years. I'm more philosophical about it now. But at the time it did bug me a lot, because I kept going, "Look at *The Kids in the Hall*. I play everyone, why can't I play those people?" But they wouldn't let me, so that's the way it was.
TV: *What do you think it is about a man dressed in women's clothing that generates that immediate humour?*
ST: Interesting, because it doesn't work the other way does it?
TV: *No.*
ST: No. Here's my theory: the reason males dressed as females works immediately as comedy is because a male dressed as a female is a fall from power, and comedy is like a science. Comedy is chemistry. Comedy happens when someone loses status. For example, if the Queen of England trips and stumbles, that's hilarious. Now, if a homeless leper trips and stumbles it's not funny, because the distance between her status and what happens is greater, and that creates comedy. Let's say we lived in a matriarchy where women were in control, and I think Canada actually is drifting towards matriarchy in some ways, so in 20 years, when women are completely in control of everything I think that it will be the reverse.
TV: *So have you found that the way this humour is received has changed since the late '80s?*
ST: I think you might be right. Yes, I think the further women advance, the less funny drag will be. There will come a time when it won't be funny at all. Now for the *Kids in the Hall*, we always wanted our women to be just characters, so we had to work very hard against people laughing at us just because we were women. You look at the way we did drag and the way Monty Python did drag and it's very different. We never wink at the audience. Even the kind of drag I'm doing in this show is different; it's an old-fashioned style of drag. So in a way this is the first time I've really done drag — true drag.
TV: *Did it become frustrating when audiences took the cross-dressing on* The Kids *to be comical?*
ST: Yes, and that's why we always worked very hard at making our women not comical-looking. When we first started out they would make our hair bigger and our clothes sillier but we were like, "No, this woman wouldn't wear that, we have to look like how this woman would look." That was a big deal for the hair, makeup, and wardrobe. That was a big evolutionary leap, in a way, in comedy.
TV: *Looking at your most recent project with the Kids,* Death Comes to Town, *how has the dynamic in the troupe changed since your start at the Rivoli?*
ST: We don't fight as much. And I'll be honest, making that series was so different than making *Brain Candy* [the troupe's 1996 feature film]. It's hard for me to even judge because I was quite ill when making it so it was very different for me. All I know is they carried me. They took great care of me and were amazing. Even though it was difficult, in some ways it was maybe the easiest shoot I've ever had to do, because all I had to do was concentrate on being alive between action and cut. Everything else, it didn't matter. I injured myself during the shoot and I was in a wheelchair for a lot of it, but it didn't matter for me because when I was shooting I was so concentrated and so happy to be doing what I was doing and not in a hospital, not getting chemotherapy.
TV: *Did you find acting at the time served as an escape?*
ST: Yes, absolutely. Also it was the Kids in the Hall coming back together again, so I had something to live for. I told my doctors, "I've got to be better. August 10 I've got to be in front of the cameras in heels, you've got to get me there. I don't care if I arrive thin and hairless — at least I'll be thin."
TV: *Do you have a preference between theatre and camera?*
ST: Right now I'm loving live theatre. I love both of them but I get a real thrill out of being on stage now. I don't really worry now about bombing, that's the least of my worries.
TV: *In the 2004 documentary* I, Curmudgeon, *you describe yourself as not having a censor button —*
ST: Boy I wish I'd never done that movie, I'll be honest.
TV: *Why is that?*
ST: I don't feel like a curmudgeon anymore.
TV: *No? When did that change?*
ST: The last couple of years. I'm no longer a curmudgeon, no. I don't even have the balls to see myself in that movie, because I don't think I was in a happy place. I still get angry at a lot of things in the world but a curmudgeon seems like a person who's bitter and I'm not bitter. I pulled back and went the other way.
TV: *Would you still describe yourself as not having a censor button?*
ST: Oh, that's still true.
TV: *And how does that factor into working on a family theatre production?*
ST: Well that's a testament to them for hiring me. It's difficult though. What helps me is that I like kids a lot. If I didn't like kids it might be a problem, but I really do love them. I also think it's important to talk to them like adults, but I know there are certain things I can't say to them, which is fine with me because I don't want to scar them. I like to tease them and I think they really enjoy it when I say things that are a little strange to them. It's an interesting dance I have to do, especially with my problem...my "Tourette's" problem.
TV: *Favourite man dressed in women's clothing: Jack Lemmon, Divine, or Lady Gaga?*
ST: [Pause] I would say Jack Lemmon. Jack Lemmon is hilarious, *Some Like it Hot* is my favourite comedy. And because Divine is not really dressed as a woman, he's a drag queen, and Lady Gaga... I don't even want to get into that one.

Beauty and the Beast *runs to January 2 at the Elgin Theatre.*

The ten-dollar wine snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Caleta Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot
$9.95 at the LCBO

Having yet to select a wine for this week, I sampled a few on Friday night at a dinner held to thank the fantastic copy editors at The Varsity. One I tried was the Caleta Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, a mix of two different grapes, Cab Sauv and Merlot, from two different countries, Chile and Canada. So that you don't make the same mistake as I, remember this $10 wine snob haiku:

Grapes from two countries
Do not belong in one wine
Avoid like the plague

But seriously, there are fantastic under-$10 wines from both Chile and Canada. Mixing the two grapes, in the case of Caleta, is about as obnoxious as setting up a nativity scene in a synagogue. It just shouldn't be done. This is a simple and unexciting wine, acceptable for a party, but not much else.

Adventures in Bookland

Varsity Book Clubbers JADE COLBERT, BRIGIT KATZ, EMILY KELLOGG, *and* JOE HOWELL *discuss Sheila Heti's* How Should A Person Be?

The month, the Varsity Book Club is discussing Sheila Heti's *How Should A Person Be?* Heti is the Toronto author of two books: a collection of short stories released in 2001, and her debut novel, *Ticknor*, which was published in 2005. She is also the co-creator of the popular lecture series Trampoline Hall. *How Should A Person Be?* was published by House of Anansi Press in September. The books follows the story of a young writer living in Toronto, also named Sheila, who is struggling with writer's block and questioning her identity as an artist.



Jade Colbert: So we've got this character, Sheila, who seems to be going through some sort of identity crisis; the book's question — "How should a person be?" — is one that she's working out through the book. The novel is divided into a Prologue, Five Acts, and then what I guess is an Epilogue. One assumes that this structure is to mirror the play that Sheila is working on.

Emily Kellogg: It was kind of hinged on a discussion of art, in which living your life kind of becomes an art form: an exploration of what life as art actually is. It's very much a discussion about what life should be. Should it be beautiful? Should it be meaningful? Should it be fulfilling? It's supposed to be a novel, but it is one of those books that is less what happens in this book... it's almost a philosophical treatise.

Brigit Katz: Kind of an orally fixated Plato's *Republic*.

JC: Let's get into that a bit more. Who is this book? Who is Sheila? Heti has insisted in interviews that this is a work of fiction, and that the characters, while sharing the names of various people within the Toronto arts community, are the fictional counterparts of those same people. I found Sheila to be one of the most brutally honest characters I've ever read.

EK: Heti said in an interview that the character Sheila is the worst parts of herself concentrated into one character. And I didn't like her. In fact, I kind of hate her. The problems that she's dealing with are so quintessentially first-world, and I think I'm frustrated with her insofar as she is one of the most self-indulgent characters I've ever read.

JC: I don't think it's fair to criticize a character for being a bad person, because there are plenty of people I enjoy spending time with who aren't good people. What grated me, was her voice. All the bad things about Sheila come out because she is the one telling her this story. But this person is not trying to be liked.

BK: The book almost turns into a textbook of self-indulgent anxiety. The novel is really fixated on art, she does with the plot what people do with art. She picks it apart until it loses its specialness and its beauty, pulled apart to the point where you can't stand the author anymore. And ultimately, the book takes a really holier-than-though attitude: a person should live 'just like my five artist friends.'

JC: In the book Sheila meets Margaux, who is the fictional counterpart to Margaux Williamson, the Toronto painter; they meet, and it's a meeting of minds as well. They're both creative individuals and take to one another pretty immediately. Neither of them has ever had a female friend, so this is new territory for the both of them. Their relationship becomes strained fairly early on, though, because Sheila has writer's block on the play she's supposed to have finished. Sheila admires how Margaux seems comfortable in her knowledge of herself and how Margaux is not experiencing a block at all. What did you make of their relationship?

BK: Sheila's relationship with Margaux — as annoying as I found the two of them — opens the gates to have her become an individual. And that's the contrast between the male and female characters. She tries to transfer that consuming quality of her relationship with her boyfriend, Israel, and be controlled by Margaux, instead. But Margaux doesn't let her do that. She makes her become a person.

EK: Margaux is really only what Sheila conceives her to be. She's two-dimensional in that Sheila has limited her in her own mind, and that is the only thing we see of her as a character.

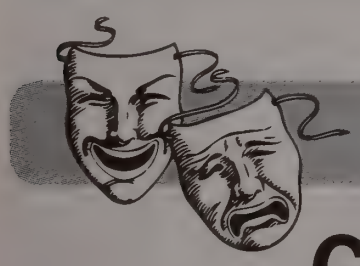
JC: Let's backtrack a bit. I'm interested in hearing your initial reaction upon reading the book. It isn't a very challenging read, and I really liked both the beginning and the end, but it's tough slugging getting through the middle, or at least I found it that way. I just didn't find anything pulling me through the story. Am I wrong?

EK: I do think that it's interesting, because she writes in a minimalist style that isn't pretty. I think that it might be a necessity, because she needs to underwrite these issues, otherwise it would seem ridiculous. You're having a crisis, because you don't know what your soul should consist of. Really? If that were written with more flamboyant prose, you really couldn't take it seriously.

Joe Howell: I think a better name for this book would have been: *What Should a Person Give a Fuck About.*

EK: The answer would seem to be nothing.

Visit **thevarsity.ca** for further discussion, and to listen to our inaugural Adventures in Bookland podcast this Thursday, Dec. 9th



Campus Stage

Give 'em the Old Razzle Dazzle

St. Michael's College production of Chicago *shocks and delights at Hart House Theatre*

David Stokes
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Most musicals, even those that eschew stereotypes of musical theatre, aim to be heart-warming, and demand that their songs be sung and danced in earnest. *Chicago*, currently presented by St. Michael's College at Hart House Theatre, offers no such comfort, and is all the better for it. Rather than giving the audience a winsome story about romance-yearning farm girls or life-affirming bohemians (or, for direct comparison, see *Chorus Girls*, *Chicago*'s nun-like cousin), *Chicago* is a risqué portrayal of the deep-reaching tentacles of illusion, corruption, and emotional manipulation. There are no lessons to be learned, nor is there anyone to empathize with, as every character is either evil or simply pathetic. *Chicago* is about one thing and one thing only: entertainment. By harnessing an ironic, tongue-in-cheek mix of slapstick humour, historical pastiche, and glittering, sensual dance numbers, *Chicago* itself becomes a timely commentary on how so much that tries passing itself off at the moment as the earnest, serious truth is really just an artful sham.

The highlight of this performance of *Chicago* lies in its original dance numbers, choreographed by director Shakir Haq. Operating under the shadow of Bob Fosse is no enviable position, especially when you are working with busy students and a budget less than the total amount of money lost under the seats on Broadway in a year, yet Haq's excellent choreography and lighting makes the production feel richer than it must be. As Billy Flynn, the sleazy lawyer-cum-courtroom puppet-master, played to perfection by Bruce Scavuzzo, says in a dance number: "Give 'em the old razzle dazzle / Give 'em an act with lots of flash in it / And the reaction will be passionate / How can they see with sequins in their eyes?" Haq has clearly taken this advice to heart, and keeps the audience continually engaged.

Melanie Mastronardi, playing Velma Kelly, the tough, out-of-luck primo diva of a prohibition-era Chicago vaudeville troupe, carries the biggest burden, dancing and singing in more of the numbers than anyone else. She is extremely talented, and pulls off the feat of singing very well while either dancing with jumps, twists, and somersaults, or being hung upside down. On two occasions she does the splits exactly on cue with the live band. A number of other principals also add to the flair of the dancing, but it is the Jail Birds, the production's eleven-woman dance troupe, that ensures that the show scintillates. The production program includes a 'Mature Content Warning' and while people smoke, drink, and gun people down on a pretty regular basis, it is the costumes and dancing of the Jail Birds that is largely the reason for this warning. They might be decked out in fishnets and tiny skirts, and their routines include elements of striptease, pelvic thrusts, baring their behinds to the audience, and a black-whip that is rubbed suggestively, these aren't stage floozies but angry and empowered women, inhibition-free maneaters who won't take no shit from nobody.

Roxie Hart, played with poise by Lauren Goodman, the play's other principal, sets up the plot by killing her lover. Hart hires Billy Flynn to engineer a celebrity fuelled miscarriage of justice, and begins reciting "Hail Mary full of grace" a heartbeat after shooting a man in cold blood. God can exist, so long as he's in on the con. *Chicago* was first written and performed in the 1970s, and its mood of merry cynicism was too ahead of its time to be appreciated. However, the last few decades has carried out the collective simmering away of many of our social inhibitions, and *Chicago*, as this production and its extremely successful revivals on Broadway and the West End can attest, suits the moral and political zeitgeist perfectly.

In "Class," one of the final numbers, Velma and her manager (Jaymie Sampa) ask themselves "Whatever happened to fair dealing / And pure ethics / And nice manners? / Why is it everyone now is a pain in the Ass? / Whatever happened to class?" Now, of course, they do this while getting sloshed and making fart jokes. *Chicago*'s thesis is that there never was any such thing as class, or good-hearted people, or perfect love and justice, or anything so rosy. It's answer is that what was referred to as "class" and "truth," was merely conformity, inhibitions, or ignorance. This production has none. As Billy Flynn puts it: "It's all a circus, kid. A three ring circus. These trials — the whole world — all show business." And that's why you give 'em the old razzle dazzle.

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I can trace shadows

Sara Patterson

I can trace shadows on your skin,
following curves and indentations
as light licks flesh
and fingers become pens, become brushes,
become ink and pigment
so you are stained and marked and unable
to wash the falling motion
of gentle strokes away.

Untitled

Sara Patterson

And I cannot put into
words the way your shoulder
curves and how it is a
mercy from the god you don't believe in.
And the slope of your spine,
the angles of the minimal,
but christ beautiful, curves
of your body, and the feel, feel
of skin over bone are things the Seraphims
(noble winged, eyed, browed, and hearted)
would make whispered prayers about
in living-dead languages of music
in countries we dream of with Bach in the background.
So lying in your bed and
counting vertebrae, notches, notches in your spine,
tracing the front to clavicle, flip you over and scapula,
god your shoulders – it makes me feel like such a girl.
This desire of mine.
To map every cavern of flesh and bone and sinew.
To dip my hands in you, to be your anatomiser, to draw
details on plates in never-read books centuries old and dusty.
Makes me feel like such a youth.
But I do, I do, and you do too –
So we'll lie in the between-hours grey of early morning and
listen for whispered prayers
from envious creatures of an envious make believe god
and hope that words will one day come to us.

The Fate of Some

Christopher Greer

I picked up a paper at the gift store on the ground level before taking the elevator up to the third. I passed by nurses wearing light blues and pink as I made my way down the hallway to room 247. My colleague Jeremy was sitting at a desk outside the room with a paper of his own.
"I could have just left my paper for you," he said, noticing the paper rolled up in my hand.
"It's too late for that now," I replied.
"I suppose it is."

Jeremy left and I took up his place at the desk. I looked into the room and saw the old man sleeping. The hair left on his head was grey and wispy and his skin was covered in marks and scars. His mouth hung open on the one side and there was a stain on his shirt from the drool.

This man had committed a heinous crime in his youth and had been sentenced to life in prison as a result. The case had garnered a great deal of attention at the time, but had long since been forgotten. I did not know what crime he had committed, just that I was to guard him at all times. I could not imagine the man doing any harm now, but to guard him was my duty, and that was what I would do.

I opened the paper and on the first page there was a picture of a family sitting on the roof of their home in India, surrounded by water. There had been floods. I wondered what had happened to them since then.

A noise came from the room and I looked up to see the old man looking in my direction. His eyes were dark blue.
"What's your name?"
"Isabella."
"That's a very pretty name."
"Thank you."
"Aren't you going to ask me for mine?" asked the man.
"I already know your name," I replied.
"Is that so? Well, I guess asking me would be pointless then."
"I suppose it would."

The man looked at me a second longer and smiled before once again closing his eyes and resting his head against the pillow.

I began reading the article beneath the picture and discovered that the floods had "affected some 14 million people." I found the use of the word "affected" odd. I assumed that the people had been affected negatively, but I could not help but wonder if perhaps someone had benefited from them; I could not imagine how that could be so. Would those children from the picture be able to return to that place in old age? Would it be recognizable?
"What does it say?" asked the man, his eyes still closed.
"There've been floods in India," I replied.
"What part?"
"The North."
The man pondered my reply for a moment, "Have any died?"
"I would assume so?"
"Doesn't it say?"
"No, it only says that there have been people affected."
"I see."

The man was silent again. I finished reading the article and could not find any reference to how many people had died. Maybe no one had bothered to count. The old man had fallen asleep once again. I glanced at my watch and saw that I still had five hours left on my shift. It was going to be a long night. I turned the page.



World's worst tube top
Alex Nursall

Robot hospital

Hospital in Milan is first to use humanoid robots for health education and interaction with patients

Jordan Rivera
VARSITY STAFF

Anyone who has had a prolonged stay at the hospital knows it can be an unpleasant experience. Aside from dealing with your illness or injury, you must also bear the frightening task of absorbing volumes of information from your doctors and nurses, most of which is new and confusing and ultimately only adds to your apprehension.

The staff in hospitals tend to a large number of patients, and can rarely ever devote their time and effort to one person's specific needs. Doctors themselves can be impersonal individuals, who must convey similar information repeatedly to patients with the same illnesses or ailments. And health care budget cuts — more likely to occur in times of economic crisis — only exacerbate these conditions.

Fortunately for patients, researchers at the University of Plymouth in the UK are seeking to ameliorate some of these issues. With help from robots.

The project is called ALIZ-E, and involves the placement of human-resembling robots in hospitals to deliver health education to patients.

If successful, the project could set a new precedent for the role of technology in health management. It may also push for the emerging practice of computerized care-giving, a revolutionary integration of robotics and health care that has already seen human-controlled robots performing surgery at a distance.

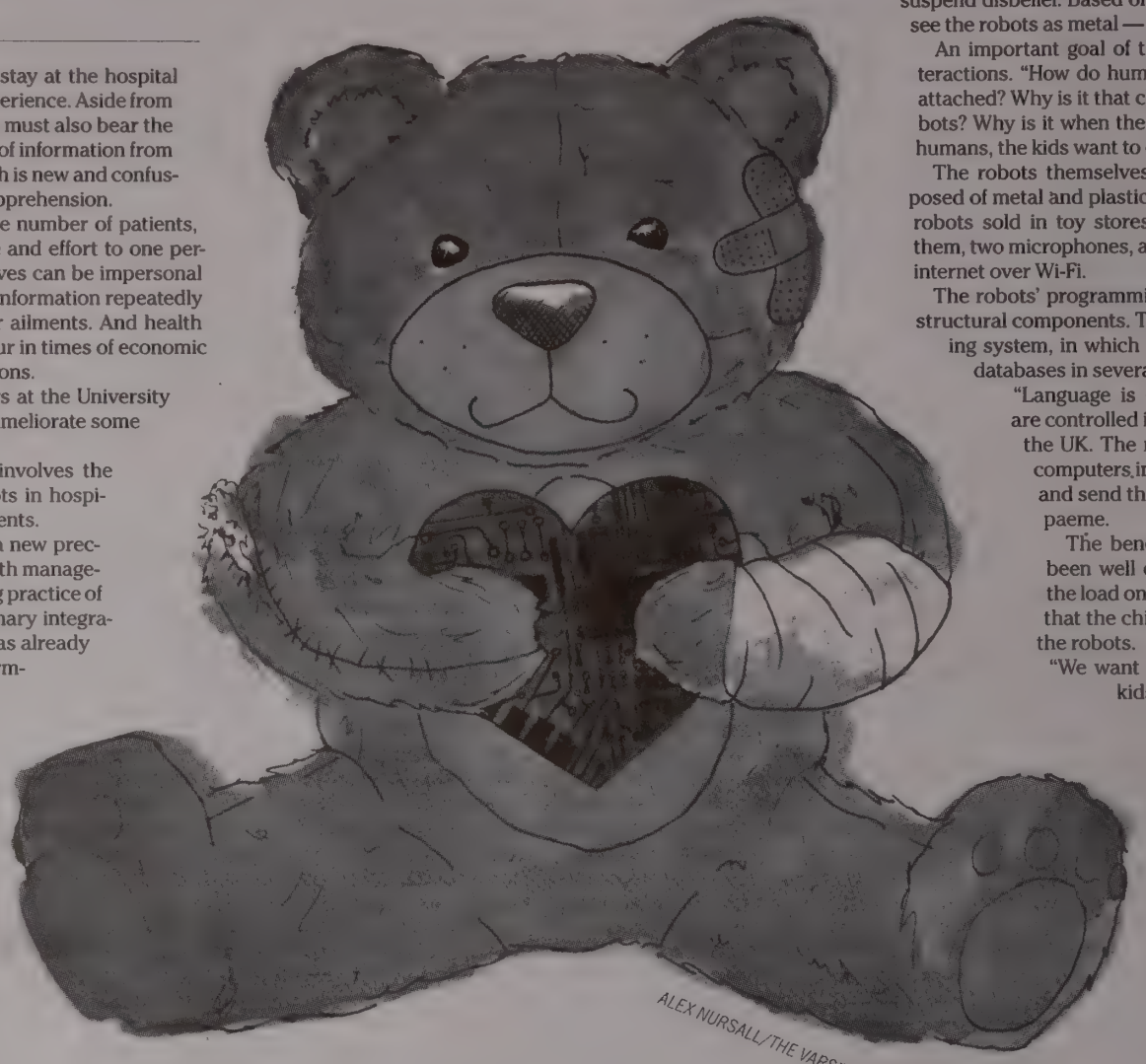
The project was initially inspired by animal-assisted therapy, in which animals, including dogs, cats, elephants, and dolphins, become part of a patient's treatment. This treatment poses certain constraints however, most of which having to do with hygiene. Some patients cannot be exposed to certain animals, and the presence of animals in hospitals poses certain sanitation risks.

The solution reached by project coordinator Dr. Tony Belpaeme was to use robots. Similar to animals, robots could take on the role of a "companion" to patients, one that you could have an actual conversation with. The robots would also take on the educational roles of medical practitioners, lightening the load on doctors and nurses.

So far, the project has been implemented at one institution, the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan. The target audience of the project is children aged eight years and under, who have been diagnosed with diabetes.

"The kids have often been admitted to the hospital for one week, and that's no fun!" says Belpaeme. "The robots will help educate the kids on the effects of poor diet and lack of exercise, as well as help with teaching kids about how to measure glucose levels and how to inject insulin."

Belpaeme says that so far the robots have worked very well with kids. "Children are open to anything. They have a willingness to suspend disbelief. Based on the trials, the children don't seem to see the robots as metal — they see an actual living creature!"



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

"Children are open to anything. They have a willingness to suspend disbelief. Based on the trials, the children don't seem to see the robots as metal — they see an actual living creature!"

An important goal of the project is to test human-robot interactions. "How do humans respond to robots? Will they get attached? Why is it that children often describe emotions to robots? Why is it when the robots have less of a resemblance to humans, the kids want to converse with them?" Belpaeme asks.

The robots themselves are about one metre tall, are composed of metal and plastic, and resemble the remote-controlled robots sold in toy stores. They have two cameras built into them, two microphones, and an Internal PC that connects to the internet over Wi-Fi.

The robots' programming is much more complex than their structural components. The program relies on a cloud computing system, in which the robot's actions are controlled by databases in several locations.

"Language is controlled in Germany. Mannerisms are controlled in Belgium. Emotions are controlled in the UK. The robot is merely an interface in which computers in different locations make calculations and send the info back to the robot," explains Belpaeme.

The benefits of the robots' use have already been well established. Not only do they lighten the load on medical staff; researchers have found that the children tend to learn better if taught by the robots.

"We want to make the children's stay fun. The kids not only retain more information when it's fun, they recover faster!"

Belpaeme describes one example in which the robots quiz the children on healthy eating. "Which is better, a lollipop or an apple?" If the kids choose the apple, they win a certificate. The robots also play physical games with the children. For example, the robot can perform a dance, and the children will imitate it.

The project has been running for a year, and still faces some challenges. One of these problems is speech recognition, since children's voices differ greatly from those of adults, and propagate at a higher pitch. Although children are less discerning of the robots' structure, adults are more sensitive to their build and would only briefly see them as entertaining, then recognize them as machines. At present, the robots are only capable of simple interactions, and can only work within limited scenarios.

The project is funded by the European Commission, and research is conducted at the University of Plymouth. Belpaeme's research primarily focuses on developmental robotics and machine learning.

On how he got involved in such a project, and on the difficulties within the field of artificial intelligence, Belpaeme comments, "I wanted to understand the human brain, so I decided to build an artificial brain. The problem with A.I. is that we don't know how the human brain works. We need to understand how the brain works for artificial intelligence to progress."

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Mice that "smell" light bring new notions to nose research

Harvard University neurobiologists have created mice that can "smell" light, providing a potent new tool that could help researchers better understand the neural basis of olfaction.

The research, described in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, employs novel techniques to study the olfactory system — a complex perceptual system that does not lend itself easily to study by traditional methods.

"It makes intuitive sense to use odours to study smell," said Venkatesh N. Murthy, a professor of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard. "However, odours are so chemically complex that it is extremely difficult to isolate the neural circuits underlying smell that way."

Instead, Murthy and his colleagues used optogenetic techniques to tease apart how the brain perceives odours. Optogenetic methods integrate light-reactive proteins into systems that usually sense inputs other than light. The researchers then integrated these proteins, called channelrhodopsins, into the olfactory systems of mice, creating animals whose smell pathways were activated not by odours, but by light instead. This allowed the researchers to trace patterns of activation in the mouse's brain when the olfactory system was triggered by an odour.

The researchers found that the spatial organization of olfactory information in the brain does not fully explain our ability to sense odours. The temporal organization of olfactory information also plays an important role. In other words, the timing of the "sniff" significantly determines how we perceive odours.

— KELLY ROBERTSON-REINHART

Source: Science Daily

Interactive gaming causes broad range of injuries. Better keep that Wii Fit in check!

A study presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco examined injuries caused by traditional and interactive video games.

Using data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, the study found that injuries to the shoulder, ankle, and foot were more common among those who engaged in interactive video games, compared to players of traditional ones. There was also a higher incidence of injuries to bystanders of the interactive games.

However, of the total 696 injuries reported, only 92 were due to interactive games, and the rest were from traditional video games. Males made up 53 per cent of those injured by interactive gaming, and females constituted the remaining 47 per cent. The study looked at injuries reported over five years, starting in January 2004. Those with reported injuries varied in age from less than one year old to over eighty, with an average age of 16.5 years.

— KIMBERLY SHEK

Source: Science Daily

Anxiety is contagious — and it's all in your sweat

Researchers from the University of Munich have demonstrated that the sweat of an anxious person can make you take more risks. Sweat contains specific chemical signals, which are released when people are anxious. These signals are detected subconsciously, and can influence the behaviour of other people at a close range.

The findings were published by Katrin Haegler and her team in this November's issue of *Neuropsychologia*. The researchers collected sweat from people completing high-rope obstacle courses. They then exposed participants to the sweat samples as they played a gambling game.

The study showed that when participants were exposed to the anxiety-laced sweat, they were more likely to bet on high-risk scenarios in the gambling task, compared to when they were exposed to anxiety-free sweat. The conclusions? It seems that anxiety is transmissible to other humans through the chemical senses, which could be an adaptive mechanism to alert others about potential danger in the environment. If those dangers involve exams, however, it may be best to take pity on your library neighbours, and just take a shower. ***— ERENE STERGIOPOULOS***

Source: British Psychological Society Research Digest

Need a distraction?

Older adults are more vulnerable to distractions and irrelevant information than younger adults, thanks to "leaky" perceptual filter

Charlotte Tombs
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR



Older adults have trouble discriminating relevant from irrelevant stimuli, according to research by Taylor Schmitz. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Recent work by Taylor Schmitz and colleagues at the University of Toronto has shown that older adults have trouble blocking out irrelevant information.

Taylor Schmitz is a PhD student in U of T's Collaborative Program in Neuroscience, and conducts studies at the intersection of neuroscience and psychology. By measuring activation in the visual cortex in his most recent experiment, he tested both younger and older adults' ability to focus on pictures and select relevant information from them.

Schmitz assembled a group of 15 healthy young adults with a mean age of 22.2 years, along with a group of 15 healthy older adults averaging 77.4 years of age. Before conducting the experiment, Schmitz chose to observe two specific parts of the brain: the parahippocampal place area, or PPA, which responds to images of houses and buildings; and the fusiform face area, or FFA, which responds to faces.

Although 15 individuals in each group may not seem like a very large sample size, Schmitz assures that "the brain regions being studied do not differ significantly from one individual to the next. Some studies make the mistake of generalizing specific findings, but this does not concern us, because of the brain regions that we chose to study."

Schmitz selected photographs of expressionless faces from a "psychological and computer-recognition database," and cropped all hair and non-facial features from each picture. He then obtained images of houses from real estate websites.

In the "adaption" task, participants were placed in an fMRI scanner, and were asked to identify whether each face that was presented was female or male. Results showed that the older group generally made more errors when identifying male and female faces. PPA activation was significantly greater for the young adults, and overall FFA activation tended to be greater in the younger group as well.

Schmitz concludes that younger adults possess a perceptual filter that can separate out unwanted information, while only focusing on what is relevant.

In the second part of the experiment, both groups were asked to look at a picture of a 50 per cent transparency face that had been superimposed on a picture of a house. Researchers asked participants to focus only on the face, and identify its gender.

The fact that the PPA was activated in the older adults during this task showed that they were encoding both the face and the location, despite being asked to focus only on the face. In contrast, younger adults did not encode the locations at all but only encoded the faces, showing activation in the FFA only. Ten minutes after the study was conducted, the older adults also still remembered the places that corresponded to each face.

"Our brain-behaviour results suggest the intriguing possibility that a reduced discriminatory signal originating from receptive field push-pull mechanisms might underlie age-related declines in perceptual attention," Schmitz mentions in his study.

Schmitz concludes that younger adults possess a perceptual filter that can separate out unwanted information, while only focusing on what is relevant. On the other hand, older adults have a "leaky" perceptual filter, which means they tend to process more irrelevant information.

However, Schmitz has yet to understand what precisely occurs at a neural level to make the filter "leaky." Further experimental work will also include altering the perceptual load — in other words, varying the opacity of the pictures — in order to see how each group responds to the stimuli under different conditions.

At present, Schmitz is focused on expanding his current findings by altering the images and observing the brain changes that occur in each age group, in order to fully prove that older adults are more vulnerable to distraction.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Whey!

Whey is the fluid left over when milk is made into cheese. It is used in everything from ricotta to the popular Swiss soft-drink Rivella.

The Western world didn't start using whey until the 1950s, when farmers noticed that weeds growing along streams near cheese-making factories were unusually strong. The waste from cheese factories was first used as fertilizer, before scientists confirmed that this by-product was healthy.

But it took modern society some time to discover its nutritional value. Hippocrates is said to have drunk whey. Little Miss Muffet, from the famous nursery rhyme, actually did "[sit] on her tuffet, eating some curds and whey" in the 17th century.

Interestingly, whey contains the same proteins as human milk, which are distinct from the protein found in cow's milk. As a result, whey is an important ingredient in baby formula.

Isolating the protein content of whey produces whey protein, which is extremely popular in the body-building world. Whey protein is also an important ingredient in protein shakes and post-workout recovery foods, because it is easily digestible and thus efficiently absorbed by muscles.

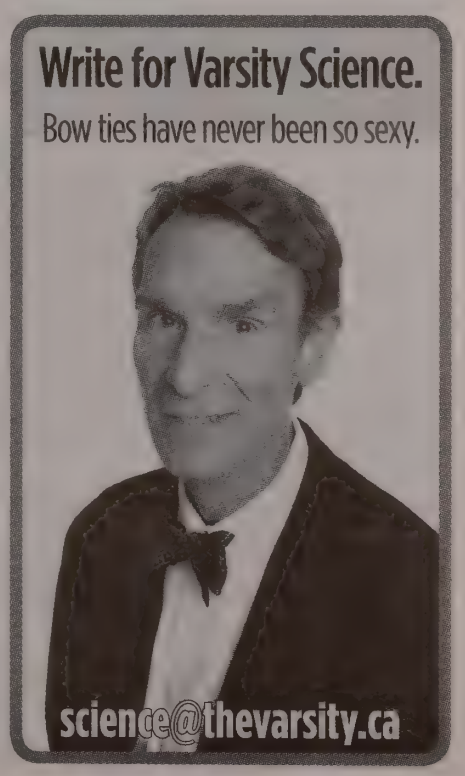
The health benefits of whey are further illustrated by a study published in The *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in 2005 which showed that when consumed as part of a high-glycemic-index meal, whey promoted the release of insulin. Thus, whey may be beneficial for individuals suffering from Type 2 diabetes.

In addition, the presence of branched-chain amino acids, or BCAAs, in whey is also significant, since BCAAs play a key role in metabolism.

Whey is useful as a food additive thanks to its ability to bind water and prevent food from going stale. As a result, whey is essential for evoking cheesiness in cheese-flavored chips, as well as enabling the creaminess in aerosol spray cheese.

In the 1990s, scientists discovered that after forcing whey protein through a high-pressure tube, the resulting microparticles acquired a fat-like texture. As a result, microparticulated whey protein, sold under the brand name Simplesse, is now found as an artificial fat in low-fat cheese products and desserts.

In the past 50 years, whey has gone from being a mere by-product to becoming an essential component of hundreds of foods. Whey's story shows that what may appear to be waste isn't always the case!



Life on the line

In an exclusive interview, Toronto Argonaut Taylor Robertson talks about his team's big finish to the season, and his latest endeavour to fight cancer.

Roxanna Dehghan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The CFL has always worked alongside various charities with the aim of fostering better communities and making a difference to the lives of those in need. This fall, Taylor Robertson, offensive linesmen for the Toronto Argonauts, partnered with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation to launch the campaign Life on the Line. The charity, which aims to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research, is a cause close to Taylor's heart, having lost his mother to breast cancer when he was seven. It was this event that propelled Taylor to partner with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and begin LOTL. Despite his busy schedule, The Varsity was able to interview him right after the Eastern Division Playoffs.

The Varsity: *You recently tweeted "12 yrs (4college, 8pro) never won any kind of post season game, can't explain how good this feels!!" Could you try and describe this past season in comparison to the others you have played as a CFL player?*

Taylor Robertson: Every season is different. For me the feeling of winning a playoff game was unlike any other because it was a first for me. Any time you have a first in your career its special.

TV: *What made you decide to start up Life On The Line? And that name: where was that derived from?*

TR: I have always been associated with different cancer charities throughout my career. While playing in Calgary I was involved with the Canadian Cancer Society, which in turn formed a very successful partnership with the Calgary Stampeders and the CCS which still exists to this day. However, I have always wanted to have my own program with the capabilities to have my own iniatives and send the messages that I felt were important. After being traded to Toronto, I felt the time was right to start creating my own program. The name actually was going to be the title of my blog entries on my website, however when I decided to go the non-profit route and create this, I thought that name would be perfect. Life on the Line comes from, well, my position on the field is an offensive lineman, and the blogs were going to be somewhat about my life. When I decided to use it for the program, I thought it related well because of what I do for a living, and also because of the severity of breast cancer and how peoples' lives are on the line when they get diagnosed by this disease.

TV: *When did you decide to set up LOTL? And how does it work?*

TR: I made the decision about a year and a half ago. I had talked about it for a while and did a lot of research. When I was comfortable with everything I started the process. A lot of people probably don't realize that this stuff doesn't just pop up overnight, it takes alot of time and effort to create — especially if you want to do it right! LOTL is a non-profit organization in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. All money raised goes directly to the CBCF.

TV: *What do you see LOTL doing in the future?*

TR: We have a large number of events planned for this upcoming year and we will be announcing them as they come up. The events will be something people can keep checking out lifeontheline.ca for information about.

TV: *In October there was Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Run at UTM, which you had attended. How was that? Is there something similar to that coming up? Will LOTL ever do anything on that scale for fundraising, or is LOTL meant to function as a purely donation charity?*

TR: It was great. I had the opportunity to speak during the opening ceremonies which was awesome. I was grateful for that opportunity. The run for the cure was the first event we did and unfortunately, [we] barely had any time to put anything together due to time constraints. But we're already working on next year's run, and will have some big things planned for it. We will do lot of fundraising events ourselves, again though. We are not announcing those events at this time, but we will be in the very near future, and they will be big. May 2011 — that's the only hint I'll give out!

TV: *How much has LOTL raised thus far?*

TR: Since our launch in September we have raised $4,745. Only a small portion is from Run for the Cure. It's mainly from the win-matching donation program.

TV: *How do you see players moving around in the offseason? Any major changes you think are coming?*

TR: No team is ever the same from year-to-year. You always have retirements, trades, free agency, and releases. It's just the nature of this business. You never know what to expect in the offseason. Even the championship teams make changes. Nobody is ever safe in pro sports.

TV: *What's your primary goal for the offseason?*

TR: Do what I need to do to improve and to help my team improve for the 2011 season, as well as build LOTL to help make a difference in the fight against breast cancer.

The end of women's intramural hockey at U of T?

Why a drop-out could end over 100 years of tradition

Ariel Garneau
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Women's intramural hockey is dangerously close to dying at the University of Toronto. With four teams left in the league, the league is one drop-out away from game over.

As per U of T intramural sport guidelines, a league needs four teams to run. If one of the four teams currently playing drops out next semester, there will be no league.

The University has had a league on and off since 1908. For over 102 years, women have been playing the nation's most popular sport on campus, representing different colleges and faculties.

In its hay day, during the 1970s and 1980s, there would be more than 20 teams spread out over several divisions, all jockeying for the Division 1 Hartson Cup or the Division 2 Addison Cup.

According to Intramural Manager John Robb, the sport wasn't any more popular at the time than it is now.

"It was just a fun thing to do," said Robb. "Of course, back then, girls hockey was unknown."

Today, that is not the case. There are women playing in the men's intramural hockey league, and in an effort to revive the women's league U of T is going to allow men to play in the women's.

Alexis Goldenberg, a third-year concurrent education student, who has been playing in the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League for five years — first with the Vaughn Flames, and for the past three seasons, with the Scarborough Sharks — explained that one of the reasons she chose to play boy's hockey is that there was less stigma around it.

"I played boys contact hockey up until I was 16," she said. "It's more aggressive and there's more puck control."

Women's intramural hockey gets evening hours at Varsity Centre when Varsity Blues hockey doesn't impede, although the league is not guaranteed the same night each week due to Varsity Blues athletics and rentals by other groups.

Like many U of T students, Goldenberg — a commuter — likes to have her evenings to herself.

"I like to go out at night and play hockey midday," she said. "I don't want to play hockey on a Saturday night at 10 o'clock," she said.

"And it's not really accessible. You're not going to take your bag on the subway.

Many women who are interested in playing recreational hockey are, like Goldenberg, already playing in leagues outside the university.

"I've been playing with my team for so long and I'm still eligible to play with them. Why not keep moving along?" said Goldenberg.

The women's intramural hockey league at U of T is seemingly in need of a pick-me-up, and a few strong leaders to guide it in the right direction.

"Good leaders make the team," said Robb. "We need builders in hockey.

"It's a great opportunity right here on campus, and it's Canada's national sport. Why not take advantage of it?"

A good sport

CFL season wrap-up

Alouettes deliver as expected, but it's the Argos fans need to keep their eyes on

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Last week in Edmonton, the finale of the 2010 Canadian Football League season played out between the Montreal Alouettes and Saskatchewan Roughriders. There was an acute sense of déjà vu, as the same two teams had met for the 2009 championship a year earlier.

Both games were close, though this year's version could not touch last year's, which will live on forever because of the shocking mental lapse that caused Saskatchewan to lose. They had too many men on the field for what would have been the game-ending play; instead, Montreal got another shot at a game-winning field goal and made it.

Of course, the Grey Cup is only 60 minutes of football, and it caps a campaign that begins every year in May and entails 18 regular season games. The 2010 version, like all others, came with its share of pleasant surprises, disappointment, and predictability.

The least surprising outcome this year? The Montreal Alouettes' Eastern Division championship and subsequent Grey Cup appearance.

The East Division may as well be called the Alouettes Division, as they've made eight of this decade's 10 Grey Cup appearances as the eastern representative. The team has only walked away with three Grey Cup victories, but that's certainly a dynasty by any standard.

More surprising than the Als' presence in the big game is the fashion in which they got there. It wasn't surprising, painful as it is to admit, that they steamrolled the Toronto Argonauts 48–17 in the Eastern Division final the previous week. What was surprising is that the recently hapless Argos found themselves in a position to be one win away from reaching the Grey Cup in the first place, even if they came up abysmally short in that one game.

In 2009 the Argos went 3–15, missing the playoffs. Their coach, with no previous coaching experience in the CFL, got into a fight with their star offensive player Arland Bruce III, and sent him Toronto's arch-rival, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

This year, the American-born (but CFL-seasoned) Jim Barker took over. It was his show from the get-go, and he made moves based on his own intuition, even though many of them baffled critics throughout the year.

Still, his starting quarterback — an NFL cast-off named Cleo Lemon who scuffled badly in his first full year in the CFL — pulled through to a 9–9 record with help from the defence, one significantly better than what most Argos fans would have settled for before the season.



Despite having a better than expected season, the Toronto Argonauts fell to the Montreal Alouettes in the East Division finals.

The Argos then found a way to beat their rival in a playoff showdown on the road in front of a notoriously hostile Hamilton crowd. It was a tight 16–13 win that came down to the last play, but it represented a remarkable turnaround, both symbolically and in substance, for a club that appeared utterly hopeless just a year before.

In a small league, some predictability is inevitable. That the Montreal Alouettes found themselves in the Grey Cup is no surprise. But the Argos' unlikely bounce-back year illustrates that CFL fans can always count on at least one unexpected storyline to pop up every year.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

University of Toronto Gospel Choir
Founded in February 1995, the U of T Gospel Choir was formed in celebration of Black History month. Over the years, the choir has grown to include members of all races and denominations. The choir's debut album was released to critical acclaim and award-winning recognition.

- *December 12th at 3 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Great Hall (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Festival of Carols
The 175-voice Toronto Mendelssohn Choir will be joined by the Festival Brass and organist Michael Bloss for a feast of triumphant poly-choral music for brass and choir, including works by Gabrieli, Schutz, Rutter, and more. To immerse the audience in the glorious sound, the conductor will invite the audience to sing along with some of the fan favourites.

- *December 8th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1585 Yonge St.)*
- *$15 with student ID, see tmchoir.org for more details*

Rant Maggie Rant- Frost & Fire
Rant Maggie Rant will perform their very popular Frost & Fire Seasonal Celtic show. RMR combines traditional elements with a contemporary approach to deliver and exotic blend of new and old, which sets them apart. To them, that's what Celtic music is built on, the exciting evolution of a genre.

- *December 12th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Flying Cloud Folk Club (292 Brunswick Ave.)*
- *$18 with student ID, see ticketscene.ca/events/3056 for more details*

EXHIBITS:

Whales/Tohora
Have you ever been entranced by the strange majesty that whales seem to possess? Is the whale scene in Finding Nemo your favourite scene in any movie of the last ten years? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you'll love the OSC's new exhibit, which explores the underwater world of whales and their history with stories, audiovisual displays, models, and more.

- *On until March 20th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*
- *Ontario Science Centre (770 Don Mills Rd.)*
- *$13.50 with student ID*

REMEMBRANCES:

Women's College Hospital Remembers the Montreal Massacre
This is an annual commemorative service in memory of the 14 young women murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989. Keynote address will be delivered by Nneka MacGregor, Executive Director of the Women's Centre for Social Justice, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the voices of survivors of gender-based violence are heard.

- *December 6th at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.*
- *Women's College Hospital, Cummings Auditorium (76 Grenville St.)*
- *Free*

SHOWS:

Studies in Motion
This play exhibits the fascinating life of Eadweard Muybridge, a British photographer who developed the ability to capture moving objects, such as people and animals, on film. Though a rational and scientific thinker, Muybridge often battled bouts of madness and was known for some impulsive behaviour. This is the story of a brilliant but troubled man.

- *On until December 18th, various showtimes, check canadianstage.com for details*
- *Bluma Appel Theatre (27 Front St. East)*
- *$22*

Wide Awake Hearts
Does life imitate art, or is it the other way around? That's the question posed in this new play by Brendan Gall. The play is about a talented director who decides to cast his wife and his best friend as love interests in a film. Their on-screen relationship bleeds into the real world... and you'd better see the play to find out the rest.

- *On until December 12th, various showtimes, check tarragontheatre.com for details*
- *Tarragon Theatre (30 Bridgeman Ave.)*
- *$22*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

What's wrong with transit in Toronto? **p8**
Comment

Tech trends to keep an eye on in 2011 **p15**
Science

Why you shouldn't take the World Juniors too seriously **p16**
Sports

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TOP 10 OF 2010

ARTS P10 SPORTS P18

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10 January 2011



WHO IS JENNY PETO?

She's been criticized by the *National Post*, rebuked by Queen's Park, and attacked by her brother. Now she speaks to The Varsity.

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Varsity spoke exclusively with Jenny Peto, author of a master's thesis that has generated controversy and debate over Israel, racism, and the role of graduate education.

Last year, Jenny Peto received a master's degree from OISE's department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education. As part of her degree, Peto completed a one hundred-page paper published last July, entitled "The Victimhood of the Powerful: White Jews, Zionism and the Racism of Hegemonic Holocaust Education."

The paper studies the promotion material of two Holocaust memorial trips and links them to Israeli politics and Jewish identity. Peto argues that the trips give Jews a false sense of innocent victimhood despite holding racist views and having as much privilege as white people.

She says this sense of victimhood is used to justify Israeli "apartheid" against Palestinians and that there are "questions about the implications of white Jews taking it upon themselves to educate people of colour about genocide, racism, and intolerance."

The paper was criticized on a political blog in November, mentioned in a report by professor emeritus Werner Cohn, and subsequently picked up by the *National Post*. It has since generated hours of public debate and was rebuked by the Ontario legislature.

The thesis also prompted a public letter from her brother, criticizing her for dedicating the thesis to their deceased grandmother, a Holocaust survivor.

Peto is a prominent pro-Palestinian activist who has helped organize Israeli Apartheid Week events at U of T. Aside from brief comments to media, this is the first interview with either Peto or her supervisor, Dr. Sheryl Nestel.

THE VARSITY: *You've come under a lot of fire over this thesis. How has it been dealing with the criticism?*

JENNY PETO: It's been difficult being attacked like that, especially in such a personal manner; given the name-calling and the mud-slinging, and the false accusations, particularly from the *National Post* but also Members of Provincial Parliament who call my work garbage, who dismiss me as an anti-semite even though I'm Jewish and a descendant of Holocaust survivors.

The personal attacks have been difficult, but on the flip-side it's actually been really inspiring to see a community of activists and also concerned people who see it as a horrible attack on academic freedom, who see this as a part of a broader move to silence criticism of Israel and to rally together.

> **... but also Members of Provincial Parliament who call my work garbage, who dismiss me as an anti-semite even though I'm Jewish and a descendant of Holocaust survivors.**
> *Jenny Peto*

Hundreds of people have e-mailed Members of Provincial Parliament and the leaders of the three parties, condemning what they've done [and] demanding an apology. Lots of people have been contacting me personally from literally around the world. I've gotten tremendous support from [local and international pro-Palestinian groups] because they're aware of this increasing repression in Canada against anyone who criticizes Israel.

TV: *What do you think most people don't understand about your thesis?*

JP: People who have read the paper say I've been completely misrepresented. Lots and lots of people from within the academic world said the research is well written and offered me support. I take pride in being a very clear writer. If you read the thesis, it's written in plain language, not full of academic jargon.

I think that this is about who I am as a pro-Palestinian activist and what I have to say which is very critical of Israel, very critical of mainstream pro-Israel institutions in Canada, and critical of what I see as an abuse of Holocaust memory to justify Israeli apartheid.

I really don't think that it's a case where it's just such a convoluted academic paper that people don't understand. People who have read it understand what I'm saying. And some may agree, some may disagree, but for the most part all the [criticism] hasn't actually been about the content of the paper itself.

TV: *In your thesis introduction, you say that you didn't interview participants or organizers of the memorial trips because of time constraints. It's been a point of heavy criticism. How would you respond?*

JP: At a master's level, very, very few people do huge human subject research, because you can't just interview one or two people. [It's] the kind of research project that some PhD students, but mostly only faculty members with research assistants, undertake.

It's a completely valid methodology and it's completely acceptable, especially in the era of the Internet, to rely on publicly available information, such as websites, and doing a discursive analysis. It would be more unusual for a master's student to carry out a large series of interviews. And I feel like had I done just one or

SEE **'PETO'** – PG 6

A BREAKDOWN OF PETO'S THESIS

1. Peto studied two related Holocaust educational programs: the March of Remembrance and Hope, and the March of the Living. Both trips take youth from around the world on one-week tours of Holocaust memorial sites in Germany and Poland. The MOL trip targets Jewish students and includes an additional week-long tour of Israel.

2. Her research involved the trips promotional and educational materials of the trips. Noting the limitations of a part-time degree, Peto says she "was unable to conduct interviews or participant observations on either trip" but relied on many of the testimonials posted on the trips' websites. "I acknowledge the limitations of this approach because organizers control the website and thus only certain testimonials are available. I still consider this a reliable source of data because my goal is to understand the intended effects of the trips [...] success stories [expose the] desired outcome."

3. Peto says that "Jewish people of European descent enjoy white privilege and are among the most socio-economically advantaged groups in the West" yet the organized Jewish community claims widely accepted victimhood. She says this allows supporters of Israel to play the victim card and oppress Palestinians under what she calls "apartheid."

4. The thesis is written in the first-person, and Peto's introduction describes her childhood and estrangement from the Jewish community. Nestel stressed that first-person language is common in sociology theses, and the author's experience is often detailed to contextualize their work.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Accessibility Awards 2011

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The offices of Accessibility Services, Health & Well-being Programs and Services, and Employment Equity & AODA are now accepting submissions for the 2011 Accessibility Awards. The Accessibility Awards recognize members of the University of Toronto St. George community who embody the spirit of accessibility on campus.

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In order to make the nominations process more accessible, a digital recording can substitute the written statement. If you wish to make a nomination in person or you have any additional questions, please contact Sarah Mumford at sarah.mumford@utoronto.ca

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130 St. George Street
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215 Huron Street
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Submission deadline is February 11, 2011 at 5 p.m.

The 2011 Accessibility Award recipients will be recognized at a celebration on March 30th 2011 at the Multi-Faith Centre.

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Nomination Forms will be available beginning 12:00 noon, Friday January 7, 2011 at:
- www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections.htm
- Office of the Governing Council
Room 106 , Simcoe Hall
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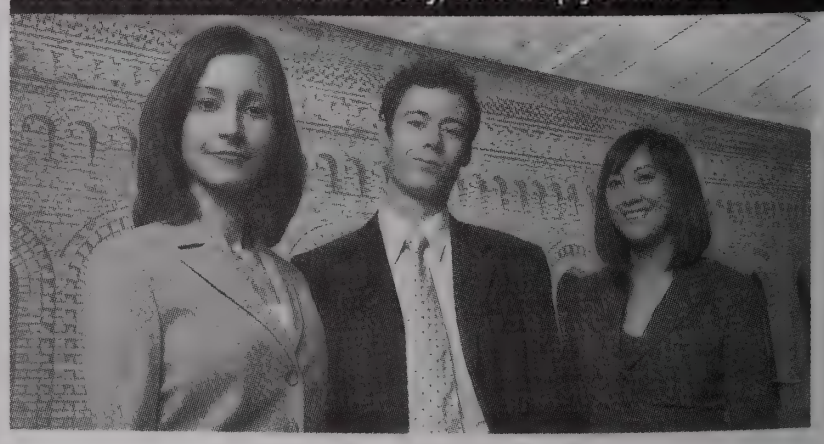
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VARSITY INTERVIEW

Students challenged to stop child soldiers

The Varsity spoke with Roméo Dallaire as he visited U of T to promote his Zero Force initiative

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Canadian Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire is gathering a force to end what he calls a massive but stoppable abuse of human rights.

The senator, humanitarian, and author is widely known for leading the underfunded — and ultimately unsuccessful — UN peacekeeping force during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Lt.-Gen. Dallaire is now putting his name-recognition, experience, and passion into Zero Force, an initiative to recruit young people to mobilize against the use of children as instruments of war.

The Varsity spoke with Lt.-Gen. Dallaire before his visit to U of T last month on Human Rights Day.

***THE VARSITY**: Why have you decided to participate in Human Rights Day?*
ROMÉO DALLAIRE: What? Jesus! [laughs] I gotta tell you that I'm taken back by the question after what I have lived, in seeing the massive abuses of human rights and seeing the ineptness of the international community in responding to it; having written on it and advocated on this subject and pursued initiatives to advance human rights on a whole bunch of fronts. If I wasn't participating I'd probably be asleep or something.
***TV:** What motivates you to work for this human rights?*
RD: Human beings. They're all equal. And that's the fundamental premise. None of us have any more humanity; we're not any more human than any other and in that context we are all equal. We have frictions, but that is not a position that can be held in regards to the equality of every human being that exists.
***TV:** What do you think is the main obstruction to achieving equality across humanity?*
RD: The greatest obstruction of the past was the lack of being able to communicate in order to inform people of their fundamental rights as a human being, and to be treated as a human being according to the charter rights of the UN as an example.

However, that is going to now take a whole different perspective with the revolution of communications that we have, where in fact soon we'll be able to talk to every human being on earth. And so with that revolution of global communications, we actually have an ability to leap forward in garnering all human beings under the principle of equality.

SEE 'DALLAIRE' – PG 5



Roméo Dallaire launched Zero Force, a new child soldier charity, at U of T in December. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Human beings. They're all equal. And that's the fundamental premise. None of us have any more humanity; we're not any more human than any other and in that context we are all equal.
Roméo Dallaire

DALLAIRE AT U OF T

On the evening of December 10, 2010, Human Rights Day, Dallaire spoke to an almost-filled MacMillan Theatre about Zero Force, and challenged students to get involved, get active, and fight for a world where children are no longer used as soldiers.

CBC journalist Anna Maria Tremonti hosted the event, which began with an impassioned story from Michel Chikwanine. The Democratic Republic of Congo native spoke about the two weeks he was a soldier at the age of five, when he was forced to kill his best friend.

The event included performances from Emmanuel Jal, an international hip hop artist and former Sudanese child soldier, and a speech from AIDS activist and former Canadian UN Ambassador Stephen Lewis.

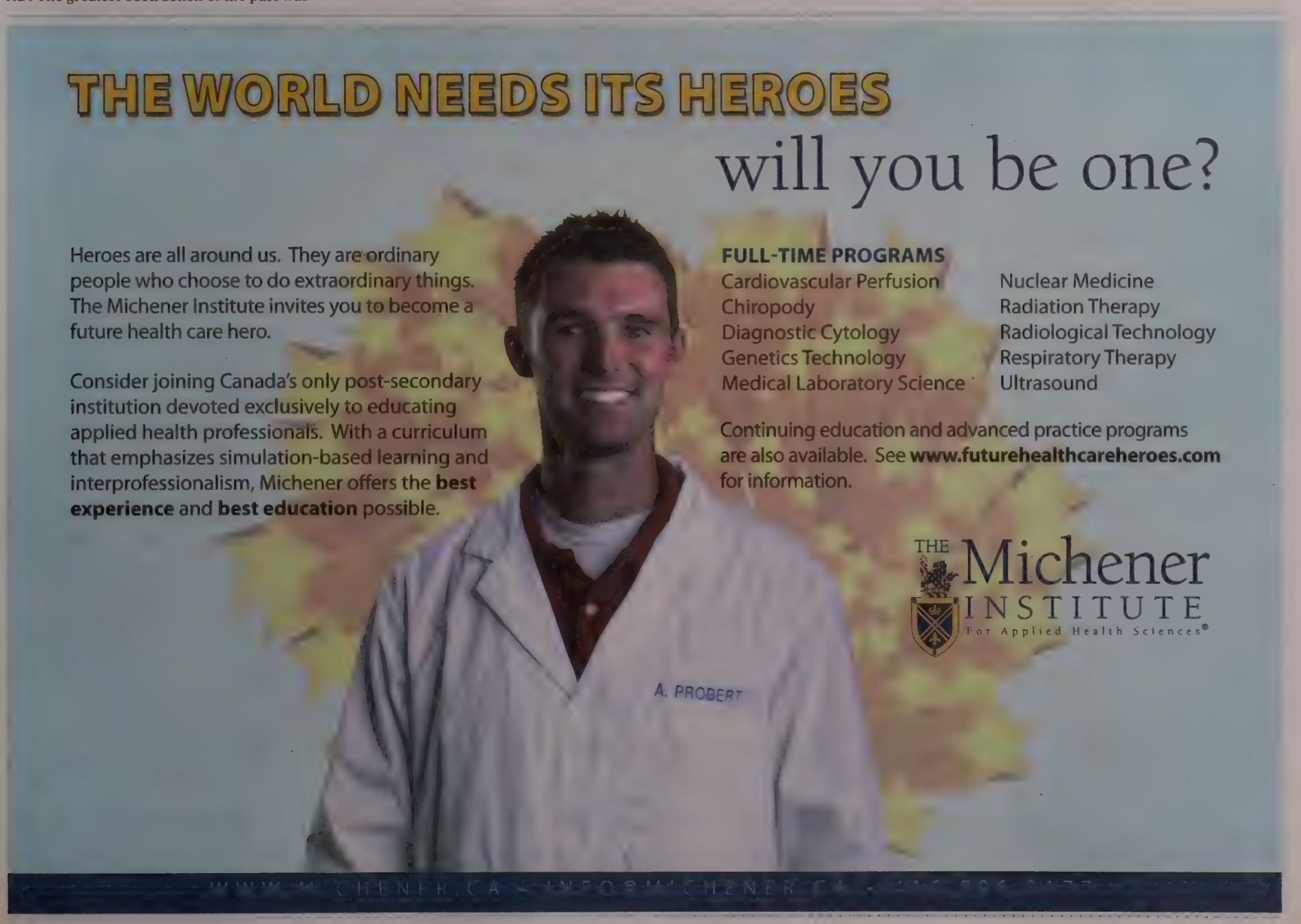
According to Lt.-Gen. Dallaire, the first step of Zero Force is awakening youth to the reality of approximately 250,000 children worldwide.

"The first thing to be done is to create a momentum within the developed world; to engage their youth in recognizing that their peers are being used as weapons of war," he said, noting that online communications allow almost any two people to get in touch. "That revulsion in itself, I hope will create that sort of energy of activism that is going to stop it."

After getting involved and informed, Lt.-Gen. Dallaire said that youth could then engage in on-the-ground work. He said that any solution to the use of children as weapons of war must be a political and military intervention, one that can only start by the advocacy of an engaged society.

Referring to inaction as "irresponsible," the Canadian senator said wealthy, developed countries have a duty to intervene in human rights abuses worldwide.

Explaining his initiative, Lt.-Gen. Dallaire was interviewed by Heather Reisman, founder of Indigo Books & Music Inc. Framing Zero Force in military terms, he challenged young people to enlist and recruit their peers, in an effort to annihilate an enemy force of oppression and injustice.



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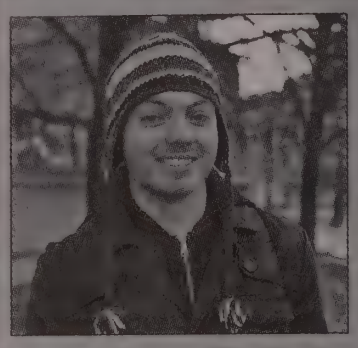
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What are you doing for Winterfest?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Stefan

3rd Year Engineering Science,
"What's Winterfest?"





Olivia

2nd Year Engineering,
"Nothing."



Jessica

2nd Year Engineering.
"What's that?"



Ivan

4th Year Undeclared,
"Enjoying a few pints and some bratwurst."



Sam

2nd Year Engineering,
"I don't know what that is."

Daniel

2nd Year Engineering,
"I have nothing against Justin Bieber; in fact, my hate is for him"

VELUT ARBOR ÆVO

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CORRECTION

In the December 6 issue of The Varsity in the article "Campus divides at AGM" UTSU executive Corey Scott was incorrectly quoted as saying "...we are denying any clubs on the basis of ideology." He actually said that UTSU is not denying funding on ideological grounds. The Varsity regrets the error.

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CONTROVARTSY

Art controversy at UTSC?

UTSC announces winner for largest art commission in campus history

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A mix of support and skepticism greeted the University of Toronto Scarborough's announcement of the artists chosen to produce the first and largest art commission in UTSC history. Funded by the University, the original art will be displayed in the new Instructional Centre.

Out of the 92 artists who responded to the university's international call for submissions, contemporary artists Christian Giroux and Daniel Young from Ontario emerged as the winning team.

With the help of student feedback, the selection committee, a mix of prominent figures in the art industry and representatives of the university, decided that Young and Giroux's neo-futurist powder-coated steel tubing abstract design best celebrated UTSC's architectural history.

"This is a very exciting initiative for UTSC," says Ann MacDonald, head of the selection committee and curator and director of the Doris McCarthy Gallery at UTSC. "It is a reflection of the university's continuing evolution throughout the years."

"The acquisition will be the University's first art commission ever since its foundation," says Program Supervisor and Associate Professor of Art History Lora Carney. It will become the centerpiece of the three-floor atrium in the new Instructional Centre being built on campus.

A $175,000 project, the commission is singularly funded by UTSC and will not involve any student levy. But as construction draws nearer, more students begin to question the practicality of releasing such a huge amount of funding. While most agree that the new installation will certainly add to the aesthetic quality of the university, some are unsure whether purchasing art at such a price is the right economical move for UTSC.

"As much as I support UTSC's acquisition of new art, $175,000 is a lot of money that we don't have," says Andreas Axiotis, an active student leader. "The university is just simply not in the right financial position to shoulder more expenses."

"With the serious lack of study space and the abundance of more pressing issues in campus, the funding should be put towards programs and creating facilities that can directly and immediately benefit students," says biology major Kadeem Lewis.

Marianne Rellin, an arts management student disagrees, "As a University with an impressive visual arts program, having the installation can be a way to promote courses and boost interest in art around the campus and in the community."

According to Carney though, $175,000 seems like an unreasonable amount, but it is "a healthy, if not modest budget compared to other art commissions in the city," especially for an installation spanning three floors. The price of the commission "does not only cover the artist's salary, studio space, and materials but also transportation and the payment for the engineers who will make sure that the artwork is secured and compatible with the architecture."

"The new installation is a milestone in UTSC's history," says Macdonald. "It will not only emphasize the campus' ongoing commitment to contemporary art but also help the university's effort to become an intellectual and cultural hub for the region."



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'DALLAIRE' - CONTINUED FROM PG 3

***TV:** What can students do to help out with this cause?*
RD: Students can do it by leading the charge in advocacy and engagement and activism, because if anybody can master this revolution in communications, it's those who are under 25. They grasp the concept of how small this planet is and how easy it is to talk to any human being anywhere. They can Skype anywhere in the world as long as they've got somebody on the other end with a computer, which they can provide.

And so the youth have the ability to lead this era of significantly leaping ahead human rights through activism: by getting engaged, influencing public opinion and policy by advocacy, by communicating with the youth — their peers in foreign lands, in developing countries — and establishing links, human links between each other, and ultimately engaging and supporting [organizations].

As an example, the advocacy effort that we're doing on child soldiers, through what is called Zero Force, is one of those new instruments that can help the young people focus on how they can influence what is happening to their peers — not to adults, but to their peers — in foreign lands where they're being abducted, indoctrinated, drugged up and raped and used as weapons of war.

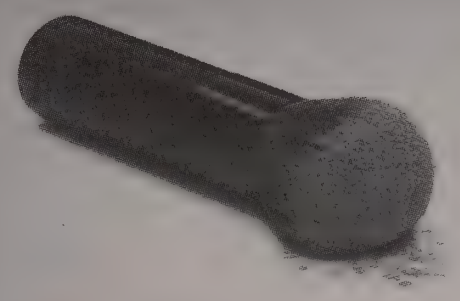
***TV:** And how do you think students are doing so far?*
RD: I think they're still not done training. I think they're still looking at the extraordinary potential they have, but they haven't been garnered to focus. They haven't been given enough vision of the incredible power that they have, and in so doing I think that's where some of us adults have failed and I think we have got to rectify that; not tell them what to do, but to give them some sense of focus, of realizing the power they have and encouraging them to go out there and get their boots dirty.

I think it should be a right of passage in a country like ours, after your education is to go and spend weeks or months in developing countries in order to comprehend what's happening to 80 per cent of humanity, and bring that rage that they have, that inequality they have and bring something to change public opinion and policy here.

***TV:** Zero Force is about child soldiers. What are your thoughts about Omar Khadr?*
RD: Omar Khadr is, in my military mind with absolutely no doubt, he's a child soldier. He meets all the criteria. He was taken, although by parents, from this country to another country, he was indoctrinated at a young age, was involved in a military altercation; so he was armed and trained and used in a military operation under the age of 18. All those components make right against the charter of rights and the [Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict] that no one under the age of 18 is to be trained, recruited, equipped, armed, and used in conflict.

And when you have that as an overarching premise then you implement the conventions that you sign, which Canada lead the way for, and that means you bring him back, you go through a set of non-punitive judicial instruments in order to help with the rehabilitation and reintegration of the individual.

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PARTY SCHOOL?

Winter relief

Winterfest offers a week's worth of chances to delay the inevitable onset of school

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Santa has come and gone, but Winterfest 2011 may help delay the looming stress of returning back to school. The almost week long event will feature club and pub nights, barbeques, sports events and more, during the first week of classes.

Events run from Tuesday to Saturday, with two events a day. On Tuesday, there will be sports (flag football, ultimate frisbee) set up for everyone to play on Front Campus at UC with a free accompanying barbecue. Tuesday night will feature the annual Winterfest pub crawl that will visit the Bedford Academy, the Duke of York, the Fox and Fiddle, The Madison, the James Joyce, the Brunny, and Pauper's Pub.

"[The pub crawl will] cater to all partiers even if they aren't necessarily clubbing types," said Paul Humphrey, Social Commissioner of University College Literary and Athletic Society. "It also gives people a chance to check out some bars they may not have been to yet."

Wednesday will feature both an open mic night at Brennan Hall at St. Mike's and a live viewing of the Raptor's game project in Kruger Hall. Thursday night will feature a club night at XS Nightclub at John and Richmond.

Humphrey, former president of Party for a Cause, describes last year's club night as "amazing" and hopes this years inclusion of musical act Planet Otnorot and DJs Intrinity, Couture, and Dynasty will make this year's even better.

Friday will feature a self-explanatory pancake kegger. The week will wrap up on Saturday with a giant game of capture the flag in Queen's Park at noon and a semi-formal in Old Vic's Alumni Hall that night.

"It's a beautiful space, and we'll be sure have it extra decked out for the occasion," said Humphrey. "We'll also be providing some great food and bar service all for $15."

U of T welcome back events first began in the 90s but disappeared in the early 2000s. Winterfest began in 2006 and has grown into a week organized between colleges.

"It's a unique opportunity for college and division councils who often work on separate or even competing events, to work together and do something for all our students," said Humphrey.

Humphrey added that this event shouldn't be confused as a "second frosh week," as the appeal is intended to be much larger. "Frosh week is catered towards new students, most of whom are still underage," explained Humphrey. "Winterfest on the other hand caters to a wider community including upper years."

"Winterfest is all about everyone coming together at the start of a new term to reconnect with their friends and their campus life," explained Humphrey. "And most importantly remind them that despite the cold and class, U of T DOES party!"

'PETO' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

two interviews, it wouldn't have been a big enough sample to be accurate.

The biggest criticism I've had is "Why didn't you just pick up the phone and interview someone?" and it's not that simple, you need research ethics board approval, and you also need a large enough sample size to make that relevant. [...] Obviously my supervisor and my second reader agreed with this, and it's not common practice.

TV: *What was your motivation for pursuing a master's degree?*

JP: For my own intellectual pursuit. It was just a way to learn more, and a different avenue to do research and think critically about certain issues. I think it's the same motivation of many people who do a master's degree.

TV: *What do you think motivated the* National Post *to print so much criticism?*

JP: It's part of a larger pattern. The *National Post* is an extremely right-wing publication, unapologetically so. They present a very, very right-wing view and take a particular interest in issues around Israel. So they have written damning articles about the Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid, Queers Against Israeli Apartheid...

I remember when [TIFF] was doing a spotlight on Tel Aviv and there was a huge international uproar against folks putting a positive light on Israel just a few months after the massacre in Gaza. And in that time the *National Post* editorial board was just spinning out hateful article after hateful article.

This is about running a very right-wing publication and obviously me being a left-wing activist but particularly around the question of Israel. The editor in charge of comment is Jonathan Kay, who's a very staunch supporter of Israel, who has done this kind of character assassination to many, many people before me and he'll continue to do it to many, many people after.

TV: *How will the criticisms affect you?*

JP: It definitely would make it harder in certain circumstances, if I wanted to pursue a PhD, to get into certain PhD programs. Then again, programs that may be supportive of doing critical or cutting-edge research may look favourable upon having caused this controversy at a master's level.

But for the most part, it could affect my academic career in that way. In terms of job prospects, it affects my online profile in a way I can't control. And also from a personal safety perspective, I've been getting threatening emails and people have been calling me all sorts of names.

TV: *How bad have the threats been?*

JP: Nothing that's made me want to call the police or anything like that, but a lot of really hateful e-mails, calling me things like Gestapo, things like that. You can definitely tell that in all of this, the goal is to try and silence me, to tell me to stop saying these sort of things.

It's also about the negative repercussions for other people. So people who are in [Sociology in Education and Equity Studies at OISE], or OISE more generally, realize that they're under a microscope in ways that very few students are, so it's discouraging them from doing anything like being controversial.

This is almost like a warning shot to Jewish Canadians saying, "you watch yourself, if you're going to criticize Israel, we'll come down on you, and we'll come down on you in a huge way."

This is an overreaction. I didn't publish a book, I didn't write a newspaper article, I didn't make a movie. I wrote a master's thesis that could've died in obscurity for perfectly honest reasons; I mean there are thousands of them produced in a year. It's definitely trying to send a chill throughout the academic community and Jewish community.

TV: *How would you rate U of T's response to this issue?*

JP: The university's been basically defending my academic freedom, which is all I could ask from them.

I mean U of T has a not-incredible history when dealing with pro-Palestinian activists on campus. There was the whole fiasco with room bookings for SAIA and OPIRG in previous years.

I'm definitely pleased with their response, especially given that they haven't always been completely consistent on the question of Palestine on campus. So I'm hoping that support continues when Israeli Apartheid Week comes up in March and I hope that their commitment to academic freedom and political debate on campus is renewed by this.

TV: *What's your impression of how papers other than the* National Post *have been reporting on the thesis?*

JP: I was really disappointed in the Toronto Star to be perfectly honest. The reporter misrepresented several key points. He tried to present the March of Remembrance and Hope, which is one of the two programs that I criticized, as a completely Canadian program run by the Canadian Centre for Diversity, independent of any Israeli organizations or even Jewish Holocaust memorial groups.

And it's very, very clear on the website of the MRH that it is linked to the March of Living, which was founded by the Israeli ministry of education, and in Canada — yes it's run out of the Canadian Centre for Diversity — but it's definitely linked back to Israel and linked to the March of the Living.

That particular reporter tried to twist that cynically, which was concerning because I got my facts right, and that's important at the very least. [...] But it's what I expect of the Canadian media, it has a terrible, terrible pro-Israeli bias. And the coverage of this hasn't really strained from that.

TV: *Looking forward, will you be doing anything as a result of this experience?*

JP: I'm still working with allied groups within the academic world, unions and things like that, to mobilize a response so that things like this won't happen again. So that a student isn't basically thrown to the wolves and especially that Members of Provincial Parliament [and] government bodies don't violate academic freedom in such a disturbing way.

Given that it's unprecedented that student work would be debated in a government in Canada [...] we're definitely keeping an eye on the bigger picture in terms of academic freedom, but also my work around Palestine continues and will continue until Israeli apartheid ends.

PETO'S SUPERVISOR SPEAKS

The Varsity spoke with Dr. Sheryl Nestel, Peto's supervisor about the thesis and its resulting controversy.

Nestel said that she knew the thesis was controversial and "was sensitive to the possibility" that it would gain media attention, but admits she "was surprised at how quickly it took off."

She said she was "horrified" at the Ontario legislature condemnation and noted that "the majority of people [who] criticized this thesis admitted that they hadn't read it."

Nestel said she has contacted academic freedom advocacy groups who may launch a campaign in response to Queen's Park's rebuttal of the thesis.

She agrees with Peto that the attacks on the thesis' academic merit are a red herring she describes as "disingenuous," adding that most people criticising Pero's academic don't understand what work a master's thesis requires, and that many U of T master's degrees do not require a dissertation.

Nestel said that the thesis was completed in "a world-famous department that is highly respected. We produce student work of the absolute highest quality," listing awards and tenure granted to recent graduates.

"This is not a slacker department, not by any stretch of the imagination."

Nestel added that a lot of academia is inherently political.

"I think [there's a] really problematic notion that scholarship and politics cannot have anything to do with one another. That it's possible to produce scholarship that is absolutely neutral, that is a reflection of truth that is unvarnished.

"We teach our students that scholarship is inherently political, it comes from somewhere. We don't have access to unvarnished truth, all we have is our own understanding. We try and alert our readers to those tendencies and those notions that constrain our own scholarship or that shape our own scholarship so that the reader has a chance to judge based on those merits."

Nestel said that the most important outcome of the controversy is a chill effect.

"The worst is ultimately the chill that this has caused in certain circles about what people study, write about, and speak about in the academy. For example I have another student who's writing a thesis; not of the same topic but in a similar vain and he's absolutely terrified about this happening to him and we've both been really cautious, going over everything many times and making sure it's defensible.

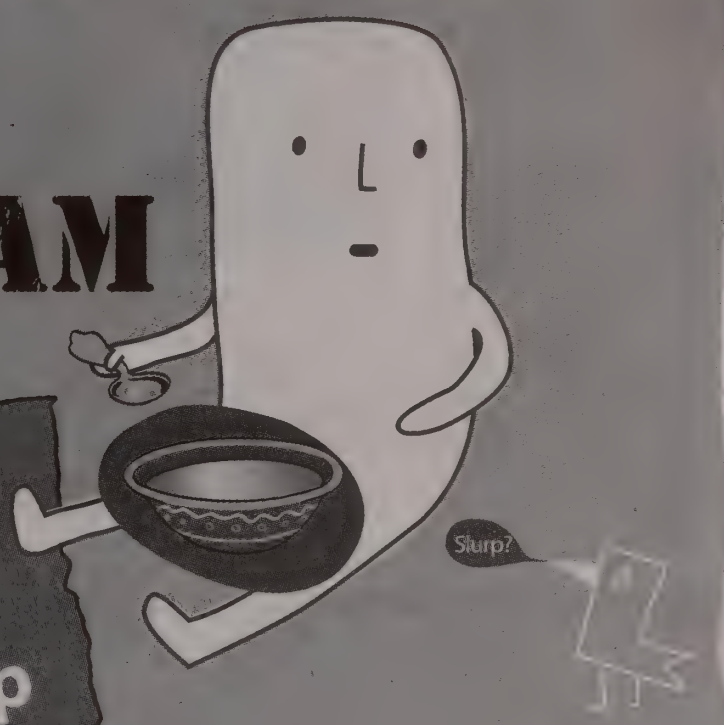
"It's causing a lot of pain to a lot of students, in particular people about to graduate, about how their degree's going to be looked upon if that's the popular understanding about what this department is about. These kind of allegations are really damaging."

Nestel said that the controversy has similarly affected her reputation and possibly her job prospects as a non-tenure professor. She sees attacks on Peto as part of a growing movement to discredit academia that is critical of Israel, especially within Jewish Studies. Nestel said these groups have resources and access to media.

"I could have done interviews with the mainstream media that have covered it, but I just can't do the soundbite thing because there has to be a longer discussion," she said. "We just haven't got much of an opportunity to tell our side of the story."

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Stunted transit

Rob Ford continues Toronto's legacy of narrow-minded transit initiatives

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



Rob Ford's proposed cancellation of Transit City is consistent with Toronto's history of narrow-mindedness when it comes to transit.
PJMIXER/FLICKR

Mayor Rob Ford's plan to cancel Transit City, which would have seen seven light rail lines built along Toronto's busiest bus routes, in favour of replacing it with a paltry, though worthy eastward extension of the Sheppard subway line, is foolish and bears little resemblance to the responsibility which he preached during his campaign. Though Transit City's overall budget would be larger than Ford's subway plan, it would do far more with far less money per kilometer of transport. No transit proposal currently on the table is better suited to the age of municipal austerity and restraint, which Ford promised prior to his election this autumn.

Despite the fact that the replacement of Transit City with the Sheppard extension would be bad policy, such a move would be consistent with Toronto's traditional narrow-mindedness on transit issues. Though municipal and provincial politicians have long paid lip service to the idea of linking the city together with new rapid transit lines, these plans have long been treated as luxuries rather than the necessities that they are. Toronto is like a small town trapped in the body of a large city. Its thinking has not yet expanded to meet the scale and scope of its challenges.

It is this narrow-mindedness that has kept Toronto from expanding and improving on the enviable transit system that it had built by the mid 1970s. If Toronto had followed through on half the proposals made by transit planners since this period, it would have at least two additional lines. One would run along Eglinton from Scarborough to the airport, while another would replace the King or Queen streetcars to provide much needed relief to the overcrowded Bloor and Yonge-University-Spadina lines. The Sheppard subway might be extended both eastward and westward to provide a fourth east-west connection. A third north-south line might be in the works.

The fault for Toronto's arrested transit development is not solely a consequence of its narrow-mindedness, but because the municipal government is chronically underfunded. While Toronto is required to run a balanced budget and generally manages to do so without imposing too many significant cuts, it has little capacity for spending beyond ordinary operational expenses. This leaves the funding of large capital projects, such as transit, at the mercy of the federal and provincial governments. Unlike most cities of similar size in other countries, Toronto has little capacity to raise money, either through borrowing or taxes.

As Alan Broadbent argued in Urban Nation it is time that we let large Canadian cities like Toronto raise their own money for big projects by allowing them to raise a greater variety of taxes and to issue bonds; something which even small towns in the United States take for granted. The need for greater spending capacity at the municipal level does not mean, however, that the federal and provincial governments should be allowed to shirk their responsibilities towards big cities. Unfortunately, the current financial climate makes an infusion of federal or provincial money unlikely, despite it being long overdue.

If Toronto cannot expect the support it needs from other levels of government and is prohibited to seek it alone, then it cannot hope to construct the transit infrastructure which a city of its size needs. The result is continually increasing car traffic, which contributes to the decreasing air quality of the city as well as to climate change, but also valuable hours of productivity lost to commuting. Though budget hawks like Mayor Ford are right to ask whether Toronto really has the means to make its transit plans into reality, they would do well not to ignore the consequences which not doing so might have.

Likewise, pro-transit activists are right to seek improvements to Toronto's transit infrastructure, but they cannot ignore the challenges that improving the aging system will present. Chief among these challenges is that Toronto might need to get creative to make up for shortfalls in federal and provincial funding. This means opening up new transit development to partnerships with the private sector, including real estate developers who would benefit from subway lines being built near their developments. While the city should be careful not to allow private participation to distort transit development, it should not close off the possibility of cooperation outright.

Torontonians face an increasingly stark choice about their transit future. Either we can continue to run an atrophied and outdated network, supplemented by stop-gap measures like Mayor Ford's Sheppard extension and the new subway trains due to enter into service this winter, or we can get serious about transit and start to create a modern, efficient, and interconnected system to bind Toronto together. Neither will be easy, but it is clear that the first choice can have nothing but negative consequences, except perhaps for the city's chequing account. And if that is all that matters to Torontonians anymore, then we must be reminded of the difference between a corporation and a government.

When opposing interests collide

The corporate dominance of news media has harmed its critical status and created opportunites for sites like WikiLeaks

Aviva German
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The potential takeover of U.K. satellite broadcaster BSkyB by media magnate Rupert Murdoch has provoked quite a stir in political and media circles. Many key industry figures have penned letters to Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat MP and business secretary, to condemn this as a move toward further diminishing media plurality and have urged a halt to the acquisition.

Murdoch, perhaps best known in North America as the founder of Fox News Channel and the CEOU of Newscorp, has long sought to consolidate various media outlets around the world under the umbrella of his multi-platform company, News Corporation, in order to spread a conservative political agenda and act as a mouthpiece for right-leaning governments. While his quest to monopolize most, if not all, of U.K. media has not yet reached the same proportion in the United States, the success of Fox News is but one example of the mainstream media's deteriorating state of affairs.

The rise of corporate media has led to a merger between journalistic and government interests, whereby the "journalists" and the political leaders whom they are supposed to be challenging are virtually identical. Although we are seeing more web-based, progressive organizations like WikiLeaks fulfill the duties of the media by exposing government secrets and wrongdoing, the website, along with its founder, Julian Assange, are under attack by the U.S. government and perhaps not surprisingly by the mainstream press, whose livelihood is so dependent on the political and financial elite targeted by WikiLeaks. Even some of the most widely respected news organizations, like CNN (owned by TimeWarner) and the Washington Post, who are often praised for objective, non-partisan reporting, have shown a willingness to repeat statements from government officials that accuse Assange of endangering lives, putting national security at risk, and being careless in releasing hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables (the latter of which is categorically false). This dangerous alignment between government officials and journalists poses a serious threat to the democratic process and above all, shield corrupt factions in government from accountability and justice.

> **In order to preserve the democratic process, it is imperative that the media be dedicated to exposing conspiracies and government malfeasance...**

Although WikiLeaks consumed much of the recent news coverage, the pathetic way in which it was treated by reporters and assailed by political pundits is perfectly illustrative of the media's pattern of subservience to those in power. Last year's proposed healthcare reforms ignited a debate in the country that, for the most part, consisted of inaccuracies, lies, and damned lies (remember "death panels?") Instead of having a serious national discussion about meaningful structural reform to the health care system, perhaps one that could mirror Canada's universal healthcare, according to media watchdog FAIR, proponents of such reform were virtually shut out from the discussion. Why? Once the Obama administration had nixed the possibility of implementing a single-payer system early in 2009, media outlets began reducing coverage on this issue, to the detriment of public awareness. The merger of government and journalistic interests is further intensified when former government officials, like torture aficionado Marc Thiessen, landed cushy jobs as political contributors or columnists at news organizations and were given a platform from which to argue propaganda on behalf of their previous employer. It has been widely documented that at the height of the Iraq War, corporate executives of various news outlets, such as Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, among others, suppressed stories and reports that were deemed critical of the Bush administration's policies. It is, for this reason and many others, that we have seen alternative sources of information, such as WikiLeaks, gain more credibility and legitimacy among the public, to the chagrin of many establishment news outlets.

In order to preserve the democratic process, it is imperative that the media be dedicated to exposing conspiracies and government malfeasance, independent of any political party or moneyed interest. However, as the corporate-owned organizations continue to balloon in size and scope, our understanding of the world's pressing issues will continue to be filtered through the narrow lens of these corporations, whose interests are more profit-driven, and less about journalistic integrity. It is no surprise then, that investigative journalism has drastically declined over the years, mostly due to the corporate media's reliance on cost-cutting measures. It is certainly cause for concern when a handful of wealthy individuals exert tremendous influence on public opinion, which in turn, can have significant political and policy consequences. The public embrace of independent voices and the growing support for WikiLeaks represents a desire for more transparency and a rejection of the media's corporate domination.

The Swiss People's Party are the real black sheep

The SVP are fostering xenophobia and racist sentiment for naked political gain

Dylan C. Robertson
VARSITY STAFF

The Swiss People's Party, known as SVP (or UDC in French), is an extreme right-wing, nationalist organization which opposes immigration and its country's recent entry into the Schengen agreement, a shared European free-travel zone.

The party made worldwide headlines in the run-up to the 2007 national election with its infamous black sheep ad, which featured an illustration of three white sheep standing on a Swiss flag, one of which is kicking a single black sheep across a line. The ad, which reads "for increasing security," had blatant racist undertones and promoted a party that wants strict border controls and mass deportations of foreigners.

But the SVP is not some fringe group of isolated racists. In that 2007 election, the party scored 28.9 per cent of the popular vote, making it the single largest party on Switzerland's National Council.

The black sheep ad is back, now with an even more blatant message.

In late November the party convinced a majority of Swiss voters to approve a constitutional plebiscite requiring the automatic deportation of foreigners convicted of serious crimes or profiting from fraud.

The advertisement featured a redesigned black sheep ad, next to one of four concocted examples of criminals with foreign-sounding names. Igor is a rapist. Ismir is a fraudster. Maurice is a paedophile. Faruk is a murderer.

The ads were plastered on billboards throughout Switzerland, advertised in newspapers, and mailed to households across the country.



The SVP should be criticized for using racist imagery to garner votes. *FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS*

This isn't the first time the party used emotive imagery to get its referenda passed.

In November 2009, the SVP successfully campaigned for a ban on the construction of minarets. The country was flooded with an illustration featuring minarets tearing through a Swiss flag while a black niqab-clad woman hatefully glared at the viewer.

The SVP has published other offensive ads. One against naturalization features hands of varying skin tones prying into a tray of Swiss passports. Another features menacing black crows standing over the shape of Switzerland's borders.

Illustrations of immigrants as conniving animals are not that different from Nazi posters depicting Jews as rats.

Over the past two decades, the party has risen from nine per cent support and is expecting to surpass 30 per cent in the coming federal election this October. With few parties ever reaching 25 per cent support, the rise of the SVP has many outsiders concerned about the rise in xenophobia.

Compared to its European peers, the country has only suffered mildly from the recent global recession. Little of the continent's sovereign debt crisis affects the non-EU state.

About one-fifth of the country's residents do not have citizenship, and a third of the population is of non-Swiss origin. Though these numbers are higher than in neighbouring countries, Switzerland is arguably the hardest European country to obtain citizenship from, requiring 12 years of residence and interviews with neighbours.

Although the country welcomes asylum seekers and refugees, they make up less than two per cent of the country's population of 7.7 million. In a country with cosmopolitan cities and influential banks, many immigrants are skilled financial and hospitality workers from financially stable countries.

A country with three dominant linguistic and cultural groups, the Swiss Confederation has managed to form a solid national identity since its establishment in 1848. Unlike federal confederations like Belgium or Canada, independence movements in Switzerland are nearly unheard of.

The Swiss can easily think of symbols that define the country as a nation: banks, fondue, watches, chocolate, Alps, emmental, trains, cow bells, yodelling, army knives, and St. Bernard rescue dogs, to name a few.

Hardly any of these symbols are used in SVP advertising. Instead of appealing to national pride, the party is working to inspire fear in its citizens, making them vote using emotion instead of reason.

While the recent proposal on mandatory deportation of criminals could be blamed on a higher conviction rate among foreigners, there is little evidence that the correlation also applies to serious crime. The ballot contained an alternative proposal that would have offered judges discretionary power.

The 2009 minaret ban also made little sense. Muslims only make up five per cent of the Swiss population, and most come from Turkey and Balkan countries, areas with relatively liberal forms of Islam where niqab wearing is uncommon. Prior to the ban, the whole country only had six mosques, four of which had minarets.

SVP has used emotional propaganda to advance its political objectives. Using ads unimaginable in Canada, it creates an "other" out of foreigners, making Swiss citizens fear and mistrust a large number of the people they encounter every day.

The party's rise is reminiscent of the fascism of the 1930s, when multiple European states urged citizens to cling to their national identity with a fervour that resembled or even incorporated religion. Dictators ruled, regular people reported their neighbours for thought crimes, and genocide was committed on a terrifying scale. One hopes the Swiss, and European voters as a whole, turn to a more rational political discourse in the coming months and years.

The party's over

Stephen Harper's rosy account of 2010 doesn't quite fit the reality

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The time has come to trudge through the cold to classes, leave the hibernation of holidays, and catch up on all the news you may have been ignoring. As most of us were choosing outfits and chilling champagne on New Year's Eve, Prime Minister Harper was busy highlighting his government's 2010 accomplishments. While US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron delivered more sombre addresses to their nations, bluntly commenting on the year in review and outlooks for the future, Harper waxed poetic about the great Conservative achievements of 2010. However, 2010 was not a banner year in Canadian history. And at the rate we're going, with the current leadership in place, 2011 will likely be no better.

In Harper's statement, the grand successes of 2010 include: his government's Economic Action Plan, which created over 440,000 new jobs from July 2009; hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, and the G8 and G20 summits in Huntsville and Toronto. In conclusion, the prime minister commented that "This has been a momentous year for Canada, and we can all be proud of the many successes achieved, both here at home and around the world." However, determining whether such events measure as successes is a subjective matter.

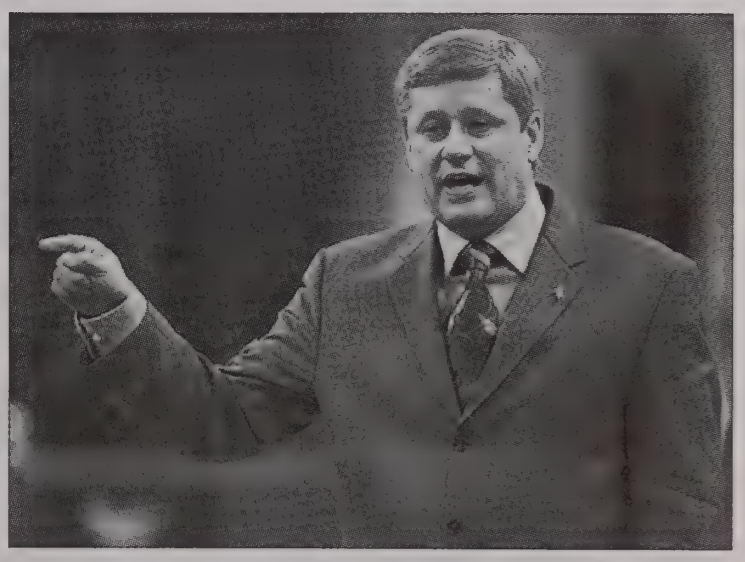
Some of the accomplishments Harper highlights are certainly commendable. Yet his statement is the tip of the iceberg in terms of Canada's year, and what lies beneath is significantly less perfect. In November, the Senate rejected Bill C-311 to cut greenhouse gases, as Canada continues its dismal performance in combatting climate change. And all of the talk about tackling crime does not include any mention of support systems to prevent people from becoming criminals in the first place.

Remember the prorogation of Parliament? Around this time last year we were exchanging lame jokes about proroguing due dates. The government decided to suspend Parliament for two months, until after the Vancouver Winter Olympics. That's part of what hosting the Olympics meant for Canada.

Perhaps the truly frightening aspect of 2010's prorogation was how it exposed the apathy of the Canadian public. In a Harris-Decima poll conducted at the time, 46 per cent were indifferent to the government's decision, 34 per cent were unhappy with it, and 15 per cent were happy. So the government can go on doing and saying what it likes, and most of us won't care enough to find out what that is, let alone form an opinion on it.

Then we have the G8 and G20, hardly jewels in the Canadian 2010 crown. Can Canadians be proud of what Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin called "the most massive compromise of civil liberties in Canadian history," which "amounted to martial law in Toronto?" The list of G8 and G20 expenses is fairly embarrassing: $1.9 million for a "fake lake" pavilion in Huntsville; $14,000 for glow sticks, because Canada is home of the best raves; $2.2 million for one day's worth of car rentals; and one of the biggest points of contention, a security bill of almost $1 billion. Pittsburgh hosted the G20 in September 2009 and only spent $18 million US in total, with none of the vandalism to businesses that Toronto suffered. The greater expense for Canada is partially due to hosting both summits, but also to a clear lack of organization and accountability.

In October 2010, Canada lost its bid for a position on the UN Security Council for the first time in 60 years. Apparently the international community is concerned with more than the hosting skills of a nation. Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon blamed the loss on Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff's statement that Canada would not win the seat because Canada did not deserve it.



Realistically, that statement probably did not reach voters. The comment of NDP Foreign Affairs Critic Paul Dewar best sums up the loss, that the Harper government has "formulated a foreign policy based on domestic gain and talking points." Canadian withdrawal from the UN Kyoto Protocol, its unabashed pro-Israel stance, cutting aid to Africa, and moving away from UN peacekeeping probably lost the seat. Yet Cannon dismissed that idea, saying "I do not in any way see this as a repudiation of Canada's foreign policy."

For many Canadians, 2010 has been more of a year of embarrassment more than of pride. If we performed so well internationally, where is the recognition? If we are so concerned with our place in the international community, where is the foreign policy? The refusal of the Canadian government to acknowledge or take responsibility for the realities of the year is frightening. As we begin 2011 with the possibility of another federal election few will really care about, may we, as voters, reflect on the year behind us and vow to make our voices heard in the year ahead.

ARTS IN REVIEW 2010

Best of Music

To ring out the year in music, The Varsity asked resident music bloggers **SEAN MACKAY** and **NAVI LAMBA** of Singled Out fame (thevarsity.ca/blogs/2151) to offer their picks for the Top 10 Albums of 2010. Between bouts of busting a move, they sat down and wrote a few lines...

Beach House
– Teen Dream

Teen Dream was the most universally acclaimed album of the year, appearing in the upper percentile of just about every relevant 'zine's or blog's top albums of the year, and as with any band that receives such praise, there were detractors. But what separates Beach House from many other fanatically fawned-over acts in 2010 is the particularly disparaging nature of the insults hurled at the duo. Their venom, however is misdirected and here's why: the band's majestic, gossamer soundscapes and the plaintive guitar and vocal melodies which accompany them are completely unpretentious. The crescendos are epic without being overblown and the melodies are beautiful in their simplicity. In other words, there is plenty to love about *Teen Dream* — every minute of which is intensely rewarding and expertly crafted — but not a lot to dislike. Oh well, haters gonna hate, right? – SM



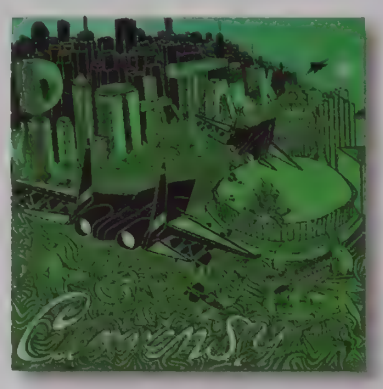


Javelin
– No Mas

These thrifty bros hang around old thrift stores and sift through hundreds of old 80s and 90s cassettes until they find something cool to sample. Javelin is George Langford and Tom van Buskirk, highly gifted artists that organically mesh together and found sounds to produce the most memorable collection of songs. Langford describes it perfectly: "The minute I start working in one style, I get distracted and want to work on another one. We kinda gave up on finding our 'sound' years ago." Their track "Lindsay Brohan," from 2008's Jamz n Jemz, stood out to me as one of the strongest examples of their inability to loyally stand by one genre. – NL

Curren$y
– Pilot Talk

While Kanye West expanded the definition of hip hop with bloated nine minute tracks and unlikely collaborations, and West Coast artists like Earl Sweatshirt and Tyler, the Creator brought lewd, ultra-violent, transgressive rap into the second decade of the 21st century. Hip hop purists found solace in *Pilot Talk* — a collection of tracks that deal with some of the genre's timeless subjects (eg. boasting, toasting to the good life, and roasting a ton of spliffs). Curren$y is by no means a newcomer to the scene, but it did take him an inordinate amount of time to finally release his major label debut. Considering the eight years it took for Curren$y to settle on a label — one that actually gave a shit about his music — it's a surprise that he isn't burnt out at this point. In fact, the complete opposite appears to be true, as 2010 saw the rapper release two highly lauded albums (*Pilot Talk II* being the second) and plans have been announced for two more in 2011. Talk about a new lease on life. – SM





Surfer Blood
– Astro Coast

Surfer Blood played at Sneaky Dee's in March 2010, only a few months after they released their debut *Astro Coast*. Despite the packed venue and the crowd's obvious excitement once the first few chugging chords of "Floating Vibes" emerged from the amp, the band interacted with those in attendance as if they (the band) were some unknown opening act on tour for the first time. They could just be humbled by their seemingly immediate success, or they might not even realize the extent of it yet. Maybe they didn't see the long line of people outside looking to buy tickets at the door, who had to be turned away because Sneaky's was at capacity? Whatever the case may be, it's probably for the best. If their success goes to the collective band consciousness now, they may be in real danger of succumbing to the immense pressure they'll inevitably face when attempting to write another record as perfect as *Astro Coast*. Not since Weezer's 1994 debut has a power pop band sounded so competent and confident on their first album; surely a more confident live show is to follow soon enough. – SM

Das Racist
– Sit Down, Man

Das Racist's second mixtape *Sit Down, Man* follows the hype this trio fostered with their debut mix *Shut Up, Dude*. Take two stands out for the vast number of collaborations tagged onto the end of each track, including work with their Brooklyn buddy Lakutis, the experimental pop group Keepaway, and renowned DJ/Producer Diplo. – NL





Sun Araw
– On Patrol

It's more than just the token "out there" release on this list. *On Patrol*, created by the one-man act Sun Araw, is an album that you can really get lost in. Clocking in at over 80 minutes, *On Patrol* is incredibly dense, psychedelic, trance-inducing music, with some songs taking nearly ten minutes to shift in texture. Basically, don't listen to this album expecting some great crescendo, Do Make Say Think-style wall of sound. When Sun Araw builds to something, it takes a very long time and this is exactly what makes it such an intoxicating listen. You can turn it on while reading or studying. The music is not intrusive. However, the album is also rewarding simply as a surreal listening experience. It's music you fall into and emerge twenty minutes later, unsure of what you just heard, but accompanied by a keen desire to hear more — dissecting and detecting the wonderful subtleties that make the album seem infinite in its scope. – SM

El Guincho
– Pop Negro

Similar to Javelin, but much more nostalgic, El Guincho's *Pop Negro* is a sampling of major radio hits from Spain's golden era of pop. The superior production value sounds even sweeter when considering Pablo Diaz-Reixa funded the project himself. Sun-drenched Tropicala stylings and highlife synths blow up the choruses on tracks like "Bombay" and enrich mid-tempo numbers such as "Novias." Stunning percussions and decade-spanning influences match the cultural hybridity of El Guincho's home in the Canary Islands. *Pop Negro* is easily one of the most engaging underground albums of the past year. – NL



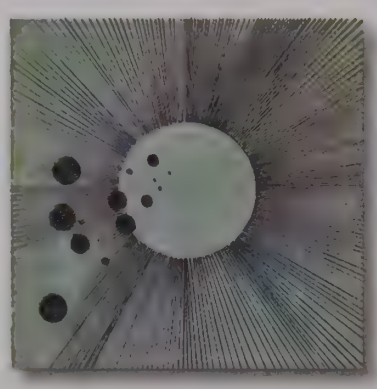


Vampire Weekend
– Contra

Sceptics can surely agree that the polo-wearing "hip-bros" Vampire Weekend have a new tool in their arsenal: Ezra Koenig's voice. Ezra's pipes go from buoyant to psychobilly on "Diplomat's Son," switch to uber-falsetto on "White Sky," and drop down to brutal solemnity on "Taxi Cab." The production value changes dial throughout as well, making for a more complex and satisfying effort after their comparatively simplistic debut. Though, if I'm being perfectly honest, it was between *Contra* and the soundtrack for Luca Guadagnino's *I Am Love*. – NL

Flying Lotus
– Cosmogramma

Cosmogramma stands as one of the strongest albums of the year. FlyLo combines the genres of hip hop, electronic, and jazz (re: nu-jazz) effortlessly in the two strongest tracks on the album, "Do the Astral Plane" and "Satelllliiiiiiteee." The chaotic lawlessness that takes place in this track is absolutely intoxicating. It's the quick transitions and melding of diverse genres that makes this song truly memorable. – NL



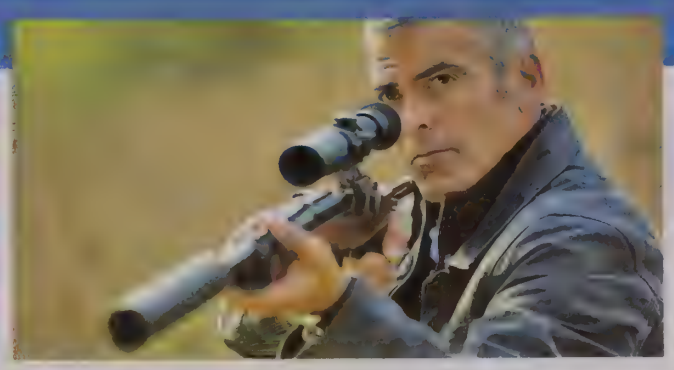


Zeus
– Say Us

If you've ever listened to a lot of 70s blues-infused guitar rock, then you've probably heard this album before — or, at least, the different parts which make up the whole. So while there isn't a lot of originality in the music *Zeus* writes — CanRock heroes Sloan also come to mind when tracing the origins of the music found on *Say Us* — there is something to be said for the style and the skill with which the Toronto four-piece rehash classic rock riffs and melodies to prove that rock n' roll, now in, arguably, its eighth decade of existence, can still sound fresh and also be a hell of a lot of fun without tinkering with the formula that has been ubiquitous within the genre over the past seventy or so years. – SM







Best of Film

On a bleary January morn, Arts Editor **WILL SLOAN**, Design Editor **TOM CARDOSO**, and film critic **ALAN JONES** attempted to create a list of the 10 best movies of 2010. Chairs were thrown, feelings were hurt, and at least one Varsity staffer was made to "squeal like a pig," but in the end, they prevailed...

The American

The American is the second film from noted Danish photographer and music video auteur Anton Corbijn. As such, it's a beautiful piece of work, full of great shots of the Italian countryside and evocative shots of George Clooney doing such mundane things as sit-ups and modifying sniper rifles. While it was mismarketed as an action thriller, the film is slow and contemplative, evoking European art-films as much as the Hollywood action films it takes its basic story arc from. Here's to hoping George Clooney keeps putting his bankable name behind artful and intriguing projects such as this. – AJ

Black Swan

Natalie Portman is intensely erotic (there, I said it) as a ballerina in an insane pursuit of perfection in Darren Aronofsky's best film yet, a berserk fusion of melodrama and body horror, the type of over-the-top material that runs the risk of falling flat on its face at every moment but somehow doesn't. The psychosexual tension, the over-the-top emotion, the literal onstage transformation in the conclusion...please don't ask me why I found it all so moving. Sometimes trying to explain something can destroy its magic. – WS

Enter the Void

The most uncompromising film yet from Gasper Noe (and this is the man who made *I Stand Alone* and *Irreversible*), *Enter the Void* is a gorgeous, hideous, neon-drenched, first-person trip straight to hell (or, in this case, the memories of a low-level drug dealer and the slums of Tokyo) that feels like a fusion of film, installation art, and one of those rides at Disneyland with rumble chairs. But, y'know, with prostitution and abortions. – WS

Exit Through the Gift Shop

This street art documentary (mockumentary?) by the artist currently known as Banksy is more than just a street art documentary. It's the entire history of an art form, from subversive beginnings to commercialism, made by an artist clearly worried about how long his outlaw reputation will be able to last with newfound mainstream exposure. And when you think about it, whether or not "Mr. Brainwash," Banksy's co-lead, is a fictional character is really beside the point. – WS

I Am Love

Visually vibrant and deeply erotic, Luca Guadagnino directs one of the most engrossing films of the year. Starring Tilda Swinton as a Russian émigré living in Milan and married into a traditional Italian family with a successful textile company, *I Am Love* weaves together a compelling tale of love, food, and family that can't be missed. – TC

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World

You don't need to like video games, manga, kung fu, anime, summer blockbusters, comic books, TV sitcoms, teen comedies, or any other gen-Y cultural detritus to love *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* – you just need to have grown up surrounded by it. It's an endlessly entertaining and inventive film that captures the spirit of Bryan Lee O'Malley's comic book series while bringing in Edgar Wright's own Tarantino-meets-Monty-Python sensibility. – WS

Shutter Island

A veritable showroom of cinematic tricks and techniques, *Shutter Island* is among this year's best psychological thrillers. Yet another product of the tried and true Scorsese-DiCaprio combo, this film is one of the few that genuinely keeps you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. – TC

The Social Network

David Fincher's take on the founding of everyone's favourite website, *The Social Network* manages to be as dark as it is manic, with superb performances from Jesse Eisenberg and Armie Hammer to boot. If you haven't seen this yet, please do — then update your status so people can comment on it. Mark Z. won't mind. – TC

Toy Story 3

If a live-action film about real people were as brutally honest about abandonment, rejection, aging, death, and the passage of time as *Toy Story 3*, it might be unwatchable. This is one of the very best Pixar movies, another one where the comic, tragic, and even action elements are perfectly modulated (no, seriously, Pixar consistently makes the best action sequences). And it will have special resonance for anyone who was Andy's age when the first *Toy Story* was released. – WS

Trigger

One of three movies directed by prolific Canadian filmmaker Bruce McDonald this year, and the last film starring Tracey Wright, *Trigger* follows two past-their-prime female ex-rockers through a Toronto night with some of the best dialogue of the year. Also, *Trigger* made the best use of Allan Gardens in a Canadian film this year (sorry *Chloe*, with your Liam Neeson handjob). – AJ

Best of Books

Books. They're intimidating. They have a lot of words, and some of them don't even have pictures. Furthermore, books lasting over 500 pages can take multiple hours, even days to read. How will you know which 2010 fiction is worth all that time you could be spending more productively making friends, or watching Internet porn? Varsity book lovers **JADE COLBERT** and **BRIGIT KATZ** are here to assist you.

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

Sometimes there are books you feel a duty to read out of fairness before passing judgment. Friends, it's a noble thought, but let me tell you: I have read *Eat, Pray, Love* for this purpose, and it wasn't worth it. Everything you think about that book is true — judge away. *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, on the other hand keeps you reading and reading — even though your subway stop was three back and you're late for work. Yes, *The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest* was the one released in Summer 2010, but *Dragon Tattoo* is by far the best book in the trilogy, and the promise it holds is why you'll slog through the other two. – JC

Super Sad True Love Story by Gary Shteyngart

I never became emotionally involved in *Super Sad*'s characters, and when you don't really care what happens to someone, it's hard to travel 300-plus pages with him. The book was entertaining enough — hey, it's not *Freedom* — but in reading some of Shteyngart's lesser prophecies, I couldn't shake the feeling that the author was making the joke just because he could — as if Shteyngart was reading over my shoulder, saying "See what I just did there?" Having just kind of slagged it, why have I included it here? The truth is, after finishing it, I've thought about this book a lot, and felt compelled to talk to a lot of people about it. The sociability of a book's ideas is a different yardstick to measure by, but often the one that counts in the end. For a satiric work that prophesies America's apocalypse, it's absolutely essential. *Super Sad* is true and scary — so it must be doing something right. – JC

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell

David Mitchell is a wonderfully skilled stylist, but what puts him in the top league of writers is that he is purposeful in building on every aspect of the novel where lazier writers might fall back on two or three and pay lip service to the rest. Plot, characterization, historical accuracy, dialogue, and setting — check. Writing in English the words of a Japanese midwife speaking Dutch as she would have spoken it in 1799 is one summersault in the air too many for most writers. Yet Mitchell seems to pull it off with such ease that we forget he's the one doing it. *Thousand Autumns* is what a novel is supposed to be. – JC

Light Lifting by Alexander Macleod

All seven stories in this Giller nominated collection of short fiction are equally riveting. Macleod skillfully captures a variety of narrative voices, but his prose really triumphs in the description of physical exertion, which is portrayed in vivid and intricate detail. Physical activity becomes intertwined with sorrow, fear, love, and hope in *Light Lifting*, and Macleod explores these emotions with remarkable sensitivity. – BK

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

Oscar is an overweight science fiction nerd, an ardent lover of women, and an absolute romantic failure. The novel initially centers on his sexual frustration, but the focus shifts to his mother and sister, who, like Oscar, suffer from an ancient family curse. Diaz blends an erudite narrative voice with Spanish, street talk, and a smattering of geek-speak. The result is a portrayal of love and identity that is at once vibrant, funny, and tragic. – BK

Great House by Nicole Krauss

Great House has none of the whimsy of Krauss' best-selling novel, *The History of Love*, but it is just as richly imagined. Krauss delicately weaves together the narrative threads of four different characters who cannot escape the sadness of their past and who are all connected by an oversized desk that comes to symbolize their pain. – BK

We'll get to them eventually: More of 2010's important reads....

Mordecai: The Life and Times by Charles Foran

Like many admirers of Mordecai Richler's fiction, I find the author himself an intriguing personality. He was beloved as a writer, but notorious for the same irreverence and caustic wit that make his characters so damn likeable. One can see how this paradox alone would provide a solid basis for a fascinating biography. – BK

Annabel by Kathleen Winter

Set in a remote village in Labrador, *Annabel* explores the life of a child who was born a hermaphrodite and raised as a boy named Wayne. Despite his parents' attempt to suppress the truth of his birth, Wayne cannot help but sense his sexual duality. *Annabel* has been nominated for a prestigious trio of Canadian awards (the Giller, Writers' Trust and Governor General's awards) and has garnered much critical acclaim for its exploration of gender and identity. – BK

Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

As a longtime vegetarian, I am probably predisposed to like *Eating Animals*, which offers an unflinching portrayal of factory farming and commercial slaughterhouses. But I'm also curious to see how Safran Foer, a brilliant and popular fiction writer, tackles this very real, very unpalatable subject. If his novels are any indication, *Eating Animals* will be a bright, well-crafted read. – BK

The Four Fingers of Death by Rick Moody

The year is 2025. Montese Crandall is hired to turn a novel out of B-movie horror schlock *The Crawling Hand*. It's supposed to be funny. *The New York Times* called it "fast-and-loose-and-ambitious-as-Pynchon" and "rock-'n'-roll-dystopian." I don't know what "rock-'n'-roll-dystopian" means, but it sounds awfully dangerous and fun. – JC

Parrot & Olivier In America by Peter Carey

It is written by Peter Carey (*Oscar and Lucinda*; *True History of the Kelly Gang*; *My Life as a Fake*; etc.). Olivier bears close resemblance to Alexis de Tocqueville. He is accompanied to America by Parrot, an English orphan and aspiring artist. Reviews have led me to believe that what ensues is a 19th-century road trip / feel-good comedy about best buds. – JC

C by Tom McCarthy

For the longest time — until I started writing this right now, actually — I've had no clue what this book is about. What I do know is that you should never trust someone who says she doesn't judge a book by its cover and I've felt this cover watching me as my back was turned every time I've stepped into a bookstore this fall. As it turns out, it's about the life of a man named Serge, who is born in 1898. Generally speaking, the book's theme is communication, or something. In its review, *The Guardian* compared McCarthy to James Joyce, and C was short-listed for the Man Booker. Not that any of that matters, because I'm going to read it anyway. – JC

"godard old moreobtuse" Thoughts on Film Socialisme

In the spirit of Jean-Luc Godard's decision to release his new film to English-speaking territories with pidgin-English subtitles ("American Navajo," according to Godard), The Varsity is proud to present the first "American Navajo" review of Film Socialisme.

Alan Jones
VARSITY STAFF

Godard old moreobtuse. Film Socialisme mostobtuse. cruise ship. many characters. discussions onpolitics. onwar onsocialism oncapitalism. static shots muchnoise. subtitles sparse why. press release navajo english. Derrida deconstruction. noequality without common tongue. subtitles never adequate. learn French. Grande isgrand. isbig isgreat isgood. I no know French. cruise ship. many characters. old man fedora. young woman. discuss Moscow Komintern revolution. old man weirdbeard. young woman black. discuss war north Africa allied. photographer cool hair. discuss Jews Arabs Hollywood. Palestine Israel. Barcelona Odessa. cruise ship. casino disco bar consumers. capitalism.

next part. gas station llama Balzac. Young woman ornery. damn Germans. camera crew. camera woman black. evening news. child 20-year-old other woman. more discussions. silent montage. war films news ominous voiceover. end of democracy. maybe. noisy montage. what happens. noidea. boredom confusion etc. everyone complains. others enjoy pretense. Godard was great. is Godard great. GodardisGodard. roseisroseisrose. wariswar. filmisfilm. Socialismissocialism. FilmSocialismeisFilm Socialisme.



This man doesn't know what Film Socialisme was about either.

The ten dollar wine-snob

What The Varsity's drinking this week

by ANDREW RUSK

Peller Estates French Cross Sparkling Wine
$8.95 at the LCBO

Secret Santa at The Varsity's holiday party this year was really special. One of our Associate Arts Editors, Ariel Lewis, gave me two etched glasses reading "The Varsity Wine Snob." Once I got over the initial speechlessness of receiving such an epic Secret Santa gift, I tried to express thanks for such a thoughtful gesture. In hindsight I should have stopped what I was doing, run to the LCBO, and purchased a bottle of champagne.

The shape of the bottle, the sensuous pop of the cork, and the voluptuous sweetness amongst bubbles all make champagne a ballin' drink. The only difference between sparkling wine and champagne is that the later is produced in a specific region of France. Instead of splurging, settle for a good quality, low cost sparkling wine, such as the Peller Estates French Cross Sparkling Wine. It's delicious.

Stay tuned, as next week I will provide three tips to making the most of your champagne experience!

My Top 5 Resolutions for 2011

1 - Conquer my fear of public speaking

2 - Learn to play the Ukulele like Ryan Gosling

3 - Learn to cook

4 - Make a video and have it go viral on YouTube

5 - Meet new people

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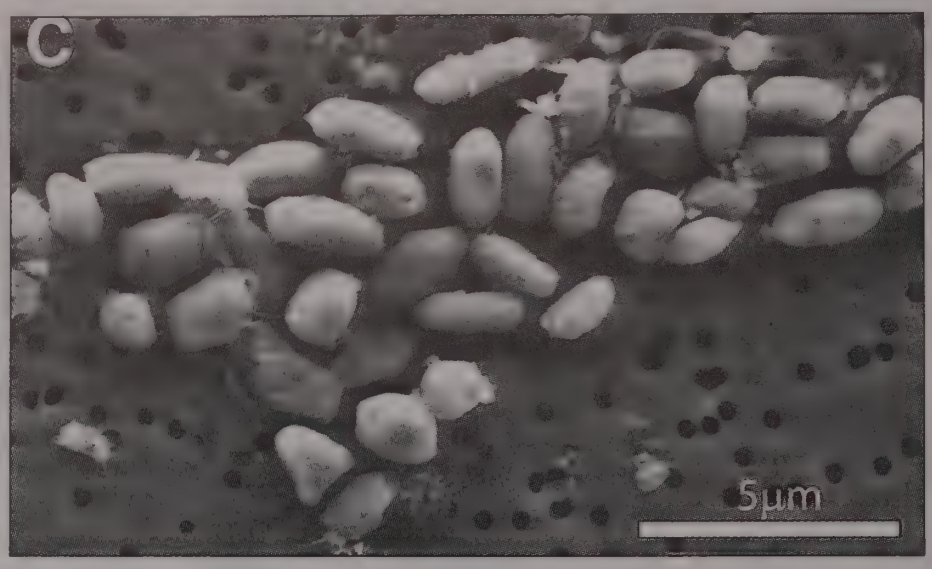
New life! Nevermind, not really.

NASA's discovery of a new life form isn't exactly what people said it was

Deborah Chan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Last December, NASA announced the discovery of a new life form. But remember how it then turned out that the "new life form" was actually here on earth, and it was just a type of bacterium? Then it arose that the bacterium hadn't even evolved in the natural world — it had been selected for in an artificial lab setting. And then it turned out that there wasn't even any concrete evidence that arsenic had actually replaced phosphorous in the bacterium's DNA, as NASA had claimed?

Well, I don't remember. And unfortunately, most people don't either. So in an attempt to set the story straight, The Varsity embarked on four interviews with U of T experts, who each tell a different story. What exactly did go down at Mono Lake? And does this finding have actual implications for life on other planets?



This bacterium from Mono Lake made sparks fly this December when NASA announced the discovery of a new life form.

HARALD PFEIFFER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, U OF T'S DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS AND THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL ASTROPHYSICS

THE VARSITY: *According to NASA's website, Wolfe-Simon's finding of the bacterium that can live in — and, hypothetically, can incorporate into its DNA — high levels of arsenic, "will alter biology textbooks and expand the scope of the search for life beyond Earth." Do you agree? Or is this just press release hyperbole?*

HP: It sounds like press release hyperbole to me.

TV: *NYU chemistry professor Robert Shapiro told Salon.com that the discovery of this new strain of bacterium has implications for our search for extraterrestrial life. He says that we should broaden our searches beyond our existing genetic assumptions. Specifically, he told Salon that NASA should shift attention from Europa, a moon of Jupiter, to Titan, a moon of Saturn. What are your thoughts?*

HP: In either case, I wouldn't expect complex life. At best, you might find bacteria. This is because another prerequisite for life [besides the assumed prerequisite of carbon, phosphorus, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and sulfur] is a temperature gradient, an energy gradient. You need a gradient of hot to cold, of light to dark, to exploit energy. On Earth, these gradients are caused by the Sun. But Titan and Europa are very far away from the Sun.

We think that the bottom of Europa's ocean may have volcanic vents with enough heat to sustain life, but this liquid ocean is one hundred miles down below the surface [which is a thick layer of ice], and the volcanic vents are probably isolated. Finding that would be nearly impossible.

I would agree that Titan would be a better place to find life than Europa. Titan is cold, but it has a bigger sludge of chemicals. But to find complex life, neither moon would be good. I am much more excited about extrasolar planets.

TV: *Why?*

HP: Well, we discovered the first extrasolar planet in 1995, and over the last five to 10 years, we have been finding many, like over five hundred. Now, all of these planets are more massive than Earth, because heavier planets are easier to find, and closer to their star than Earth is to the Sun, because a planet with an orbit is easier to find — we don't have to wait once a year. But it is essentially a matter of years before technology so improves that Earth-like planets are found.

TV: *Are any of those five hundred extrasolar planets likely to harbour life?*

HP: No; most of them are probably too hot.

TV: *Gizmodo reported that scientists in California recently discovered that there are three times as many red dwarf stars in the universe as we previously thought. According to the Gizmodo article, this would add a factor of three to the Drake Equation, tripling our chances of making contact with intelligent extra-terrestrial life. Is this actually the case?*

HP: Just multiplying our chances by three is too simplistic, in my humble opinion. Because those red dwarves are much smaller stars than the sun. Now, just because a star is smaller — it still has a habitable zone, but the planets would have to be much closer to their star. And the distance between the red dwarves and their [hypothetical] planets is simply not known.

Still, overall, we have good reason to believe that higher life forms [than bacteria] exist elsewhere in the universe.

ASHER CUTTER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AND CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN EVOLUTIONARY GENOMICS

TV: *Explain in depth your thoughts on the NASA finding.*

AC: It's a testament to natural selection's power to exploit extreme conditions. But remember that this is something that's distinct from an independent origin of life, which would be structured in different ways using different biochemistry. This [bacterium] started in the same place, and evolution led to a different solution to its environment.

TV: *Would this bacterium be poisonous to ingest?*

AC: I can say with confidence that if you eat enough of anything you will die. Also, talk to a toxicologist. This is a slightly complex question. Remember that there are already plenty of bacteria [that have regular phosophate bonds instead of arsenate bonds] that kill you because they're pathogenic.

GEOFF FUCILE

PHD, CELL AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

TV: *Please explain in depth your thoughts on the NASA finding.*

GF: Well, they haven't actually shown that living biological molecules can live with arsenic in place of phosphorus. Phosphorus is essential to life. For example, it constitutes DNA's sugar-phosphate backbone. Also, phosphate is an important component for regulation in many cellular processes. Signal transduction (how cells communicate with each other) uses an enzyme called kinase, which takes a piece of phosphate from ATP [which are like our bodies' little batteries] and sticks it on another protein, for example. This can regulate the activity of proteins. This is just one of the important ways that information is propagated within and between cells.

TV: *Do you believe that a living organism could actually have, say, a sugar-arsenate backbone in its DNA, or ATA instead of ATP?*

GF: I don't think so. [To prove that they have actually discovered a bacterium with these qualities] would require proof, like some kind of crystal structure from the biological molecules to actually show that they incorporated the arsenic.

It's important to remember that this was a selective evolutionary study, so they acclimatized the bacteria. What they actually found was bacteria that lived in a low-phosphate environment. That's legitimate. Then they took it into a lab and acclimatized it to lower and lower phosphate. So that new strain of bacteria was actually evolved in the lab and not found in a natural environment. Still, it is very surprising that the new strain could live in such a low-phosphate environment.

DAVID GUTTMAN

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF CELL AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

DG: [On Fucile's comments] Good point. They need to do finer-scale biochemical characterization to find out where exactly the arsenic is being incorporated. It isn't clear whether this is super exciting or no big deal because, for bacteria, if they have the general ability to carry out a biochemical process or to grow on a specific substrate, it's generally very easy to select derived strains that can do it better, and that's really what they did here. The question is whether arsenate has actually taken over the role of phosphate.

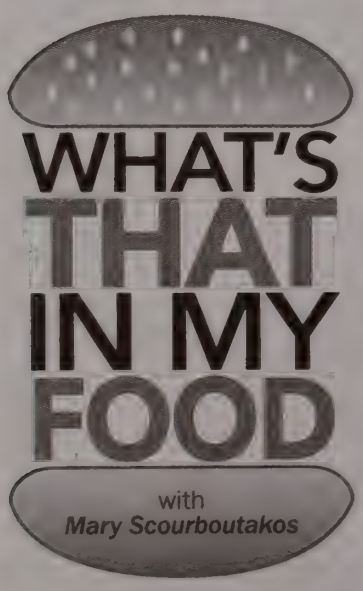
TV: *Would this be possible to prove?*

DG: Yes, probably with some x-ray crystallography.

TV: *So why haven't they already done this?*

DG: ...Because they wanted to get the paper published before the ink dried?

Experimental evolution is done in hundreds of labs. The key is: if it did make this substitution, then that would be extremely interesting. But the bug still prefers to use phosphate over arsenic, so it has not given up its ancestral abilities.



Hydrolyzed vegetable protein!

You might not have heard of hydrolyzed vegetable protein, but you've surely heard of its villainous cousin, monosodium glutamate — or MSG — the culprit behind the so-called "Chinese restaurant syndrome." The Japanese have been using MSG, derived from seaweed, for thousands of years, and it is the third most prevalent flavour enhancer in the world after salt and pepper.

MSG has been in the media for decades because of its associated side effects, including feelings of numbness, tingling, headaches, and heart palpitations. Though it is debatable, some believe it is neurotoxic — in other words, it may be poisonous to nerves and neurons.

In addition to these common criticisms, a 2008 study published in the journal *Obesity* illustrated that MSG may also be a contributor to obesity, due to its effects on leptin resistance. Leptin is a hormone that regulates appetite and metabolism. It acts primarily as an appetite suppressant, and therefore any substance that inhibits leptin will increase food intake, creating a risk for obesity. Whether or not MSG is responsible for these side effects, the public's concern has prompted many restaurants to advertise "no MSG." However, this claim does not necessarily mean that you are not consuming one of MSG's many close relatives — such as hydrolyzed plant protein, hydrolyzed soy protein, autolyzed yeast extract, or the previously mentioned hydrolyzed vegetable protein — on a daily basis since these ingredients are virtually inescapable in today's food system, and produce the same potentially harmful effects associated with MSG.

The common factor among this family of ingredients is the presence of an amino acid called glutamic acid, or glutamate, depending on its form. Glutamate is a flavour enhancer because of the carboxylic acid group it possesses, which stimulates a specific taste receptor on the tongue. This receptor is responsible for detecting the umami taste, which was discovered in Japan in 1908, and is considered the fifth taste, alongside salty, sweet, sour, and bitter.

Glutamate imparts flavour to many foods. It is present in the protein component of parmesan cheese, eggs, salmon, chicken, beef, and pork, and is responsible for their savoury taste. However, when glutamate is found in MSG or hydrolyzed vegetable protein, it is in its free form, thus enabling its potential negative side effects.

MSG and its relatives are everywhere. They're most commonly found in flavoured potato chips, frozen dinners, canned soups, and canned meats. Many restaurant chains deceptively use ingredients like hydrolyzed plant protein, which is found in Big Mac sauce and many of its chicken products. For decades, MSG was an important ingredient in baby food, but fortunately this is no longer the case.

TRUE FACT
Science is amazing.
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Four tech trends to watch for this year

by TOM CARDOSO



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

MOBILE WALLETS

Imagine this: you're about to walk into a subway station, but realize you have no money on you. And they don't take credit or debit! No problem. Just wave your phone at a sensor and you are electronically billed for the fare. Surprisingly, this technology has been around for quite a while, and is actually very popular in countries like Japan, where one can buy anything from McDonald's burgers to train passes with the simple wave of a cellphone. In Europe and the Americas, adoption of such Near Field Communication technology has been slow, but Apple might provide just the catalyst we need: the iPhone 5, likely to be announced in June, is rumoured to be NFC-enabled. Don't expect to be buying a latte with your cellphone by the end of the year, though. Adoption will be slow, and it will likely be several years before NFC becomes as standard as credit card chip technology is today.

STREAMING AND THE CLOUD

Last year was a huge year for cloud computing, but 2011 is poised to be even bigger. As information is increasingly stored on Internet servers around the world ("the cloud") instead of personal computers, the need to carry all of your data with you is diminishing. Instead, you are able to simply connect to an Internet-based service and access it that way. Along with online-only apps and other cloud-based services, this means 2011 will be a big year for streaming. By the end of 2011, expect to be able to stream television and movies straight to your Internet-enabled device, be it your phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. Music streaming, though a bit trickier due to legal complications, also seems poised to make a big impression this year. Why else would Apple sink over one billion dollars into one of the largest server farms ever built? An iTunes music streaming service, that's why.

LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

Foursquare, Gowalla, and Facebook Places have all made great progress in 2010 but, in 2011, location-based services will really come into their own. As more people carry GPS-enabled cellphones, location-based services are set to become a key part of the social media experience. Look no further than Facebook Places and the recent tie-in feature, Facebook Deals, where businesses can offer special deals or discounts for checking into a location on Facebook Places. The check-in, and thus the deal, then gets broadcast on news feeds for all to see. It's essentially user-driven social media advertising. With Foursquare and Gowalla offering similar features, expect to see businesses start to flock to location-based services in 2011. We will also see an increasing movement towards an open, integrated location service database. In other words, Facebook Places, Gowalla, Foursquare and any other location-based service will "play nice" and pull from the same database, which would in turn allow for tighter integration between the different social media services.

INTERNET PRIVACY AND CYBERWAR

We've already gotten a taste of this with the WikiLeaks US diplomatic cable debacle, but expect much more in the coming year. As people continue to put more and more of themselves online, questions of privacy and what should (and shouldn't) be monitored will become increasingly relevant. In November and December we saw "hacktivists" attacking institutions such as MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal as a backlash against the hard line they had taken on WikiLeaks. This year, expect to see a lot more of this, as net neutrality (the idea that the Internet should be open and its information unregulated by governments and service providers) begins to be disputed by internet service providers, governments, and end users. As this occurs, expect cyberwar to take on new meaning, as different parties scramble to fight over the future of the internet as we know it.

Fringe science: precognition

Prestigious Cornell scientist to publish first peer-reviewed evidence of humans' ability to predict the future

Ken Euler
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

How convenient would it be to take a peek into next week? One could check the Lotto numbers to guarantee a jackpot win, or more philanthropically prepare for disastrous events such as 9/11 or the Haitian earthquake. This purported ability is known as precognition, and is defined as the ability to obtain information about future events through extrasensory mechanisms not currently understood within the conventional scientific framework.

Often relegated to science fiction, precognition has been studied — albeit controversially — in labs since the 1920s, using everything from basic card games to sophisticated equipment to measure physical arousal, like galvanic skin response sensors.

Most recently, sparks have been flying in the scientific community as a result of the upcoming publication of Dr. Daryl Bem's new precognition article. It is controversial both because Bem is a highly respected and successful social psychologist from Cornell University, and because it is being published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* — one of the American Psychological Association's flagship journals.

Bem's article, titled "Feeling the Future: Experimental Evidence for Anomalous Retroactive Influences on Cognition and Affect," lays out nine new computer-controlled experiments that he claims can, under controlled conditions, reliably demonstrate the effect of precognition.

By employing experimental designs that draw on common psychological effects, such as approach behaviors (people are drawn to rewarding types of stimuli versus non-rewarding stimuli) among other psychological effects like avoidance and habituation, Bem designed experiments that could detect precognition through the deception of his participants.

For instance, Bem's first experiment forced participants to find a picture, which was randomly selected as either rewarding or non-rewarding, by determining whether it was hiding behind one of two curtains on a computer screen. From the participants' perspective, they thought the experiment was testing for clairvoyance (gaining information about the world through extrasensory perceptions), but the computer program did not randomly determine where the picture was located until after the participants had already made their selection.

... there are no known mechanisms to explain precognition, and the current scientific framework is very powerful at explaining the world.

By hypothesizing that it would be evolutionarily advantageous to be able to anticipate the location of rewarding stimuli — in this case, explicitly erotic pictures — versus non-rewarding stimuli, like a picture of a park, Bem thought that participants would be more successful at identifying the future location of rewarding pictures versus the future location of non-rewarding pictures.

If precognition does not exist, hit-rates for both types of pictures is expected to be 50 per cent: participants have a 1 in 2 chance of guessing the correct answer. Following 100 participants each doing 36 trials, the results of the study revealed that hit-rates for rewarding pictures were significantly different from chance, at 53 per cent, whereas the hit-rate for non-rewarding pictures was not significant from chance (49.8 per cent), suggesting that there is some preliminary evidence for precognition. In addition, out of the nine unique experiments that Bem ran, eight of them were independently significant, providing corroborating evidence that precognition can be observed under different circumstances.

As there are no known mechanisms to explain precognition, and the current scientific framework is very powerful at explaining the world — which is exhibited by the sophisticated technologies that have been derived from it — the correct scientific response to such controversial findings is skepticism. If the effect is valid, it should be replicable by other scientists. Bem anticipated this criticism, and openly offered the computer programs he developed to skeptics, in hopes that they too could independently replicate his findings.

As Bem's paper has yet to be published (it is slated for a 2011 release), there has been little time for replications to take place. Thus far, three attempts have been officially registered for a future meta-analysis that will pool all results. In December 2011, Richard Wiseman, a psychologist and skeptic, will conduct the analysis to determine whether Bem's findings are indeed independently replicable.

Until then, the verdict is out on precognition. I'm not making any predictions!



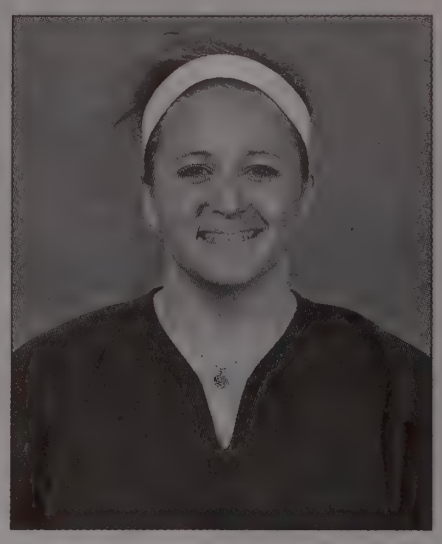
Participants were able to predict whether rewarding images (in this case, pornography) would appear at rates higher than chance level.

My New Year's Resolution

Check out what the Varsity Blues are planning for 2011



***Name*: Lisa English**
***Sport*: Women's Soccer Team**
***Resolution*:** Maintain an equal balance between academic, soccer, and extra-curricular activities. My goal is to exceed expectations of a Toronto varsity athlete on all levels.



***Name*: Darby Smith**
***Sport*: Women's Hockey**
***Resolution*:** Don't worry about the little things that are out of my control and be kind to people in any situation.



***Name*: Federico Vaccaro**
***Sport*: Men's Soccer**
***Resolution*:** Start working on my beach body at the gym: no more McDonald's, Burger King or any type of fast food whatsoever. Finish off the semester with an 80 per cent average and begin preparing intensively for my LSATs.



***Name*: Anthony De Giorgio**
***Sport*: Men's Basketball**
***Resolution*:** Lead the CIS in assists per game and try foods that I dislike.



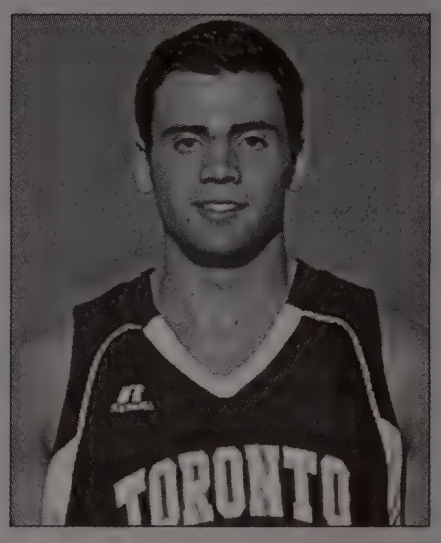
***Name*: George Gretes**
***Sport*: Football**
***Resolution*:** Get faster so that we can win a Vanier Cup.



***Name*: Darragh McGee**
***Sport*: Men's Soccer**
***Resolution*:** Take up yoga to develop the flexibility of U of T Goalkeeper Russell Moore. Focus a little more attention on the student dimension of being a student-athlete.



***Name*: Danielle Ridout**
***Sport*: Fastpitch**
***Resolution*:** Worry less and enjoy life more!



***Name*: Alex Hill**
***Sport*: Men's Basketball**
***Resolution*:** To make 100 three-pointers every day of the week.

PHOTOS COURTESY VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE

A good sport

World Juniors, anyone?

The U-20 is good hockey, but it's not worth getting so riled up about

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

As far as hockey collapses go, the five-goal-third-period-meltdown game between Canada and Russia in the gold medal game of the World Juniors will be remembered for a long time, but only in a very narrow context, and only by a small group of people.

See, for as much as we Canadians were following the tournament and the gold medal game closely, it's tough to believe that anyone else anywhere in the world was paying much attention, or even cared.

That doesn't make Wednesday's loss hurt any less for the 18-year-old kids who have probably never played in a bigger game than that one, but it does provide some important context for a nation that so heavily relies on hockey for its collective sense of identity. Because of this, that last Wednesday's outcome seemed a national crisis.

The tournament was in Buffalo, and the attendance was about 80 per cent Canadian. When Minnesota hosted in 2005, it was a Canadian invasion as well, but from the prairie provinces. Each time the tournament is hosted outside of an easy driving distance from Canada, attendance is dramatically lower.

Not a lot of people outside of the players, their immediate families, and the Hockey Canada officials who assembled the team should care. Sure, Russia will know they beat us (and badly), but outside of that, it's tough to point to a future international hockey event where the context will be Canada's epic collapse against Russia.

The New York Times ran an article before the Canada-US semi-final which gave the tournament the highest-profile coverage it's likely to get in the US. The article explained very basic concepts and rivalries to a readership that doesn't know anything about the World Juniors. It wasn't exactly a substantive hockey analysis.

None of us know the outcome of the international U-17 tournament, so it's tough to fathom why the U-20 tournament is such a big deal. Granted, it has older players and probably better hockey, but is that alone really enough to whip us into near-Olympic level frenzy? I don't think it should be.

The tournament certainly has its advantages. If you're truly obsessed with hockey, seeing the best young players in the world at the same time makes the tourney well worth it. It also serves its purpose if you're just looking to go eat some wings, drink some beer, and then play the slots across the border, all while draped in the Canadian flag.

But if you're a patriotic Canadian citizen and hockey fan living and dying with every shot in this tournament thinking it holds some kind of great consequence? Pinch yourself.

All hail Roberto Alomar!

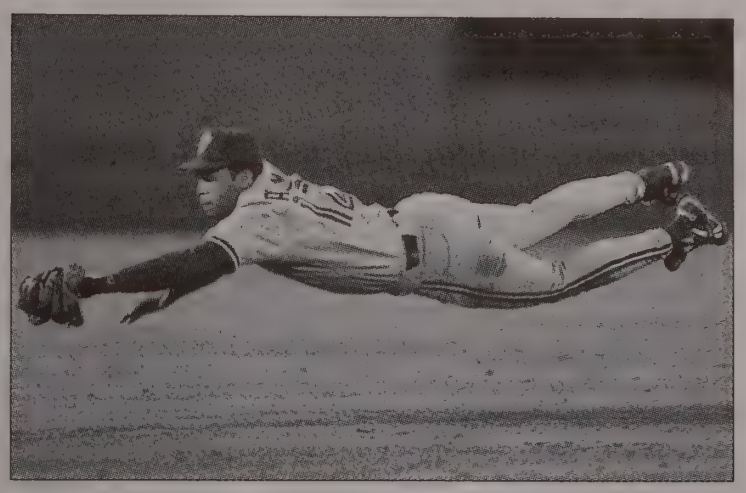
In his blog ***The Extra Inning,*** SILVIO SANSANO *discusses the election of the former Blue Jay into the Baseball Hall of Fame*

On Wednesday afternoon, Roberto Alomar, one of the greatest players to ever put on a Blue Jays uniform, was finally elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Alomar will most likely become the first inductee entering Cooperstown as a Toronto Blue Jay.

There is no denying that Alomar had a remarkable career as a baseball player. Alomar, alongside Joe Carter, was acquired by the Blue Jays in a blockbuster deal on December 5, 1990 which sent Tony Fernandez and Fred McGriff to San Diego.

He won a record 10 gold gloves at second base for his incredible defence and also helped the Toronto Blue Jays win back-to-back World Series in 1992 and 1993. Alomar will be remembered for his post-season heroics in the 1992 American League Championship Series, in which he hit a two-run ninth inning shot off Oakland Athletic's closer and Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley and tied the game 6-6. Toronto eventually went on to win the game 7-6, taking a 3-1 lead in the series.

Alomar played 17 seasons in the Majors, spending five of them with Toronto, three each with the San Diego Padres, Cleveland Indians, and Baltimore Orioles, two each with the Chicago White Sox and New York Mets, and one season with Arizona Diamondbacks.



With a career spanning over two decades, Roberto Alomar has been elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 2,379 games played, Alomar collected 2,724 hits, 210 home runs, 1134 RBI, 1508 runs scored, and 474 stolen bases. Alomar had a .300 career batting average, .371 career on-base percentage, .443 career slugging percentage, and an .814 career OPS.

Alomar was named on 90 per cent of the ballots this year, which are cast by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The twelve-time All-Star second baseman joins former Minnesota Twins pitcher Bert Blyleven as the two selections part of the Class for 2011. Long-time executive and former Jays General Manager Pat Gillick will be inducted into the Hall of Fame alongside Alomar on July 24. Gillick was picked last month by the Veterans Committee.

Alomar missed being elected to the Hall of Fame a year ago, falling eight votes shy. It was a complete stunner that left fans wondering why he was shafted.

The only explanation is probably due to the infamous incident on September 27, 1996 in which Alomar spat in the face of home-plate umpire John Hirschbeck.

Then in February 2009, Alomar's personal life went up in smoke when was sued for $15 million by his ex-girlfriend, who claimed that Alomar had unprotected sex with her even though he knew at the time that he was HIV-positive.

But it's not like other Hall of Famers such as Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, and Ty Cobb were saints back in the day. Alomar should have made the Hall of Fame his first time around considering how great he was. One could even go so far as to make the argument that he is the perfect definition of a baseball player.

Defensively, Alomar was incredible. He made jump throws, flipping the ball, and turning doubles plays all look easy. Offensively, he was just as outstanding. He had the ability to hit anywhere in the lineup, was able to swing for the fences, hit the ball all over the field for doubles or triples, drag bunt, and take a walk. He could beat anyone on the bases as he was a smart base-runner, and a terrific base-stealer. Alomar was a catalyst of the fake steal, the head-first slide, and was one of the only players to slide head-first into first base. He was the complete player.

To be honest, I don't think there is a modern player who you could associate Alomar with. That's how unique and original he was.

Alomar was the inventor of second base and he changed the way the position was played. He was an incredible athlete to watch during his career. Every baseball fan fully appreciated the way he played the game.

For more from Silvio and the other Varsity bloggers, check out http://thevarsity.ca/blogs/

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TOP 10 2010

DANIEL TSIOKOS *counts down the best Varsity Blues moments of the past year*

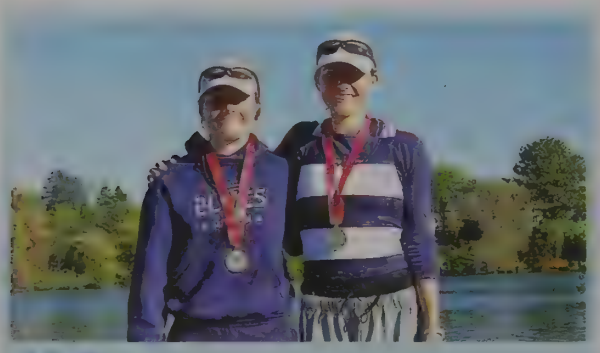
PHOTOS COURTESY VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE



#10

Alex Hill dunks on Bishop's

Friday, October 29, 2010 – Yes, this was during a preseason game, but it still doesn't take away from the fact that this thunderous slam actually made it on to The Score's Court Cuts segment. Grabbing the rebound in his own end, Alex Hill dribbled coast to coast and threw down on two unsuspecting Bishop Gaiters, complete with a stare down after the posterizing.



#9

Women's Rowing at OUA Championship

Sunday, October 31, 2010 – Jen and Kate Sauks earned a gold medal in the lightweight doubles with a time of 7:53.7. The sisters did not stop there, however, as they also contributed to the heavyweight eight bronze medal later on that day. Alana Komisar picked up a silver medal in the single with a time of 8:04.1, and Claire Hutchison and Elise Mackie also silvered in the heavyweight doubles with a time of 7:31.1. Komisar, Hutchison, and Mackie also participated in the heavyweight eight.

#8

Rob Paris nets record 46 points versus York

Saturday, January 23, 2010 – Blues guard Rob Paris was absolutely on fire when they visited the Lions. He shot a sizzling 58 per cent from the field, including seven three-pointers, on his way to a U of T record 46 points. Oh yes, and the Blues won the game, 87–84.

#7

Women's Volleyball wins OUA Championship

Saturday, February 27, 2010 – After finishing the regular season on top of the OUA East standings by winning nine of their last games, the Blues found themselves in the OUA Finals against top-ranked McMaster. For the Blues, it was an opportunity for revenge as they lost the OUA Finals to McMaster in 2008. This time, the Blues were led by OUA player of the year and first team All-Canadian Heather Bansley, OUA East libero of the year Michelle Wood, and OUA second team player Karlee Diesing. Toronto swept the Marauders 3-0 and took the title, inspired by the play of their leaders. Wood had 18 digs and was awarded player of the match and tournament MVP, Diesing had a match-high 16 kills, and Bansley was all over the stat sheet with 10 kills, two aces, and 19 digs.

#6

Nick Magalas and Rob Paris reach 1000-point mark

January 16 & 23, 2010 – On January 16, Nick Magalas scored 33 points as he eclipsed the 1,000-point milestone in his Blues basketball career against the Carleton Ravens. Magalas became the fifth player in U of T history to pass the 1,000- point mark. The following week, on January 23, Rob Paris also surpassed 1,000 points. Currently, Paris and Magalas sit third and fourth all-time, respectively.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

#5

Men's Soccer wins OUA Championship

Sunday, November 7, 2010 – It was a clash between the OUA East and West champions, and turned out to be a thriller. Blues goalkeeper and player of the match John Smits was outstanding protecting his net, making a key save on York's Adrian Pena's penalty shot in the 37th minute. With the score 0–0, the game went to a shootout, where Smits held his ground, making saves in the first, fifth, and sixth rounds as Darragh McGee converted the winning goal in the sixth round as Toronto took the title.



#4

Women's Field Hockey wins CIS Championship

Sunday, November 7, 2010 – Despite being on the losing end of a 3–2 decision in the OUA Finals against Guelph, the Blues were still confident that they could succeed at the CIS Championship, and they did just that. Toronto took on defending champions UBC and came out with a 2–1 victory, thanks to a late goal by Katherine McNeill. Her goal off of a rebound with four minutes to play gave the Blues the lead and deflated a pressing Thunderbirds team. Toronto went undefeated in the tournament on their way to their 11th CIS title, tying them with the University of Victoria for the second most tournament wins all-time, one behind UBC.

#3

Women's Track and Field wins two gold medals

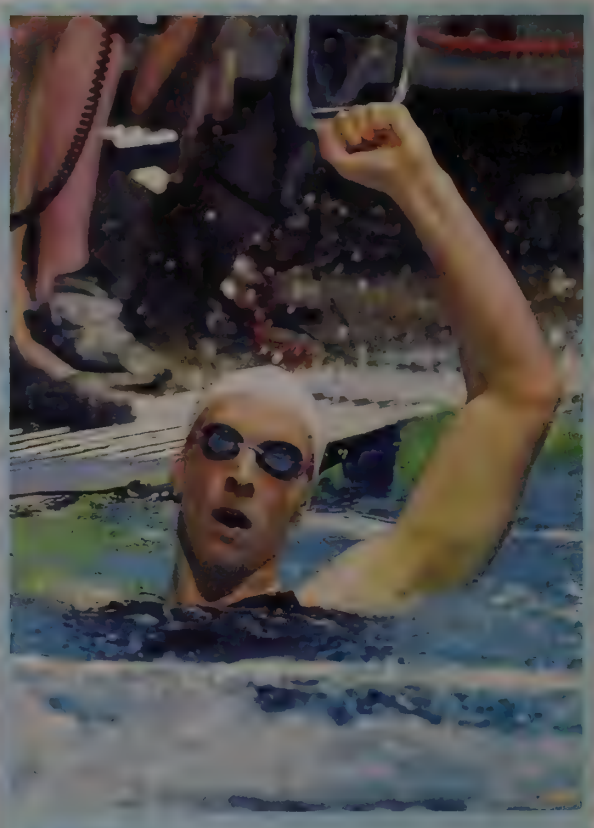
Saturday, March 13, 2010 – Day 3 of the CIS Track and Field Championship was doubly successful for U of T, as the Blues saw two of their competitors win gold in their respective events. Sarah Boyle, last year's gold medalist, repeated this year in the high jump with a jump of 1.80 metres, slightly better than her 2009 performance. Megan Brown finished at the top of the podium in the 1500-metre race with a season-best time of 4:23.27, adding to her pair of silver medals won the day before, one in the 1000-metre race and the other in the 3000-metre race.



#2

Men's Football upsets #2 Ottawa

Saturday, October 2, 2010 – Rookie running back Aaron Milton probably would have the Blues play of the year with his U of T record-tying 105-yard touchdown run, but the reason Blues football made this list is because of who it was against. The Blues stunned the CIS with a 40-35 win over the second-ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees, the first time the Blues have beaten a ranked opponent since they defeated Waterloo in 1997. The Blues had not beaten Ottawa since 1972.



#1

Russell earns seven medals at CIS Championship

February 19-21, 2010 – Colin Russell absolutely dominated at the national championships, earning seven medals in seven events. Russell picked up three individual gold medals, two relay golds, an individual silver, and a relay silver over the weekend. He also broke his own CIS record in the 50-metre freestyle, set in 2009, with a time of 21.73 seconds. Russell was awarded CIS male swimmer of the year for the performance.

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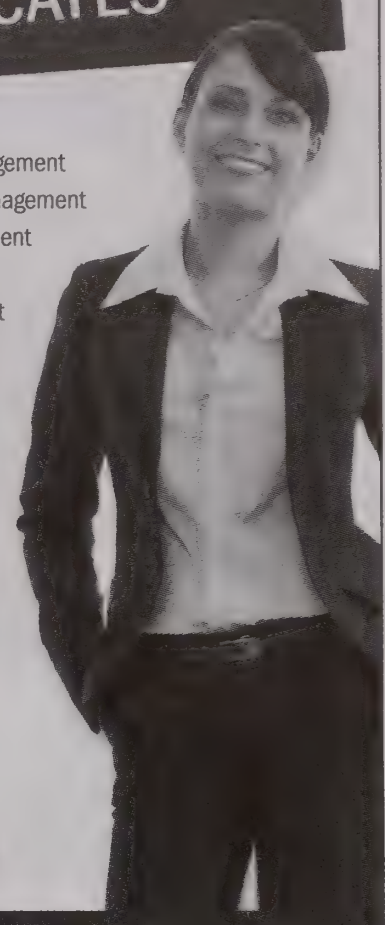
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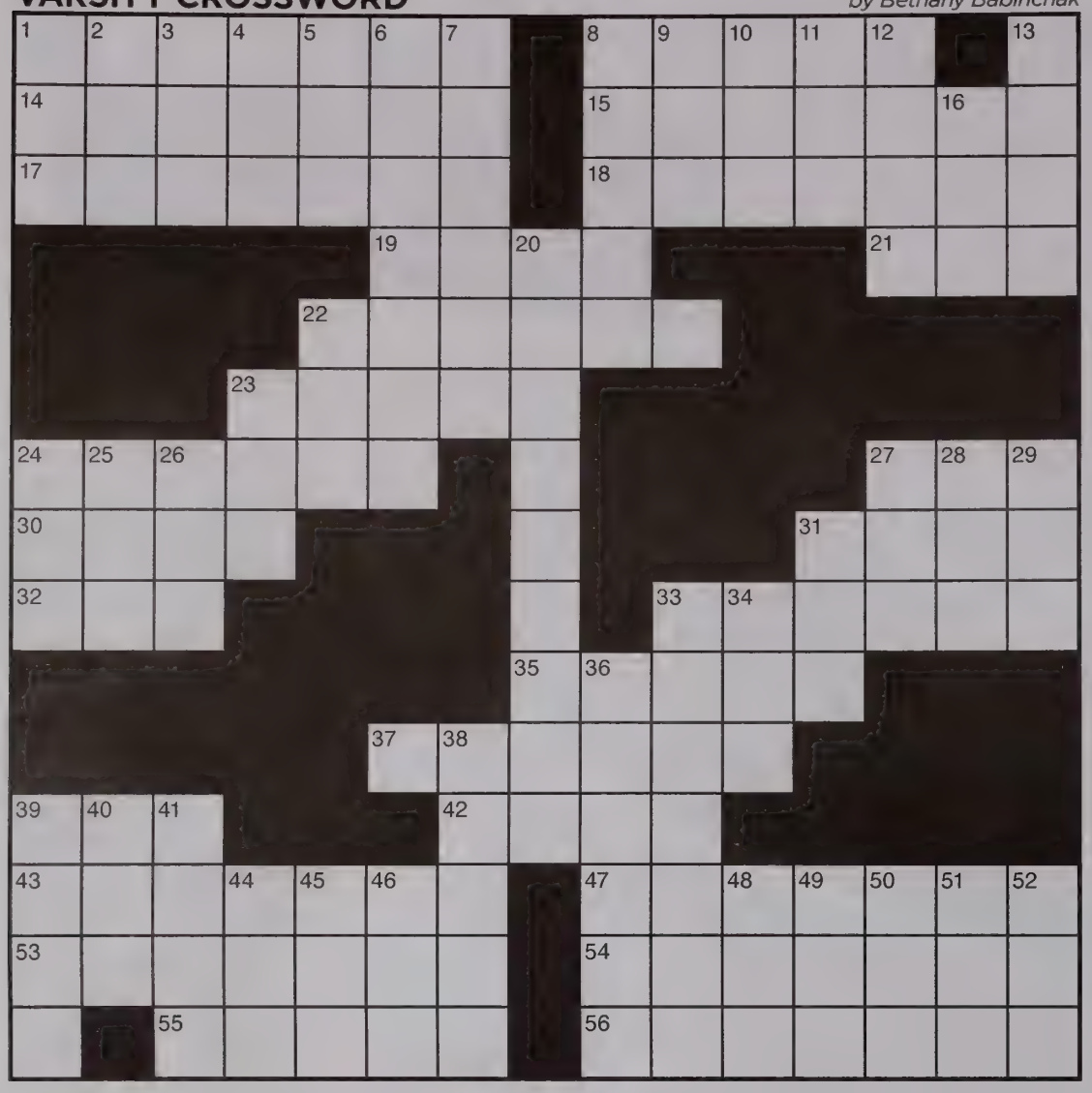
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VARSITY CROSSWORD

by Bethany Babinchak



ACROSS

1. Stupidity
8. Former Egyptian President Anwar
14. Record label money grab, maybe
15. Cambodian's neighbor
17. Cooked sugar
18. Hot cereal
19. Big fat slice
21. Retiring
22. Ukranian port city
23. Flies high
24. Wet and icy
27. Ship designator
30. Hudson or Winslet
31. NFB classic 'The Big ___'
32. Amazement
33. 'Go big or ___'
35. 'Hearts beat ___'
37. Eschew clothes
39. Mex. lady
42. Syntax/semantic language and selangor sign language
43. Supernaturally sweet
47. Help to the car
53. Andalusian capital
54. Makes appealing
55. Late-80s 'Who Framed ___ Rabbit?'
56. Ethnic group in Southern Africa

DOWN

1. Early file-sharing tech.
2. Funding body commonly targeted by US cons
3. Tire filler
4. Casual sexual rel.
5. Suffix with Hindu or Liberal
6. '___'s Child is Full of Grace'
7. Old dog of fiction and film
8. Messy oafs
9. Minor hockey level
10. Web address punctuation
11. Right now, on the net
12. Binds
13. Sole
16. With 22-down, what you might hear at a fireworks show
20. AKA Chaldean's
22. See 16-down
23. Wind dir.
24. Precursor to punk and reggae
25. Subject LSAT tests you for
26. Mative of Utah
27. Parented card game
28. Phone card
29. Prefix on many PQ towns' names
31. The lady
33. Divine assistance
34. First number
36. Moody
37. Well-known grouch
39. Herb commonly used in stuffing
40. Soldier's time off
41. Vegetarian Jell-O
44. Byrne's recent musical collaboration
45. Delay
46. Common chemical suffix
48. Summer drink
49. Gal at a cotillion
50. Otoacoustic emission
51. Web add.
52. Half of a tropical fly

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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Chaosmos: Dong-Won Kim's Musical Journey

U of T is proud to present Korean traditional singer and percussionist Dong-Won Kim in this concert. Dong-Won Kim has been World Music Artist-in-Residence at U of T. This concert concludes his semester-long residence and brings together all of the groups he has been teaching and collaborations he has initiated.

- *January 14th at 7:30 p.m.*
- *MacMillan Theatre (80 Queen's Park)*
- *Free!*

FILMS:

Film Screening and Lecture at the East Asian Library

Keith Lock, a renowned Chinese-Canadian director and producer, will screen and speak about several of his films, including his recently completed feature film *The Ache*. He will be using short excerpts from other films to illustrate some of the issues and challenges of filmmakers when telling stories about the Chinese in Canada.

- *January 19th at 2:30 p.m.*
- *Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library Room 8049, Robarts Library (130 St. George St.)*
- *Free (RSVP to lucy.gan@utoronto.ca)*

OFF CAMPUS:

EXHIBITS:

100 Years of Women's College Hospital: A Photography Exhibition

A Women's College Hospital archival photo exhibition documenting 100 years of some of the most important moments and milestones in women's health. Get acquainted with history as they unveil the most compelling photos depicting the evolution of women's health; the pioneers, the medical breakthroughs, and the nurses, physicians, scientists, and volunteers who made it all possible.

- *January 10th until January 23rd*
- *Allen Lambert Galleria in Brookfield Place (181 Bay St.)*
- *Free!*

Live Long and Prosper

Sorry, *Star Trek* fans. This is an exhibit of 18th and 19th century Japanese Ukiyo-e (the only truly indigenous art style of Japan) woodblock prints using symbols of longevity, such as turtles, cranes, and pine trees. It will be on at the Japan Foundation until March 5th. Check the website for the gallery hours.

- *On till March 5th*
- *The Japan Foundation (131 Bloor St. West Suite 213)*
- *Free!*

Mary Pickford and The Invention of the Movie Star

This free exhibition explores the life and work of Canada's silent cinema star Mary Pickford, one of the first actors to use her stardom to cross over into writing, directing, producing and celebrity branding. The show includes photographs, posters, and memorabilia as well as screenings of some of Pickford's films.

- *Starts January 13th, runs till July 3rd*
- *TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King St. West)*
- *Free!*

FESTIVALS:

Next Stage Theatre Festival

The Next Stage Theatre Festival is Toronto Fringe's winter theatre event, now in its fourth year, featuring eight local and international productions of new and reworked plays by successful Fringe artists. Running until January 16th, all tickets are a maximum of $15, and you should check the website for more details.

- *On until January 16th*
- *Various locations (see website)*
- *Various prices (see fringetoronto.com)*

SHOWS:

Oh My Irma

This mesmerizing and hilarious piece by new artist Haley McGee follows the journey of the poet Mission Bird as she struggles to find out how her mother, Irma, has died. The clues of a bloody tuxedo shirt, a dog also named Irma and a few whiffs of laundry detergent are all Mission Bird needs to solve the case.

- *Starts January 11th*
- *Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace (16 Ryerson Ave.)*
- *$25 (see ohmyirma.com for more details)*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

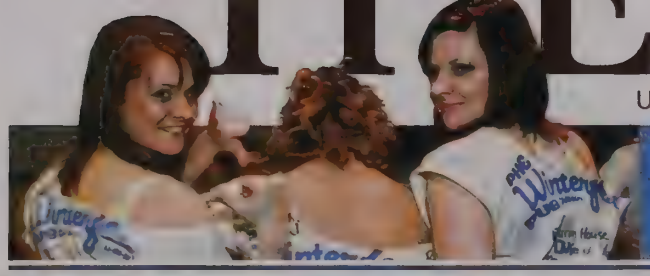
Young and unpaid, but not unwanted **p10**
Features

Thinking of food makes you eat less? **p11**
Science

Five Blues clinch high honours **p17**
Sports

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SPRING BREAK COMES EARLY
Check out The Varsity's coverage of last week's epic Winterfest parties **p4**

Vol. CXXXI
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NO PLACE LIKE HOME?

Private student residence searches rooms and threatens to collectively fine students for vandalism

photos by Rémi Carreiro

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After being contacted by a whistleblower, The Varsity investigated Primrose Student Residence Program, a student residence run out of the Best Western Primrose Hotel at Carlton and Jarvis Streets.

PSRP offers flats at monthly rates upwards of $1,000 to post-secondary students from across the city. U of T has previously used the venue to house an overflow of students when residence spots were filled, the last case taking place seven years ago.

Student Program Relations Director Natalia Rolo said the residence currently houses over 300 students, a third of U of T students who choose to live in the space, and has welcomed roughly 500 students in total on varying intervals since last September.

The Varsity spoke with residents about their positive and negative experiences.

BED BUGS

At least two rooms on the same floor reported bed bugs around late November.

"We have a pest control company here in place and they have their due diligence. They come in, they treat the room; we take it out of service," said Rolo, noting that students are also sent information on how to prevent, identify, and report bed bugs. "Our goal is prevention. [...] We are covered by a brand and we have to meet those assurance qualities."

But liability for infestations has caused conflict.

"They were thinking of possibly charging us for spraying the room down. Because it wasn't their fault, it was our fault," alleged Korissa Wight, a fine arts student at OCAD.

"I didn't see how it was my fault; it's not like I have them where I'm from and I don't take a lot of public transportation. I was mad and I was frustrated."

Rolo said liability is determined on a case-by-case basis.

"We take every case individually. It really depends on the circumstances," said Rolo. "For the most part, these bed bugs are being brought in from an outside environment so it really depends on the situation.

"If [a resident] admittedly acknowledges that they were at another place of residence [where] there has been a case of bed bugs, they would essentially be held responsible for it. If they [do so] and they're coming back here and not laundering their clothing, if they're not using preventative measures, then yes, they would be held responsible."

Wight said she feels the administration's info sheets aren't enough.

"They neglected to tell us that our neighbours had had bed bugs," said Wight. "They just kind of passed out a notice saying 'look out for bed bugs' or whatever. I think they should've had a meeting explaining it all to us, because I had never seen a bed bug in my life. I'd never really heard of them."

> **"While I was out, they went into my room, into all my stuff, searched through my whole room [and] two days later came to me and said I was evicted and gave me less than two hours to get all my stuff out."**

Students also reported seeing mice and mousetraps. Rolo replied that both bedbugs and mice are commonplace in public places.

"Honestly speaking, we've had much worse years than this year [for bed bugs]. In light of what's been in the media for the last few months, the bugs have been a huge issue, not in residences, but everywhere."

She added that the mousetraps prove that management have acknowledged and responded to the problem.

PSRP faced complaints of bedbugs and mite infestations in the 1999–2000 academic year, but was reported to have improved its pest control.

FOOD

Some students complained about food offered by the meal plan, citing themed events that were cancelled and few high-protein options in daily buffet-style meals.

A leaked email specifies that the restaurant spends $5.75 on food per student per day, for both breakfast and lunch. This is a third of money students pay into the obligatory meal plan.

"It all goes towards the food and beverage department," said Rolo. "The $5.75, that's the food cost number. It doesn't include production costs, doesn't include labour costs. That's just food alone."

"We have expensive labour costs. [...] Our staff is unionized, which means their wages are much higher than, let's say, McDonald's staff. So it goes to labour; we have chefs working that earn quite a bit of money along with the wait staff and management that work on the meal plan [including] electricity, supplies, inventory."

"I think [the food] is pretty good. I am not saying it's spectacular but I still think they are doing a good job in it," said U of T student Nouhaila Chelkhaoui.



INTERNET

Residents pay $42 a month for high-speed Internet, included in the mandatory telecommunications package. Multiple students complained about the slow Internet connection. One student reportedly dropped a course because she couldn't keep up with online assignments.

"The Internet can also be shitty at times," said Chelkhaoui. "[But] there was never a time, since I have been here, where [the] Internet, as far as I'm concerned, was cut for more than three days."

"Unlike other residences, we do not have a cap on our bandwidth consumption, so at the beginning of the year we did have some issues over peak periods," said Rolo, adding that many were using the Internet for non-academic, high-bandwidth streaming and downloading.

"We've expanded our bandwidth. We are now constantly monitoring the network to make sure it is preserved for academic purposes."

COLLECTIVE CONSEQUENCES

At one point last semester, over a dozen light fixtures were stolen. Students were given a letter saying that each would be charged $10 if no one confessed.

"[They were] gonna charge us as a collective group," said Wight, frustrated.

SEE **'PRIMROSE'** – PG 3

CAMPUS INNOVATION

Prof recognized with research innovation award

Brachytherapy research has proven effective in relieving symptoms of cancers

Robin Buller
VARSITY STAFF

The University of Toronto's Dr. Rebecca Wong, professor in the department of Radiation Oncology, exhibited the strength of U of T's medical faculty when she was granted the first Canadian Radiation Oncology Foundation/Sanofi-Aventis Research Innovation Award in December 2010. The award, which provides $140,000 for research in colorectal and prostate cancers, is to be split among seven Canadian projects.

Dr. Wong is the head of the Palliative Radiation Oncology Programme at Princess Margaret Hospital. She also chairs a committee for the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group, where she leads the development and conduct of clinical trials designed to improve cancer symptom relief and treatment.

Dr. Wong's research focuses on brachytherapy, the insertion of radioactive material directly into the body, which has been proven effective in relieving the symptoms of cancers. She hopes to improve the medical world's understanding of how this method can be used in colorectal cancers in the pelvis. She mentioned that, ultimately, it is possible that her research could lead to progress towards curing colorectal cancers, which are the fourth most common cancers found in Canadian adults.

Dr. Wong, who was trained in England and at Ontario's Queen's University, feels strongly about the excellence of U of T's research facilities. "Arguably, [this is] the strongest centre in Canada, and certainly one of the strongest in North America," she said.

She also describes the medical environment at U of T as dynamic. "In addition to [having] amazing colleagues to work with, we also have bright minds to challenge us in our day-to-day practice."

According to Dr. Wong, U of T both attracts great minds and puts up few research barriers.



Professor Wong works out of Princess Margaret Hospital. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

It is clear that this combination encourages innovation and brilliance.

"Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of Toronto help to translate ideas into realities," she explained. She continued to describe how the university does not hesitate to get students involved in research as early as possible, making them a true part of many groundbreaking projects.

Dr. Wong did say that the institution's research funding isn't as high as some researchers may hope. "It is relatively frugal compared to some North American centres," she admitted. However, she went on to explain that she and her colleagues take the finite pool of money in stride. They focus on projects that ask important questions, but are not necessarily expensive to run.

Dr. Wong's vision is that the pilot funding from the CASARIA award will help her team's project grow into a much larger programme involving multiple institutions. While the leaders of the team will be professional clinicians, therapists, and physicists, there will be a component enabling students and medical fellows to get involved.

After receiving the grant, research will certainly take up an increasing amount of Dr. Wong's time. However, teaching remains one of her top priorities. Direct experience with talented medical professionals, Dr. Wong thinks, is extremely important for those hoping to pursue medicine.

"Our [students] are our future colleagues, and we [as doctors] have knowledge that we can share," she said. Her enthusiasm for teaching and passion for her work makes Dr. Wong an example of the high calibre of U of T's medical staff.

Dr. Wong describes the satisfaction that she feels when a future doctor is fascinated with her field. "It does give great pleasure when I have students look at my practice," she said. "At the end of the day, if they say they want to be a radiation oncologist, I did okay."

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Amanda-Marie Quintino
VARSITY STAFF

It was a very happy new year for two University of Toronto faculty members.

On December 30, Linda Hutcheon and Anthony Lang were named officers to the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for a lifetime of outstanding achievement. They were among the 54 individuals appointed by Governor General David Johnston. Hutcheon, Professor Emeritus of English and the Centre for Comparative Literature, has spent over 30 years working in the humanities. She has been known to describe herself as "intellectually promiscuous" because of the cross-disciplinary approach her work employs. A prolific writer, Hutcheon has published over a dozen books, reflecting her many interests. Although Hutcheon specializes in postmodernist culture and society and was granted the Order of Canada for her contributions to the fields literary criticism and theory, she has also dabbled in Canadian Studies and Opera.

Hutcheon told The Varsity she was rather overwhelmed to receive the award. "It was totally unexpected, but a delight. Everyone from my colleagues and my students to the entire university administration has responded with incredible generosity of spirit."

But the Order of Canada is not the only award Hutcheon has ever received. Her achievements have also included a Killam Prize for the humanities, and the 2010 Molson Prize in the social sciences and humanities. Her prominence in the field also prompted her to be elected as the 117th president of the Modern Languages Association in 2000, making her the third Canadian and first Canadian woman to ever hold the position.



Linda Hutcheon has spent 30 years working in the humanities. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Since 1988, Hutcheon has been enlightening students with her theories on irony, parody, and adaptation. She is very dedicated to her role at U of T, and is focused on constantly improving the programs and opportunities offered to students. Although she is very honoured to receive the Order of Canada, Hutcheon would rather have the spotlight shine on the university that helped make receiving the award possible.

"I take this as a positive vote for the health of the humanities at U of T," she said. "We all had a rather difficult year, with the threats to various interdisciplinary centres and language and literature programs, including the Centre for Comparative Literature (one of my 'homes'), so it feels only right that the new year should bring us something more positive."

Dr. Anthony Lang also has high hopes that the new year will bring good things. He has a passion for researching cures and treatments for movement disorders, and for the past three decades, has been driven by a belief in the importance of providing the highest quality patient care.

Lang was granted the Order of Canada for his influential contributions to the field of movement disorders, most notably for advancing the therapeutics of Parkinson's disease. As the Jack Clark Chair for Parkinson's Disease Research, he has focused much of his attention on a research program directed at attempting to solve the "Parkinson puzzle" at many levels, which was developed at U of T's Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases. The program is aimed at learning what the causes are, improving the accuracy of diagnosis, preventing and/or slowing the progression, as well as treating the later stages more effectively.

"I have been a leader in clinical research in many other aspects of movement disorders and myself and my colleagues at Toronto Western Hospital and the University of Toronto have made many important contributions to our understanding of these diseases," said Lang, who is also director of the Morton and Gloria Shulman Movement Disorders Centre at Toronto Western Hospital.

He may not have solved the puzzle, but many pieces have been found and placed together, and Lang is confident his research will continue to lead to new developments. And he intends to make a difference internationally. During his time as president of the International Movement Disorders Society, Lang developed the pan-American section of the society in order to advance the field of movement disorders in Latin America.

"I oversaw and encouraged a number of international academic and educational programs with the ultimate goal of improving the care of patients with movement disorders around the world," he explained.

With Lang's spectrum of involvement within the community, his dedication to his work is obvious. He attributes winning the award to his determination but also credits his colleagues for helping him make progress in his research.

Along with the Order of Canada, Lang's resume consists of many other awards including the American Academy of Neurology's Movement Disorders Research Award in 2004 and the Donald Claine Lectureship from the Parkinson Society of Canada in 2008.

Three U of T alumni were also recognized for their achievements, joining the order as members. Mary Vingoe, an actress, playwright, and producer, was recognized for her

SEE 'HUTCHEON' – PG 5

'PRIMROSE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"It's just a very, very harsh tone and it always feels like management is against us," said resident Johnson Solomon. "They rarely accept that they're responsible for anything."

The provincial Residential Tenancies Act does not cover certain types of housing, including some forms of student residences.

Instead, students sign a 13-page occupancy agreement upon registration at PSRP, including a code of conduct. Declining to email the document, Rolo said the agreement is "exclusive to registered students" but allowed The Varsity to peruse it in-person and take notes. Rolo said that dons review the code of conduct with students in a presentation at the start of their stay.

The agreement states the costs of damages in common areas are shared among students.

"Damage and cleaning fees can be assessed to residents for vandalism or repeated untidiness in common areas whether the damage can be attributed to a specific individual or not."

Eventually, a resident confessed to stealing the light fixtures and returned them.

ROOM PRIVACY

Aaron Swan, a George Brown arts management student, was evicted last year after PSRP management entered his room on October 29 and allegedly found a bag of marijuana.

"While I was out, they went into my room, into all my stuff, searched through my whole room [and] two days later came to me and said I was evicted and gave me less than two hours to get all my stuff out," claimed Swan.

"They invaded my privacy. I wasn't even in the building when they went in there. And I didn't even know that they had been in there until the day that they kicked me out."

The occupancy agreement states that management is "permitted to enter the room and bedroom at any time and from time to time, without notice." Rolo clarified that this is done for safety reasons.

"If there's suspicion of drugs being stored in the room or held in the room, or if there's abuse of alcohol, we will enter the room," reads the agreement.

"Evictions occur for safety and security of all students, staff, in-house guests; everyone. We evict only when a student breaches our code of conduct," said Rolo. "Generally, evictions occur when the student is involved in a zero-tolerance activity, such as illicit drugs."

Swan said he was evicted "for a small bag of weed that they took a picture of, which they still today have not proven to me that that is a picture of my property.

"They had a picture of a bag and a little bit of weed in it, inside a random kitchen drawer, just one picture, and they said that was enough to evict me immediately," alleged Swan, claiming that PSRP never presented the actual drugs in question.

Swan said he had to pay rent for November and December, although he alleged PSRP originally demanded payment for the rest of the academic year.

"If removed from the residence for disciplinary reasons, [residents] risk forfeiting the residence fee for the remainder of their term," said Rolo.

"I stormed out of there, I was so pissed off," said Swan, who now commutes from a relative's home in Whitby.

Rolo said many students enjoy their time at PSRP, citing the large number of social events and an integrated online communication system for residence-wide communications, menu postings, and suggestions.

"Students are essentially from around the world, so it's a very diverse program here. You get to meet many different types and groups of individuals," said Rolo. "We do little things like that so that there's a sense of community. A lot of students come from small-town Ontario so they want to be in an environment where they're around other students, other people their age.

"I believe it's a great place to live."

UTSC

Suspicious activity at Science Research Building

Man requesting undisclosed chemical remains at large

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY STAFF

UTSC is increasing security in the Science Research Building after a mysterious man asked for a dangerous chemical substance on campus for the second time within three months. Last Monday around noon, the man approached a faculty member in the building and requested the chemical.

He is believed to be the same man who requested the substance from students on November 15, when police responded to an emergency call about "a suspicious male" on campus.

He is described to be between 19 and 24, approximately 5'7", tall with a brown complexion. It is unknown whether he is a UTS student.

Tom Downing of 43 Division, who is in charge of investigating the case, did not want to reveal the name of the chemical in question, but said it is a dangerous substance "that's not at the school."

Downing said the man did not say why he wanted the substance.

"He just asked for the chemical and when he was told he couldn't get it, he walked away," said Downing.

UTSC media spokesperson Laura Matthews said the university is taking the second incident seriously.

"Police certainly see it as an issue of concern. [The chemical] is a dangerous substance and the nature of [the man's] behaviour was not normal," she said. "So put those two things together. [...] We want to know who this person is and talk to him."

Although campus security will now be more visible in the Science Research Building, it may not be enough for some students who feel uneasy about their safety on campus as a result of the two incidents.

"It's alarming. I feel as though they have been complacent in dealing with the matter," said fourth-year neuroscience and psychology student Jordanne Amos.

"This person could do serious harm. I guess it goes to show that we need a better way to monitor who comes on campus."

Management student Stephanie Thevamanorathan appreciates UTSC's immediate email alert to students following the incident, but said security cameras need to be installed on campus.

"I think that the safety measures taken on campus are adequate, but UTSC needs to have more cameras outside, so that if such situations happen again, there would be a better chance of identifying the [person] by his photo."

The man was last seen wearing a black coat with red and white stripes running down either side. He was also carrying a black knapsack.

Students are asked to be vigilant and call Campus Police at 416-287-7333, Toronto Police Services 43 Division at 416-808-4300, or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS if they notice any suspicious behaviour on campus.

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FROST WEEK 2011

Winter was the last thing on anyone's mind as students boozed up and got down at U of T Winterfest 2011. The Varsity was there.

photos by ANDREW RUSK and DAVID PIKE







Have you ever dropped a course?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Daniel
4th Year Physical Education,
"Yes, I have. The course breakdown and workload were laughable."



Wilbur
2nd Year Sociology,
"I have dropped and switched 4 classes, mostly because of the workloads."



Vanessa
1st Year Arts and Science.
"I've dropped one course. Just too many books to read."



Sara
3rd Year Political Science,
"Yes. I didn't like the course or the prof. He was a pretentious prick."



Sean
2nd Year History,
Yes. I dropped a course so I could go to a Woodsworth club night... NOT. HOIKITY CHOIK!"



Monica
2nd Year English,
"I've never dropped a course."



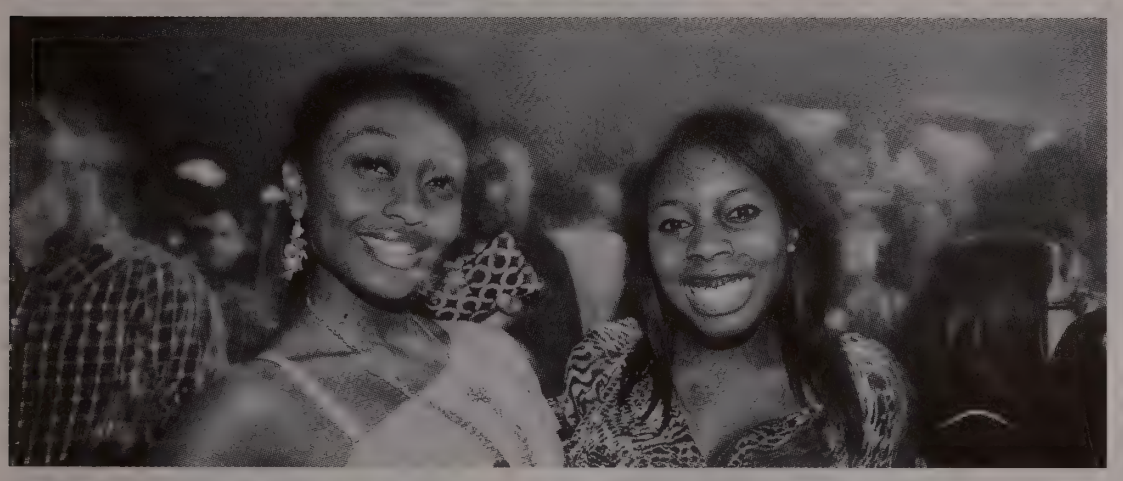
Stefan
4th Year Political Science,
"One. I took on too much in and outside of school."



Timea
2nd Year English,
"One. It was French. Need I say more?"













'HUTCHEON' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

contributions to the Canadian theatre community. Robert Bourdeau, a self-taught photographer with a keen eye for capturing captivating landscapes, architecture, and still life, was cited for his contributions to the field of visual arts. Anthony Comper, a former chair of Governing Council and chair of the Campaign for the University of Toronto, and his wife Elizabeth, were honoured for their role as constantly active volunteers and philanthropists.

The Order of Canada was founded in 1967 as a method of honouring Canadians who have made notable contributions to society in various fields. The order's motto is "Desiderantes meliorem patriam," Latin for "They desire a better country." There are three levels of membership — companion, officer, and member — designed to honour accomplishments that vary in scope and influence, but have, in some way, touched the lives of fellow Canadians and taken steps toward making Canada a better place.

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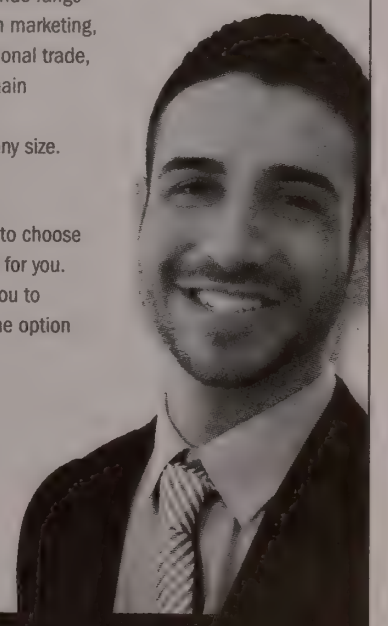
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Altruism: Mutualism in disguise

KELVIN CHEN *argues that we're really self-interested when we perform good acts, which isn't such a bad thing*

February is recognized by Canada's Heart and Stroke Foundation as Heart Month. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Canadians mobilize to campaign together in raising awareness and "life-saving" funds to improve the lives of heart and stroke patients across the country. Throughout the month, volunteers will be holding local fundraising events like "CPR-a-thons" and bake sales to educate the public and attract donors. At the end of the day, volunteers and donors alike should be commended for their good deeds. They have given up their own time and money to help complete strangers from whom they will never be repaid. Surely, these are acts of altruism, right? Not quite.

Altruism is defined as the selfless concern for others — that is, you are willing to help others at your own expense. Most acts of goodwill and charity would fall into this category. Heroic acts of self-sacrifice on the part of firefighters and soldiers alike would undoubtedly fall squarely within our definition. But are any of these acts truly altruistic? Many philosophers, biologists, psychologists, and sociologists think not. The simple reason? You were rewarded, and this is true whether you were aware of it or not.

When you donate money to a charity fund or volunteer time for a nearby hospital, do you feel good at the end? For me, it's usually a warm, fuzzy feeling. In actuality, that feeling originates from the pleasure centers in your brain. In 2006, neuroscientists at the National Institute of Health provided the first evidence for the neurological underpinnings of seemingly altruistic acts. Their research showed that the mesolimbic reward pathway in the brain was activated when subjects made a monetary contribution to a charity. This pathway, activated in part by dopamine (the feel-good neurotransmitter), is the same pathway that usually lights up in response to food, drugs, and sex. This landmark study suggests that our acts of goodwill may not stem wholly from our sense of morality, but are instead an outlet from which we can derive pleasure, and in our case this is the reward.

Whoever said money can't buy happiness?



We're really just scratching each other's backs when we do good deeds, but that isn't really such a bad thing. *ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY*

How can one explain the natural instinct of parents to sacrifice themselves for their children even at the cost of their lives? Surely, there's nothing to "feel good" about when you've died. It turns out that the mechanical and utterly impersonal hand of evolution also dictates just how "altruistic" we are. According to evolutionary biologists, the goal of every living organism is to survive, and, in doing so, to procreate and allow for the propagation of that organism's genes. To answer the last question, W. D. Hamilton, a prominent evolutionary biologist, proposed the theory of kin selection. Here, we imagine an individual as a carrier of a set of genes. If a mother dies in the process of saving four of her children, she will have saved twice the amount of her own genes (because each child inherits half of her genes). Her sacrifice, on a purely genetic basis, would allow her to pass on twice the amount of her genes to the next generation, which in her case is the reward.

Everything we do and every action we take is driven by a motive. Otherwise, we would not do it. Arguably, we would never do anything that would harm or disadvantage us without knowing that the eventual payoff will be greater than the undertaken cost. Over the years, social psychologists have depicted many forms of such payoffs that we inadvertently reap from our "selfless" behaviours. Assisting a colleague with their assignment builds our self-esteem. Good deeds help us neutralize our guilt; they earn us a good reputation with our friends and family and, as Friedrich Nietzsche would point out, they give us a taste of power along the way. They also solidify our legacy and win honour for our family. What does this all mean? It means that mutualism is as good as we get: you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. There's really nothing wrong with that. Perhaps, on a pragmatic level, it doesn't matter why we give, as long as we do give. Just ask the 60 year-old grandmother waiting for a heart transplant.

Good news for cyclists?

Rob Ford approves of Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong's plans for curbed bike lanes

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Cyclists will have something to celebrate if Denzil Minnan-Wong's bike plan is approved by City Council. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Good news! Toronto City Councilor Denzil Minnan-Wong (Ward 34 Don Valley East) has presented a plan for a network of curbed bike lanes along two main routes running from north to south and east to west. Currently chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, Minnan-Wong is a vocal right-wing councillor who previously did not support bike lane proposals, although he attributes this to former Mayor David Miller's administration's lack of appropriate planning for them. He is one of the people who brought the phrase "war on cars" to the forefront in Toronto in a May 22, 2009 Toronto Star editorial stating that, "The city's undeclared but very active war on cars is really a war on people[...]" That was before he picked up cycling and, believe it or not, his opinion has since changed greatly.

This may not be the best time of year to get into a discussion on cycling in the city, as many people lock up their bikes over the winter months. Yet this news is recent, and getting into it now allows for plenty of time to have the proposal considered at the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and passed. Minnan-Wong is optimistic that, if it gets approved, construction could start by the end of 2011. His initial proposal for a network of curbed bike lanes was actually made last year, but it met rejection at committee. And to be fair, it may meet rejection again.

But the declaration of good news is warranted because of Mayor Rob Ford's response to the proposal. Ford expressed "no opposition" to the plan as it was presented. The man who famously said of cyclists, "Every year we have dozens of people who get hit by cars or trucks [...] but it's their own fault at the end of the day," is not completely averse to the concept of making cycling in the city safer. The man who argued that "roads are built for buses, cars, and trucks," is willing to look at putting precious taxpayer dollars toward safely sharing roads with bikes. Furthermore, the proposal is coming from a councillor who is in Ford's inner circle and once upon a time opposed developments for cycling in the city. Until he became a cyclist and understood the need for protected lanes — an ideology shift based on practical experience that proves cyclists aren't just a group of bike-riding "pinkos" as Don Cherry will have people believe. That's a pretty exciting, progressive development, regardless of how sad that statement may be.

The plan needs to be sorted out financially, of course, but as Minnan-Wong points out, "putting in curbs and getting out a bucket of paint doesn't cost a lot of money." Separated bike lanes mean adding a second curb about a metre from current curbs, so cyclists can enjoy a barrier between their lanes and those of the cars and trucks on the roads. Vehicles will park to the left of bike lane, adding another block from traffic. Both Montreal and Vancouver have separated bike paths. City of Toronto safety reports have been recommending these paths as a way to improve road safety for years, and a number of groups have been advocating them as well. The Toronto Cyclists' Union, the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the York Quay Neighbourhood Association, and the Toronto Island Community Association have signed a petition in support of Minnan-Wang's plan.

In Denmark, protected bike lanes sparked a 20 per cent rise in cycling and a 10 per cent decrease in motor vehicle collisions, proof that separated bike lanes work to improve road safety and encourage cycling. If more people park their cars and break out the bikes, traffic congestion can decrease. Many cities, like those mentioned above, aim to improve cycling infrastructure to attract more cyclists and deter drivers in order to tackle congestion, especially in downtown areas. Toronto should do the same.

Minnan-Wong's proposed network will reach to Queen's Quay, and run along Sherbourne, Wellesley, St. George, Beverley, and John Streets, all of which already have bike lanes. A two-way lane would be constructed on Richmond, which would probably require removing one of its four lanes of traffic, but would connect the paths. Judging by the number of bikes around campus now and in more favourable weather conditions, this is a plan that will benefit many students on the St. George campus. What can you do? Email councillors, email the mayor, and sign a petition to let them know you want to save this proposal from the pain of rejection, and save yourself from the pain of accidents.

Prime minister > Parliament

Stephen Harper has concentrated too much power in the prime minister's office

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



The official residence of the prime minister at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa. SOOKIE/FLICKR

In his Christmas Day message, Prime Minister Stephen Harper dubbed 2010 "Canada's year to shine." In many respects he was correct, pointing to the success of the Olympics, the royal visit and the G8/G20 summit which, despite police brutality during protests in Toronto, laid important groundwork for closer and deeper cooperation between developed and emerging nations. However, he ignored the many ways in which 2010 left much to be desired, notably the failure of Canada's bid to be elected to a seat on the United Nations Security Council. The most important problem he left out, for obvious reasons, was his own government's performance in Parliament.

Last year marked the second dismal year in terms of parliamentary productivity since the 2008 election. While Canada was spared a third prorogation in as many years, the government used parliamentary tactics which seemed aimed more at disruption than governance. The government introduced little new legislation and passed even less of it. It used its newly minted near-majority in the Senate to block a private member's bill on climate change, something no government had done in decades. It continued to block access to crucial information on the treatment of Afghan detainees until forced into a compromise by Speaker Peter Milliken.

Equally lacklustre was the performance of the opposition. Attempting to make up for his perceived aloofness, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff took advantage of every opportunity for low blows against the government. This provided plenty of fodder for the evening news, which addressed his dismal name recognition, but did little to improve his credibility. Likewise, New Democratic Leader Jack Layton did much to keep himself in the national spotlight, most notably leading the opposition to the private member's bill proposing the abolition of the gun registry. While he undoubtedly shone then, he also exposed deep and worrying divides within his own party.

All of these factors, combined with an increasingly distrustful parliamentary culture, conspired to make 2010 among the least productive years in Canadian parliamentary history. This might be read as a sign that things are going so well in Canada that little parliamentary business is required to keep the country going. In part, this is true: the strong foundations laid by the Chrétien government have kept this country from the worst of the financial crisis which has battered the rest of the world. As a result, Canada's deficit is large, but manageable.

However, Canada faces serious challenges. The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly clear and the war in Afghanistan continues to present serious day-to-day challenges and raise important broader questions about the nature of Canada's role in the world. Upcoming health and social transfer negotiations between the federal government and the provinces are likely to be brutal as provincial budgets across the country are increasingly strained. The lack of parliamentary business is in part the result of the nature of these challenges, which do not lend themselves easily to legislation.

But this decline of productivity is also the result of how the Conservatives govern. Harper has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors, going as far back as Pierre Trudeau's first government in the late 1960s and early 1970s, by centralizing decision-making in the prime minister's office. He has asserted the power to make sweeping decisions without parliamentary approval, including extending Canada's mission in Afghanistan past its planned end this coming summer and cancelling the mandatory long-form census against the advice of Statistics Canada. These subtle changes add up to a veritable constitutional sea change, which has seen Canada move from parliamentary to prime ministerial government.

If this trend continues unchecked, Canada will maintain the institutions of parliamentary government. However, in practice, its government will become increasingly presidential. This change is not necessarily a bad one, especially if we agree with the policies of the party in power; it might help make government decision-making more effective. Without such strong powers, both Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin would not have been able to take the drastic steps in the mid to late 1990s that saved Canada from debt-driven stagnation. However, these powers undermine the ability of Parliament to check the government's decisions, especially when it holds a majority.

The decline of parliamentary productivity and the rise of prime ministerial government go hand in hand. These changes have serious consequences, some bad and some good. If we believe that this new constitutional order is one that we want, then so be it, but we should not assume that it is simply because it is what prime minister's prefer. Through our politicians we can choose for there to be a different way of governing. Compared to Americans, we are relatively unconstrained by outdated and unworkable constitutional tradition. In other words, we can make it Canada's year to shine by demanding better.

The University of Toronto General Assembly

The UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

discusses a new concept for student organizing and governance at U of T

Let us open with two different conceptions of what the University of Toronto is. Firstly, the interests of students, staff, faculty, and others on campus are intertwined. We meet at this site to share and learn, to arrive at something better for ourselves and collectively facilitate this process. In this scenario, the interests of students may not immediately align with those of faculty or staff. However, together, we decide what and how to negotiate. We are the university. To ignore, or fail to account for any group on campus is to act against the best interests of the university.

Another conception of this university has students elected to the Governing Council to prioritize the long-term wellbeing of the institution above the broadly articulated needs of students. As a result, we become suspicious of demands for better working conditions and resigned to program cuts. However, our fees continue to climb amid the underfunding of programs and casualization labour. The familiarity of this scenario should indicate what kind of university we currently find ourselves in.

When students, faculty, staff, and groups within these do not combine their interests, we weaken ourselves and give more power to governing bodies at U of T. These bodies exist to undermine the needs of students. Many groups and individuals came together to oppose, flat fees, the Faculty of Arts and Science proposed Academic Plan, the G20 campus closure, restrictions to space booking policies on campus, and contracts with corporate sponsors that threaten academic freedom. Though we come in numbers, our bodies are blocked and our voices are ignored.

The misbehaviour of our governing bodies is no accident. The Governing Council for instance, is structurally predisposed to ignore student, staff, and faculty interests. Of the 50 GC seats, only eight are reserved for students; the majority are reserved for university and corporate appointees. The minority of students and faculty on GC cannot sway a group of CEOs to consider the needs of the students they are supposed to represent.

Substantive change cannot come from cajoling GC — trust us, we have tried. It is time that we stop investing our power in the GC, and take governance into our own hands.

Substantive change cannot come from cajoling the GC — trust us, we have tried. It is time that we stop investing our power in the GC, and take governance into our own hands. It is time that we break from inhabiting a familiar conception of the university that does not benefit any of us. Rather than hoping that these governing bodies will finally make one decision in our favour, we need to redefine our relationship to each other and reclaim our autonomy.

The crisis in education is not limited to U of T, and cannot be separated from broader political trends in our province, country, and abroad that increasingly deny access to education and the chance for a good life among a majority of the people on our planet. The good news is that we are not alone in our revolutionary project. Students in the US, UK, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and even Quebec, have recently mobilized in unprecedented numbers to protest the increased privatization of education.

We have not yet seen such large-scale collective action in our province or at our university, which prompts us to ask why, given the magnitude of poor decision making at U of T. The most satisfactory reason that we have arrived at pins the blame on a default level of disengagement and disconnection. It is common to feel like a number on this campus. Many students find it difficult to speak to their professors, TAs, or the people they sit beside in class. Others find that they have nothing in common with the people that they're surrounded by. We are all in someway disconnected from each other, so we trust a third party to mediate between us. This third party facilitates disconnection so that it continues to have a reason to exist?

Some have suggested that commonalities in ethnicity and a more coherent class identity contribute to why mobilizations in Europe, as well as at the City University of New York and the University of California, have been so much more powerful than elsewhere in North America. Whether true or not, I think that connecting to each other should be both a part and the goal of governance reform at this university. To this end, a group of concerned students, staff, and faculty have called for the first U of T General Assembly to happen on Wednesday January 19, from 5-8 p.m. in the Multifaith Centre.

Make no mistake — we want action. We want to build and articulate commonalities across populations and interest groups. We want to generate strategies and campaigns to combat looming threats to our education, and want as many people as possible to shape these. We also want something that may be less concretely measurable, which is an entirely different university, where the power to govern is in all of our hands.

Zexi Wang, Johanna Lewis, Patrick Vitale, Vivien Endicott-Douglas, William Nakhid, Faraz Vahid Shahidi, Alex Conchie, and Daniel Vandervoort are members of the U of T General Assembly Organizing Committee and contributed to this article.

LETTERS

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing on behalf of the Student Political Action Committee (Student PAC) concerning The Varsity's report on the Annual General Meeting of the UTSU, held on 2 December 2010. While we commend The Varsity for its fair and balanced coverage of the event, we take issue with the use of the label "right-leaning" with regard to Student PAC. Our membership is not limited to one end of the political spectrum, and we welcome and indeed encourage diversity of opinion within our group. Student PAC is political, not ideological, and it is a mistake to assume that the former necessitates the latter. Our mission is to encourage more active student engagement with the UTSU, not to take part in an unnecessarily divisive, left-versus-right debate that a student union should endeavour to transcend. Finally, Student PAC has no ties to any political group on campus, right-leaning or otherwise. We thank The Varsity for its interest in our group.
Sincerely,

Robert Boissonneault
Student PAC

Re: Who is Jenny Peto?, January 10

No, Ms. Peto and Dr. Nestel, the academic criticisms of the thesis are not "disingenuous." Unlike some of the others who have weighed in, I have carefully studied this thesis. In brief, and this is what's wrong with it, this is why I and a number of others have said that it is a piece of propaganda rather than of scholarship:

1) The thesis purports to be, among other things, a sociological analysis of the attitudes and opinions of the Jewish community of Canada and elsewhere. The department within OISE that granted the MA has "sociology" in its title. As it happens, there is a tremendous sociological literature on this topic (to which I myself have contributed in the past), none of which is as much as mentioned in this thesis.

2) The thesis specifically purports to be a study of the March of the Living and one other organization. Ms. Peto says that, while her intentions were completely scholarly, she could not find the time to interview MOL participants or MOL executives. Fine. No, not fine, but put that aside for a moment. Why didn't she at least study the empirical work done on MOL by others? There is, for instance, the study "Long-Range Effects of the March of the Living on Participants" by Professor William Helmreich of the City University of New York. Neither Helmreich's work nor, as I have said, any other sociological work figures in her bibliography.

3) Ms. Peto's disdain for facts shows itself early in her introductory section, where she tells us that in the Hebrew school that she attended her teachers were supportive of the Jewish terrorist Baruch Goldstein in 1995. The context of her report here suggests, if only by innuendo, that the Jewish community as a whole was broadly supportive of Goldstein. But the facts of the matter, as she could have easily ascertained in the literature, were exactly opposite to what she here claims.

So no, Ms. Peto and Dr. Nestel, the problem does not lie in your political opinions — opinions, God knows, to which you are more than entitled — but in your atrocious scholarship.

Werner Cohn
Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of British Columbia

Some really shocking comments on here. I have to wonder if any other master's thesis in the history of the academy has met this kind of scrutiny.

Thousands of master's sheses and major research papers are written and accepted every year in Canada. Many are probably bad and poorly researched; some probably even have fudged data. Some are probably horribly racist (I can only imagine what Tom Flanagan's students might write regarding Indigenous/settler relations in Canada).

I have never heard of a public debate on this level. How did an MA thesis get so famous? There are even people who work in dentistry evaluating the methodology. This level of scrutiny is unusual.

Brendan Bailey

Having done both master's and doctoral degrees at OISE (Adult Ed and Counselling Psych), Ms. Peto's protests that empirically-based master's theses are not the norm at OISE ring hollow. Her complaints about the amount of work required to undertake research with human participants further confirms her "lazy scholarship" approach to a serious document like a master's thesis (not merely a "paper"). In fact, empirical research with human participants at the master's level requires only a half-dozen participants to meet scholarly standards (not "huge" by any stretch of the imagination). The requirements for ethical review are not onerous (her research would have used an expedited review), the details of which would be covered in a basic research methods course.

Nonetheless, a literature-based master's thesis is acceptable (notably, it is not "some" PhD students that conduct empirical research; empirical research at the doctoral level tends to be mandatory in the social sciences, and we don't get research assistants either). However, literature-based theses must be based on a wide and comprehensive review of the extant literature; Ms. Peto's deliberate choice to ignore the published scholarship on her topic in favour of a perverted interpretation of a marketing website (when her topic does not critically question the motivations of marketing) based on her personal life traumas (mentioned, but not critically examined using standpoint analysis which would be mandatory for this sort of thesis), demonstrates why this is a polemic and not a thesis. (And yes, I did read it.)

Hiding behind pro-Zionist conspiracy theories with the active encouragement of her professor reinforces a call for an independent review of the scholarship of Ms. Peto's thesis, and calls into question the validity of the awarded degree.

Mark Federman
PhD

[In response to comments posted on thevarsity.ca]
It's remarkable that the three of you would spend such an agonizingly long time crafting a response to the scholarship of a master's thesis. Having grown up a white Jew in North America, I'm often astounded how other young, white, well-off Jews still identify as victims of meaningful discrimination. White Jewish people in North America today are not systematically denied any benefits of society because of their cultural background, unlike the black, aboriginal, and queer youth I work with daily.

You mention that Peto does not quote any "relevant literature" on Holocaust education. You really mean "relevant literature whose slant you agree with." Yes, the Holocaust must never be forgotten, and must be taught with all its horrors, but it also must be put into the broader context of discrimination and contrasted with the actual situation of Jews in North America today. Lived experiences are of course relevant, but so are hard socioeconomic data.

It saddens me, but unfortunately does not surprise me, that you would spend so much energy attacking a master's student and framing your argument in terms of the academic quality of her paper, when clearly your goal is intentionally political. It also saddens me that I need to write this comment anonymously, in order to avoid having my name turn up on hitlists for groups like the Jewish Defense League — a terrorist organization that mainstream Jewish groups like the CJC need to denounce more forcefully.

Anonymous

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

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Toxic politics

The attempted assassination of Gabrielle Giffords has shed light on a dysfunctional political discourse

Abdi Aidid and Alex Ross
VARSITY STAFF

Whatever motivation Jared Lee Loughner had in the attempted assassination of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords — an event that left six dead and 14 wounded — his actions have caused a long overdue examination of the implicitly violent rhetoric that has long dominated debate in the United States.

This rhetoric certainly hit a crescendo in 2009, when town hall meetings about health care reform were reduced to shouting matches and congressional offices — including Giffords' being vandalized. It has abated only now, in the wake of tragedy. Most mainstream media outlets in recent days have, appropriately, begun to discuss the implications of the vitriol that has come to dominate political discourse.

The Republican Party and its allies in the media, including Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, and Sarah Palin, have rightly been criticized for their use of violent imagery and metaphor in the arguments they use against their opponents. Their attempts to remove themselves from any responsibility for their words and actions is both deceitful and reprehensible.

Whether it was Beck musing about how he wanted to assassinate documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, or Palin placing a gunsight over Gifford's district and telling her supporters not to "retreat, but to reload," these statements were irresponsible, dangerous, and contributed to a toxic political environment. Sharron Angle's musings on "Second Amendment remedies" or Jesse Kelly's now infamous gun event ad: "Get on Target for Victory in November. Help remove Gabrielle Giffords from office. Shoot a fully automatic M16 with Jesse Kelly," are further instances of the implied violence Republicans have directed against their opponents.

Palin, who many have floated as a possible Republican presidential nominee in 2012, received most of the criticism. After a few days of silence, she came out with a seven-minute video attacking her critics, accusing them of what she called "blood libel." She said that incidents like the Tucson, Arizona shooting "begin and end with the criminals who commit them, not collectively



On January 8, Jared Lee Loughner attempted to assassinate U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords. *UNITED STATES CONGRESS*

with all the citizens of a state." In her statement, she emphasized that both parties have used maps to illustrate areas with a high concentration of swing votes. However, she failed to address the fact that she was alone in placing crosshairs above opposition districts.

Trying to find a causal connection between Loughner's actions and violent political rhetoric is the wrong approach. Laying the blame squarely on particular people (i.e. Palin, Limbaugh, or Beck) or movements (i.e. the Tea Party) is often counter-factual and is perhaps inappropriate considering the atmosphere of heightened emotion. The real story is that it took an attempted political assassination to shed light on the dysfunctional state of US political discourse; a discourse which often features conservative pundits and politicians suggesting their opponents are both "un-American" and that mildly liberal government policies are equivalent to a fascist takeover of the country. These kind of combative tendencies were evident in Palin's statement, where she spent the majority of her time lambasting her critics as opposed to offering leadership amidst widespread anxiety. Contrastingly, President Obama memorialized the victims in a speech that had him lauded by political commentators for his sympathetic tone and high emphasis on healing and restraint from squabble.

New Yorker Staff Writer George Packer was right when he wrote in his personal blog: "[T]he tragedy wouldn't change this basic fact: for the past two years, many conservative leaders, activists, and media figures have made a habit of trying to delegitimize their political opponents." In the discourse of Limbaugh, Beck, Palin, and the Tea Party, liberals are not just wrong; they are traitors and enemies of the country.

As Nobel Laureate Economist Paul Krugman argued in his January 9 op-ed in the *New York Times*, there is a difference between insult and incitement. It's one thing to see your opponent's views as confused or ridiculous. It's another to insinuate violence against them or prescribe motives of tyranny. And while employing the language of violence is common in any competitive arena — consider the world of sports, as an example — political discourse carries an extra layer of importance: the state of people's lives is almost always the topic of discussion.

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DAVID PIKET/THE VARSITY

All Work and No Pay

MEGHAN LAWSON explores the ever-expanding market for unpaid interns

I can barely believe my ears. Only two days on the job and already my boss tells me that I will be attending a gala for the United States Navy along with 600 other guests, many of them prominent politicos and celebrities. I'll have to be red-carpet ready and mingle with Medal of Honor recipients and members of Congress.

Not only that, but I'll also be reporting on the event for a national magazine — and that includes an interview with legendary comedian Bill Cosby.

Having been weaned on Cliff Huxtable and the rest of *The Cosby Show* antics as a kid, I can scarcely contain myself at the thought of it. My boss, unaware of my gobsmacked expression, rattles off details as if this is just one of the many menial tasks he hands out on a daily basis.

A few days later, I'm still starry-eyed as I hold a voice recorder up to an aging but irrepressible Cosby. "I was in high school at age 19. Even I recognized I was beginning to look as old as the janitor," Cosby joked as he explained why he decided to enlist.

Glitzy, demanding, fast-paced — such is the life of an intern in Washington, D.C.

This past fall, I joined legions of students and recent graduates in the ever-expanding world of interning, where the competition is fierce and the compensation is little to non-existent. While the abuse of the intern is often decried — I heard it referred to as "highly educated slave labour" on more than one occasion — what exactly does it mean to be one? And why are more and more young people coveting a position that is not quite volunteer, not quite employee, but instead stuck in a state of limbo between both?

"The word internship is really vague," says Lauren Friese, founder of TalentEgg.ca, a Toronto-based career website for students and recent graduates. "In a country where programs like co-op programs are very popular, it's even more vague because those are essentially internships too."

For some, I discovered, photocopying and coffee runs fill the day. For a few, like Tuscon's Daniel Hernandez — the 20-year-old congressional intern who performed first aid for his boss, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, during the recent shooting rampage — the demands of the position transcend the boundaries of conventional employment. But for most, an internship provides a flexible means of testing the waters of employment.

"That's one of the good things about an internship — it's not a theoretical thing," suggests Roger Gillespie, an editor at the *Toronto Star* who heads up the newspaper's summer and one-year internship programs. This year, he received over 200 applications for a dozen spots in the summer program.

I managed to land an internship (the all-too-common unpaid kind) at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, a city sustained largely on the backs of the thousands of interns who work there every day. Having never before experienced intern life — let alone in America's diplomatic nerve centre — I quickly became accustomed to D.C.'s unique intern-oriented version of the "work hard, play hard" ethic.

Once an anomaly, Washington's workforce model is becoming standard practice as a growing number of youth seek out internships in an effort to gain experience and give their resume some clout.

In the United States, the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that 50 per cent of graduating students in 2008 had held internships, a remarkable jump from the 17 per cent found in 1992 in a similar study by Northwestern University. The culture has expanded so much so that television producers of *The O.C.* and *Gossip Girl* fame are currently working on a new series about intern life.

Although not as pervasive, the trend is catching on in Canada.

"In the past year I've seen an overwhelming interest from students," says Tasleem Hudani, the work experience coordinator at U of T's Career Centre. "Graduating students are looking for internship opportunities to bridge their undergraduate degree with full-time work experience."

Employers, too, are spotting the benefits as they hire eager twenty-somethings willing to work for little or no pay, frequently on tasks once reserved for full-fledged employees.

"Organizations are catching on to student demand for internships and are capitalizing on it by creating these positions," Hudani points out.

"There are a lot of employers now that have almost changed their entire recruiting strategies to just recruit interns," adds Friese.

Traditionally reserved for industries like journalism and international development, the intern has become a staple at law firms, government agencies, and even small businesses. In extreme cases, applicants are shelling out for the opportunity to intern — without compensation. Last summer, an internship at *Vanity Fair* was auctioned off for $2,900 while one at *Vogue* went for a whopping $42,500.

"Paying to work" may seem like a contradiction in terms, but it is one that nevertheless speaks to the mounting importance many are placing on internships as a way to break into a career. "Internships have become the gateway into the white-collar work force," one former intern recently told the *New York Times*.

"It's a good opportunity to get experience where maybe there were other avenues for doing so in the past that are not available anymore," explains Amy Kishek, a fourth-year student at the University of Ottawa, and a fellow intern in Washington, D.C. "There are fewer and fewer jobs for young people, even at entry-level positions."

As Kishek points out, unemployment rates remain high amongst youth. According to Statistics Canada's latest release, 26,000 more jobs were added for youth nationwide in December 2010, an improvement that quickly pales in contrast to the demographic's overall unemployment rate, which still sits at 13.8 per cent compared to the national average of 7.6 per cent.

Any field experience, even unpaid, is becoming more and more attractive in the eyes of Generation Y, or what *Maclean's* recently dubbed "Generation Screwed." With a waning job market and a generation of baby boomers determined to remain in the workforce indefinitely, youth are searching for anything that sets them apart.

In order to gain a foothold in journalism, recent U of T grad and The Varsity alumnus Chris Berube interns without pay at the *Walrus* magazine, while also working three part-time jobs to support himself.

"It's hectic because you put in a full day of work at this internship, then you have to turn around and put in another half day of work somewhere else," Berube says of his schedule, which — in addition to his editorial internship — includes freelance writing and administrative work at an engineering firm.

"I've had to work throughout the entire time I've done these two internships," he explains, having also completed an unpaid stint at *Eye Weekly* magazine. "Even then, I know coming out of this [that] I'm going to be bankrupt."

The steady growth in unpaid internships, in particular, has become a lightning rod for debate, not only in Canada, but also south of the border. In states like New York and California, regulators have been forced to reinterpret the legality of allowing interns to work without compensation. The debate between employers and labour departments had become so recurrent that the Obama administration stepped in last April with six criteria stipulating when unpaid internships are permissible.

"It's a big hot topic. Is it right to hire people for free, especially if you're in the for-profit sector?" Friese tells The Varsity. "[The issue] has been around for a while, but I think people are just taking note of it because it's happening more."

Hudani warns students to be wary of the label. "There are some organizations that are taking advantage of the economic situation. They're recognizing that students will take on an unpaid position; they're labelling it as an internship opportunity to make it sound more attractive."

"The key there is whether or not the program is approved by a college or a university. If it's not approved by a college or university, you should be paid," says James Fyshe, a specialist in labour law with a legal practice in Hamilton, Ontario.

There are some organizations that are taking advantage of the economic situation. They're recognizing that students will take on an unpaid position; they're labelling it as an internship opportunity to make it sound more attractive.

As Fyshe explains, Ontario's Employment Standards Act guarantees certain basic rights, including a minimum wage, for all employees in the province. A few specific groups, including training programs approved by educational institutions, are exempt from the Act. As Fyshe sees it, if the internship is completed for university or college credit, monetary compensation is a non-issue.

Friese, who takes on interns at TalentEgg.ca, agrees: "From that perspective as a student, I don't think there's any ethical issue there. As long as you're getting academic value — value that helps you achieve your career goals — I don't see why it's wrong."

However, many unpaid internships are going to recent graduates who are no longer affiliated with an educational institution. According to Fyshe, "these placements are an invitation to obtain cheap or free labour, which is contrary to the law."

At the *Toronto Star*, where the paid internship program has been in place for decades, Gillespie adopts a different perspective. "There are the cynics who say this is just free labour. It's not free labour; interns are a lot of work," he says, noting that even paid internship programs are often a burden on employers in terms of training and time.

"It's a question about paying back something," explains Gillespie. "The only way the industry continues, the only way new people come in, the only way you continue to exist and get smarter and better and faster and all that is when you are passing it on to the next generation."

Despite this mutual benefit, Fyshe predicts that if the legality of some unpaid internships is brought to court — an unlikely occurrence, as interns fear being blacklisted by possible employers — it will effectively open a huge can of worms. "It's a complicated issue," he states, noting that compensation is only a small portion of a debate that could also include considerations like occupational safety and workplace harassment.

For Kishek, the question of compensation is murkier still. "It does entrench a lot of biases," says the fourth-year political science major. "There are huge segments of the population who wouldn't be able to get their foot in the door."

Even so, Kishek considers her own internship at the Canadian Embassy in D.C. — which, she admits, far exceeded her budget — to be an invaluable experience. "It was like applying the theories I had learned in the classroom. I could never have gotten that from the University of Ottawa listening to a lecture," she recounts.

The "invaluable experience" trump card is one played again and again by current and former interns. Despite the ghastly rent prices and constant ramen noodle dinners, in no other capacity than an internship could I have interviewed NATO generals and legendary entertainers, chatted with members of Congress in their offices, or flown in an F-35 fighter jet simulator. Certainly not with only one degree under my belt and little experience to my name.

According to Friese, if you can afford to cover your costs, an internship should be seen as "an investment."

"The alternative to after-grad internships is often grad school," she says of the post-graduate dilemma. "A lot of people say, 'I can't afford it.' But when the alternative is grad school, I don't buy that at all."

While some would contend that the undergraduate degree is losing market value by the day, Berube considers the time after graduation ideal for trying on an internship, if for no other reason than to see how the career might fit.

"The time after university, especially if you don't have a very clear sense of what you'd like to do next, is the time to do things like take up an internship in a field you don't know very well," he concludes. "You can fail a lot because that is the right time to learn from mistakes."

With the unbound optimism of an experienced intern, Berube insists that "you have nothing to lose."

Science journalism
the good, the bad, and the ugly

In part one of a two-part series **DEBORAH CHAN** *explores the most memorable hits and misses of science journalism*



According to BlogTO's tech writer, the key to science journalism is to go into it with no background in what you're writing about. He mentioned these words of advice at last year's panel on science journalism at The Varsity — which sent yours truly, a self-described "science journalist," halfway to an existential crisis.

The writer's reasoning was that if you actually do understand the science behind the article you're writing, you will be more likely to write the article in technical jargon. On the other hand, if you don't understand the science, you will be more likely to write the article in layman's terms.

I guess the better, third alternative never occurred to them — understanding science, but having, you know, communication skills.

In the spirit of clearing up this mess, we bring you a review of the good, the bad, and the ugly of science journalism, according PhD candidate Geoff Fucile and Professor David Guttman at U of T's Department of Cell and Systems Biology.

THE GOOD

The Higgs Boson ("God particle") is getting well-deserved coverage in the media. If they find it, it could unify a lot of fields of physics. The media interest is great and important, for all sorts of philosophical reasons too. — **GF**

Andy Newman's "What Women Want (Maybe)," published in the Fashion & Style Section of the *New York Times*, is an insightful, scientifically accurate work. The piece analyzed the growing tend of young female bisexuality through the lens of Meredith Chivers' recent psychological sex research at CAMH in Toronto. The mainstream media rarely mentions this issue, and Newman did so by presenting solid evidence from sexologists. Too often in our culture, dialogue concerning bisexuality has been filled with snap judgments and insufficiently backed opinions. Newman brought these fallacies to the reader's attention: "bisexuality still tends to be treated as a novelty, a titillating fluke, a phase or even a cover for homosexuality." — **GF**

THE BAD

Stem cell technology reports are usually pretty bad. For example, a study came out on the structure of an enzyme that has to do with plaque development in teeth, and the pop media announced that "we might not have to brush our teeth anymore." — **GF**

The Mitochondrial Eve story, released 10 or 15 years ago, was "really ridiculous." Basically, geneticists sequenced part of the human mitochondria genome and found the most recent common ancestor of a little sequence in it. As a joke, they called the common ancestor "Mitochondrial Eve." This was picked up in the mainstream media as the scientific discovery of Eve herself. It was even the cover story for *Time* magazine. — **DG**

Dan Savage misinterpreted Chivers' study in his advice column, telling a reader that her bisexual male cousin was actually gay because the study "means, of course, that female sexuality is a fluid and male sexuality is a solid." Savage quoted *ScienceDaily* in his column instead of quoting the primary source, which stated, "our results [...] do not imply that women's sexual orientation is inherently bisexual." The conclusion of the scientific paper specifically denounced the sort of inductive leaps that the authors probably anticipated from the mainstream media. — **DG**

THE UGLY

[Scientists] want to get lots of money for their research. They need to get media hype. They need to sell their work. Which, in my opinion, is not good. — **GF**

There is a lot of good science journalism, but oftentimes it doesn't make it beyond the fairly restricted, refined audience who pays attention to science journalism. It only makes it out to the mainstream journalists when it's flashy and big. And that often requires a spin that takes it a little farther than the story should be taken. — **DG**

Fantasy carbs

Imagining the consumption of a food can reduce your appetite for it

Kim Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It's January again, which means the gym is packed with individuals whose New Year's resolutions are to get back into shape and eat healthier. Luckily, new research may provide a way to help this process along, by stopping those pesky cravings.

A new study by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, published in the December 10 issue of *Science*, shows that when you imagine eating a certain food, it reduces your actual consumption of that food. These findings may seem counter-intuitive compared to the idea of food sensitization, which is also called the "whetting effect." According to this effect, thinking about eating a steak can cause an increase in salivation and the desire to eat it. Similarly, imagining the sight or the smell of a burning cigarette will increase a smoker's craving to light up.

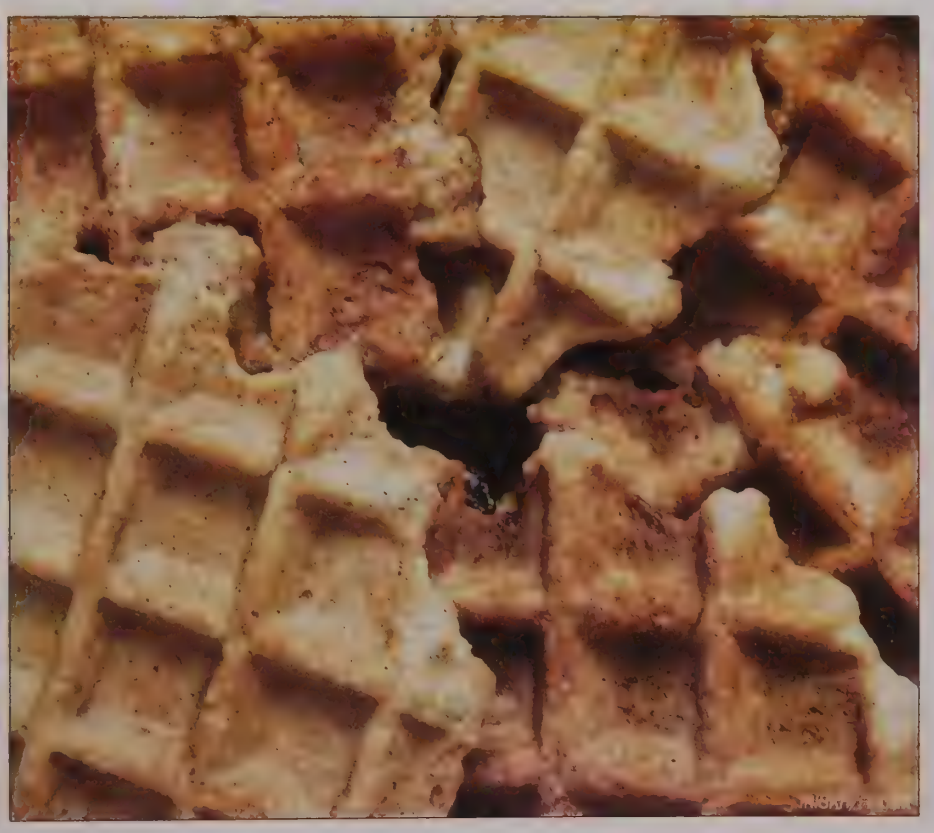
Prior research has shown close links between the processes of perception and mental imagery, demonstrating how both engage the same neural machinery and can similarly affect emotions, response tendencies, and skilled motor behavior. For example, the thought of a spider crawling across your leg can produce the same increases in perspiration and heart rate that the presence of a real spider would cause.

Along the same lines, the CMU research team hypothesized that thinking about the consumption of a particular food should habituate you to that food. This led to the finding that simply imagining the consumption of a food decreases one's appetite for it.

The researchers attributed this effect to the physiological phenomenon of habituation. "In real life, what we find is that people tend to show a diminished physiological and psychological response to stimulus after we've had repeated exposures," said lead author Carey Morewedge in a *Science* podcast. Morewedge is an assistant professor of Social and Decision Sciences at CMU. "For example, the tenth bite of that pancake you eat might taste worse, and be less appealing than the first. So although imagining and thinking about pancakes extensively might lead you to crave them a little bit, we find that if you actually imagine the process of eating, and chewing, and swallowing the pancake, [...] the imagined consumption will have a similar effect [...]."

The research team consisted of two other CMU researchers: Young Eun Huh, a Tepper School of Business PhD candidate, and Joachim Vosgerau, an assistant professor of marketing. Over a period of three years, the team ran a series of five experiments that tested whether mentally visualizing the consumption of a food reduces its subsequent actual consumption.

The first four experiments required participants to imagine a set of 33 repetitive tasks, followed by freely eating from a bowl of a particular type of food. The control group was asked to imagine inserting 33 quarters into a laundry machine, a motion similar to eating. Participants who imagined eating 30 M&M'S or 30 cubes of cheddar cheese actually ate significantly fewer morsels of the imagined food than did participants in the other two groups.



The last experiment measured whether this reduced consumption was due to diminished wanting or liking for the food. This involved a reinforcement game, in which participants saw a picture of a cube of cheese and a picture of a stop sign. They could click on the picture of the cheese cube to earn more cheese at the end of the study, or click on the stop sign to quit.

"We found that people basically click less often when they imagine eating 30 cubes of cheese than when they imagine consuming three. So in other words, they worked harder for cheese when they imagined consuming fewer cubes of cheese beforehand," said Morewedge. These results suggest that visualizing the act of eating cheese diminished their appetite for it, instead of how much they liked it.

The researchers also observed that the results were food-specific. People who imagined eating chocolate didn't lose their appetite for cheese. Merely thinking about the food repeatedly, or imagining consuming a different food, did not affect the amount of food consumed.

It is far too early, however, to tell what the implications for this study could be in other areas of research, such as addictive behaviors. "We don't know the answer to that yet, [...] we find people tend to habituate to a variety of substances — everything from the brightness of a light, to their income. So we would expect that this kind of result that we've obtained in the domain of eating should extend to these other kinds of domains, such as drinking or smoking, or other kinds of similar processes. [...] This is certainly something we are interested in following up, and we've started to look at," said Morewedge, who hopes to look next at habituation and cigarette use.

But the results so far may offer some hope of eventually diverting people to healthier diets. According to Morewedge, "In terms of therapeutic implications of this research, [...] a lot of peopletend to try to avoid eating unhealthy foods by suppressing their thoughts for them. That tends to be a flawed strategy, because it suggests that you are going to stay at the initial stage of craving, whereas our research suggests [...] they might actually be better off imagining consuming the foods that they crave, rather than trying to repress thoughts of them."

Pixel perfect

The Varsity sits down with computer graphics expert and 2010 Steacie Prize Winner Aaron Hertzmann

Jordan Rivera
ASSOCIATE SCIENCE EDITOR

"I've always been drawn to watercolour rendering and impressionism," says Aaron Hertzmann, the 2010 recipient of the Steacie Prize for Natural Sciences. Looking at his body of work, there is no denying that Hertzmann has the eye and spirit of an artist. But he is not a painter — he's a computer scientist. In fact, Hertzmann is only the second computer scientist in history to win the Steacie Prize, which recognizes outstanding research by Canadians 40 and under.

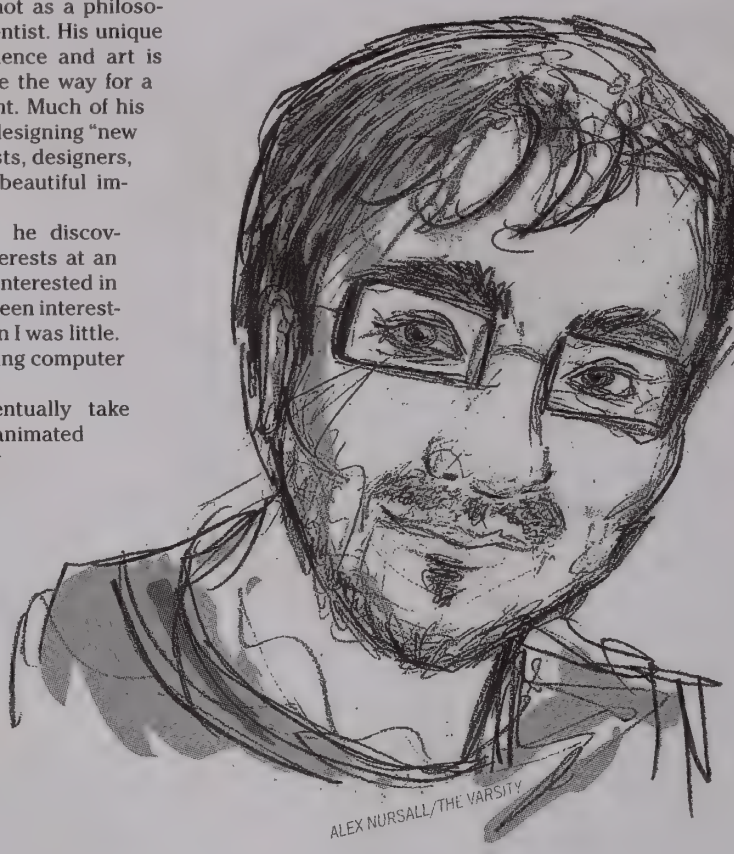
Hertzmann's research is well-known for its influence in three separate areas of computer science: computer graphics, machine learning, and computer vision. In fact, Hertzmann's work has resolved a wide range of problems in the field of computer graphics. These include estimating the three-dimensional structure of a non-rigid object from a video sequence of that object, finding new methods for removing the effects of "camera shake" from photographs in digital photography, computer rendering of images in diverse artistic styles, and automated construction of mathematical and computational models of human locomotion for computer animation in film and computer games.

Perhaps there is no finer example of the sheer artistry of Hertzmann's work than in the 2009 independent animated film *The Spine*, in which he served as advisor to Academy Award-winning Director Chris Landreth. The film depicts a couple's failing marriage, and uses an innovative computer animation technique known as non-photorealistic rendering. Whereas with photorealism artists paint images to look like photographs, non-photorealistic rendering strives to be as expressive as possible. Using smooth textures, loud colours, and fluid movements, the technique literalizes the characters' internal conditions.

Indeed, much of Hertzmann's work is focused on the very nature of art. In one of his papers, he asked, "How do artists create imagery?" and, "How do observers respond to artistic images?" These are questions Hertzmann hopes to answer — not as a philosopher, but as a computer scientist. His unique integration of computer science and art is rare, and could further pave the way for a new and emerging movement. Much of his research is also focused on designing "new and innovative tools for artists, designers, and scientists for creating beautiful images and animations."

Hertzmann explains that he discovered the diversity of his interests at an early age. "I've always been interested in computers, and I've always been interested in art. I used to paint when I was little. Then I began creating art using computer algorithms."

This interest would eventually take Hertzmann's career to the animated film industry. He currently works at Pixar Animation Studios in Emmeryville, California as a visiting researcher. His work involves the response of digital characters to changing environments, and has potential applications not only for animated films but for the expanding video game industry.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

However, his job as a Pixar researcher has not prevented him from performing the standard duties of a professor. Hertzmann also teaches several graduate and undergraduate courses at U of T, including a non-photorealistic rendering course and a computer graphics course.

Hertzmann is originally from Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he received his BA in computer science and art. He then moved on to his graduate studies at New York University before coming to U of T in 2003.

Explaining his initial reaction upon finding out he won the 2010 Steacie Prize, Hertzmann says he was "excited and happy." Unfortunately, he did not find out about his success by way of a frantic phone call or an excited colleague, as one might expect — but a way perhaps most befitting a computer scientist: via email.

On where Hertzmann plans to take his research in the future, he explains, "There is still much work to be done on how physical characters interact with a variable environment." Such research would have profound implications for the future of computer graphics and animation.

Hertzmann's love of animated films is inspiring enough to recognize the present and future significance of computer-generated imagery. Computer-animated films have expanded rapidly since the mid 1990s, while the techniques of computer animation have since leaked into the methods of traditional filmmaking, forever impacting the cinematic tradition. Computer animation techniques have also evolved rapidly since the first use of CGI in the 1970s. Hertzmann's work is undoubtedly a testament to this evolution. He strongly encourages viewers to take note of the cutting-edge advancements being made in animation by expanding one's visual palette, and "viewing lower-budget non-mainstream animated films that demonstrate genuine innovation."

Imparting some final wisdom to future computer scientists, Hertzmann states, "Do try to learn to love math. It's extremely important and useful in the field."

"How do observers respond to artistic images?" [This is a question] Hertzmann hopes to answer — not as a philosopher, but as a computer scientist.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

BHA and BHT!

Butylated hydroxyanisole is a preservative and antioxidant that is added to a huge number of foods and products we use on a daily basis. It can be found in butter, margarine, meats, breakfast cereals, baked goods, beer, cake mixes, vegetable oils, shortening, potato chips, nuts, and chewing gum. Sometimes food processors will incorporate BHA into the packaging materials to "preserve freshness." It can also be found in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and rubber.

BHA is a controversial food ingredient because it is "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen," according to the US Department of Health and Human Services' *Report on Carcinogens*. Because it has yet to join the list of "known human carcinogens," it is still "GRAS" (generally recognized as being safe), and can therefore be found throughout the food system.

BHA's cousin, Butylated hydroxytoluene, is found in enriched rice and many of the same foods that contain BHA. A review of the safety of BHT, published in the International *Journal of Toxicology*, highlighted that BHT can have opposite effects depending on the animal model, amount of exposure, and organ targeted. In other words, it sometimes promotes tumor development, and at other times acts as an anticarcinogen.

In addition to their carcinogenic effects, both BHT and BHA are also linked to hyperactivity. This first came to the forefront in the 1970s when Ben Feingold, a pediatric allergist, developed the Feingold Diet, a diet which eliminates synthetic colours, flavours, preservatives like BHT and BHA, and artificial sweeteners to treat and prevent hyperactivity. The Feingold Program and similar diets continue to be tested for their ability to improve ADHD symptoms. Over the past 40 years, studies have consistently shown a link between hyperactivity and certain food additives.

Though they are still considered safe, it is likely only a matter of time before BHA and BHT join the list of hundreds of other compounds that should never have entered our food in the first place.

SCIENCE in BRIEF

Tooth analysis reveals more about Neanderthals' diet and why they went extinct

A new finding from researchers at George Washington University and The Smithsonian Institute have discovered new evidence that contradicts one major theory of the Neanderthals' extinction. This earlier theory proposed that the extinction was caused in part by a deficient diet, that relied only on meat.

However, based on the study published in November 2010 in PNAS, scientists now believe that the Neanderthals were much more similar to early humans than was previously expected. The researchers found starch granules trapped in the dental calculus — which refers to the tartar removed at your typical dental check-up — therefore pointing to a more sophisticated and thoughtful diet among the Neanderthals. What's more, the researchers also determined from alterations in the starch compounds, that the food was prepared and cooked in order to make it taste better and become easier to digest.

This discovery challenges the existing hypothesis that Neanderthals were outcompeted by early humans partly due to their primitive, deficient diet, which some scientists argue consisted only of meat. Instead, major climate swings are believed to have disfavoured the Neanderthals, who, unlike early humans, were believed incapable of incorporating other plant foods in their diet in order to survive.

— ALBERT RAZVAN GHEORGHITA
Source: George Washington University

Astronomers discover new Jupiter-like exoplanet

Qatarian Scientist Dr. Al Subai, along with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and other institutions, have discovered a new alien world.

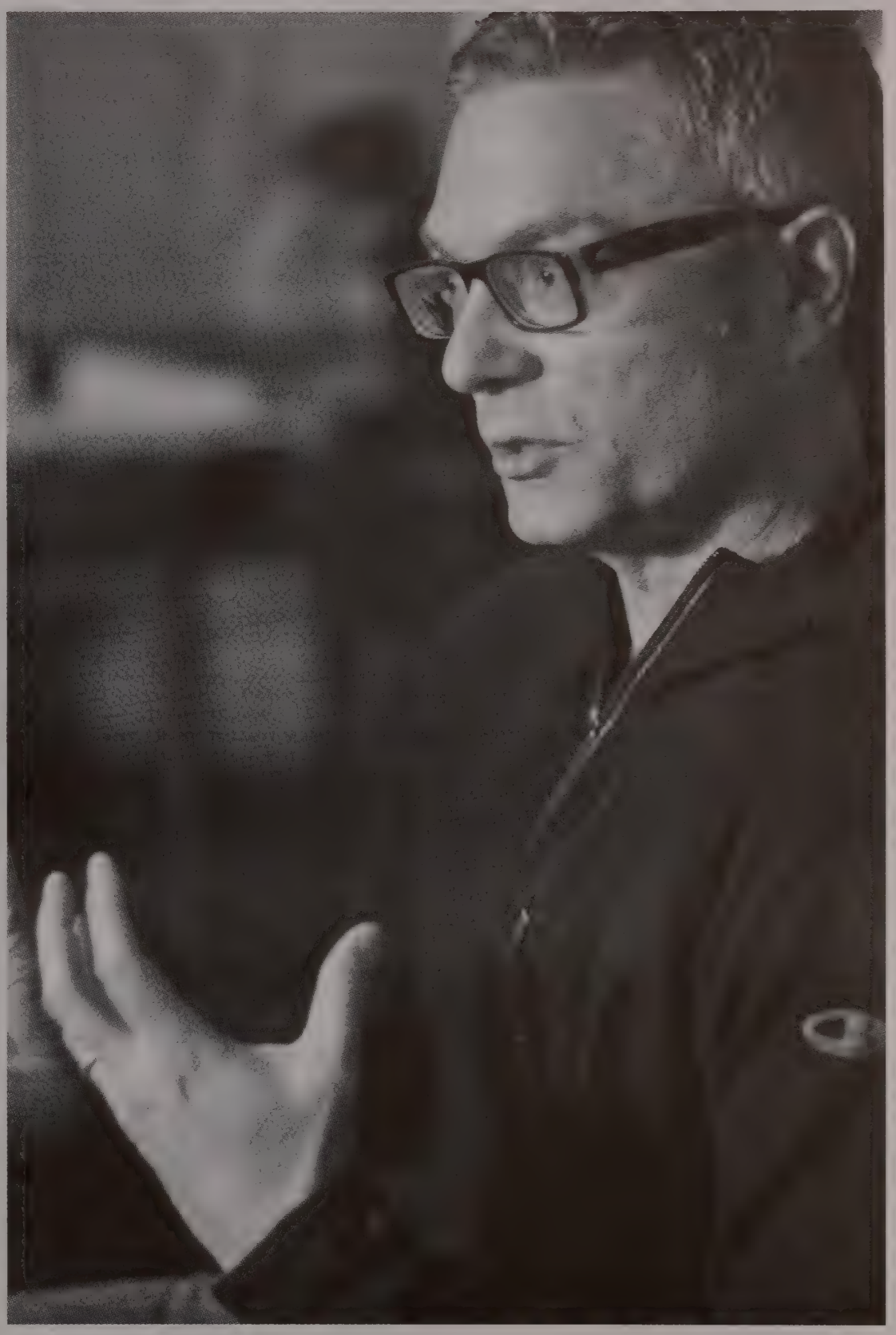
The scientists surveyed for exoplanets — which are planets from other solar systems — by searching for stars that "wink." These stars become slightly dimmer every time an orbiting planet crosses in front of it, creating a "mini-eclipse." Using wide-angle cameras, located in New Mexico, the scientists took photographs of the sky every clear night beginning in early 2010. The images then were transmitted to the UK for analysis, followed by spectroscopic observations with a 60-inch diameter telescope. This narrowed the field from thousands to a small fraction of candidate stars with detectable planets.

The newly discovered Qatar-1b planet is located 550 light-years from earth rotating 3.5 million kilometers away from it's orange dwarf star. With a mass 10 per cent larger than Jupiter, and an average temperature of around 1,100°C, it belongs to the "hot Jupiter family. Qatar-1b also circles its star and spins on its axis once every 1.4 days, meaning that both its year and its day are just 34 hours long.

— KIM TRAN
Source: Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Fearsome Imaginations

In Andrew Pyper's new thriller, evil is closer than you think



BY JADE COLBERT
PHOTOS BY AMY JIN

On a Thursday evening, as a wallop of snow hit the city, acclaimed author Andrew Pyper joined The Varsity for a beer in the back room of The Ossington, a bar just down the street from his home. The room was spare, lined along one wall by some mismatched seating, and lit by a naked, two-watt candle bulb atop an unshaded lamp (not an unsuitable setting for discussing Pyper's latest novel, in which the characters live a waking nightmare in the cellar of an abandoned house). We settled into wooden chairs facing one another and placed our pint glasses on the floor.

When we meet, *The Guardians* has been on shelves for only a few days and Pyper is looking forward to the book's launch the following week. In particular, he anticipates the chance to share the new work with his friends. Perhaps the most autobiographical of his novels, *The Guardians* takes place in the fictional town of Grimshaw, which Pyper based on his hometown of Stratford, Ontario (or Stratford minus the Shakespeare festival). The book tells the story of four friends who keep a dark secret from their teenage years, until one of them commits suicide and the past comes back to haunt the three left behind.

"Even though it's a novel with a couple of murders in it and a ghost and some scenes that, if I've done my job, are frightening, and a town that's painted in a way that you wouldn't ever want to live there, it's actually really meant as a gesture of love for my friends," Pyper says. "I just can't do love conventionally?"

If *The Virgin Suicides* were a ghost story written by Henry James and filmed by Guy Maddin, you might have something approximating *The Guardians*, though that description doesn't do justice to Pyper's skill in arranging a plot that, once set in motion, propels itself by its own energy until we reach the end and can only look back to what led us here. This is at least one reason why the movies so love his books, several of which (*Lost Girls, The Killing Circle, The Wildfire Season*) are on their way to the silver screen. *The Guardians* has already been optioned for film.

For someone whose novels peer into the dark and then look closer, Pyper is surprisingly cheerful. He laughs frequently during the interview and seems happy to finally get to talk about how he's going to scare you out of your skin. On that note, we open on the subject of a haunted house.

THE VARSITY: *Something that crops up in your books repeatedly is this interest in the uncanny. The Thurman house in The Guardians is like a literal definition of the unheimlich: this home that is unhomely. It's familiar, it's like all the houses that these boys grew up in, but what bothers them so much about it is that nobody lives there. What interested you in this house? What made you pick it up in this novel?*

ANDREW PYPER: There was, for a long time, an interest in writing a haunted-house story, but I needed to do something different with it. I didn't set out to reinvent the story, because that trope is useful and regenerative on its own, but I needed to marry it to something else and it took a while — some years, actually — to have that eureka moment of aligning in many respects a quite conventional haunted-house story with preoccupations of masculinity and aging and male friendship and these other concerns I had that I was toying around with. So it cleaves in two ways: it cleaves temporally in the way the structure of the novel works, but it also cleaves in that on the one hand, there are questions of a conventional literary kind, i.e., aging, and what is it to be a man alive in 2011, and all those concerns, and on the other hand, it's a horror novel. It was the marriage of those two things that I thought, "Here's a way of regenerating this trope." I make it my own through peopling it as opposed to creating some kind of totally original mythology. So it's the people who go into the house. And the house, as you pointed out, what's unique about it is its vacancy, and it's how they project into that house that's interesting.

TV: *It's almost as if you're examining the normal through the extremely weird. Did you approach the novel in that way? Was it that you wanted to talk about these four guys who are in their forties, they're aging, they're looking back on their lives, and it just so happened they had particularly horrific teenage years?*

AP: Well, I think you've helped me by articulating not just the central theme of this novel, but now that I think of it, all of them, which is, how did you put it? — exploring the normal through the weird. I think everyone remembers their teenage years as particularly horrific.

TV: *They maybe didn't bury the music teacher in the cellar.*

AP: God, I hope not, no! But at the time, it feels like you're enduring unique horrors, and more to the point, whatever you're enduring is a secret. That is a hallmark of adolescence that I wanted to get across: that the secrets obviously aren't as dark as the ones my characters experience, but metaphorically speaking, this is the terrain of adolescence, that feeling of "I'm the only person who's ever felt this before" or "This experience that me and my friends have is a secret that we hold. There's no way that I could take this home with me or that I could share it with my parents." That divide, even if you look back on it — "Oh that was ridiculous! How harmless!" — at the time, it isolates you. That's, I think, the way in: it's not that you can't relate to these people because what they've undergone is so remote from what most people experience. On the contrary; the way they deal with this experience, regardless of what that dark secret is, is the way that North American adolescents deal with it. It's immaterial what the horror is.

TV: *In the house there's a boy, and the four friends seem to experience him in different ways. Somebody asks, "You've seen the boy. What does he look like?" And it's not clear that he looks the same to everyone.*

AP: The boy is not just a reflection of them, he may in fact ultimately be them in the sense that he exists through their energies. In literature and the cinema, ghosts have a certain fogginess. Well, this ghost isn't foggy. He's a chameleon, he's a shape-shifter in a way. That's what the house is: a house of mirrors in that you will see in it horrific things, but those horrific things ultimately come from yourself. They're distortions. They may not be true, but they are all self-generated. Which is why, in an essential way, I'm still scared of the dark. Because it's in the pure darkness that I can most fully imagine, and that's the scary stuff.

TV: *I've read that you're somebody who is fairly detailed in your outlining before you start writing a book.*

AP: There are things that you can do in the range of a story, the sequence of events, that go beyond merely, oh, hooking the reader. It's not a matter of form. It's a matter of — is there a way to take sequential experience, the way that all of us necessarily experience life, and rearrange it in a way that not just

SEE 'PYPER' – PG 14



OBJECTIVE FACT:

The Varsity's fiction is at least 1000 times better than James Joyce's.

Send your fiction, poetry, prose, photography, and art to Varsity Arts' Arts.
arts@thevarsity.ca

'PYPER' - CONTINUED FROM PG 13

enhances the readerly experience, but that brings out something in the story that will enhance its impact?

Where you start the novel is so important. It just sets the tone for the whole book. It's what that first note on the piano will say about the last note. Starting the novel with these boys, we don't know who they are yet, they're looking through a window and seeing police arrive. One policeman runs out of the house terrified, we don't know why, and then the ambulance arrives and there are the two body bags that come out and the boys seem to know what's going on. Yes, it's mysterious, but the most interesting aspect of that for me is the way the curtains smell. You can imagine these terrified, trembling adolescent boys breathing in the smell of these curtains and watching this scene of horror. And it's the curtains to me that are the most interesting because it puts you in the smell of a deep fryer, of those lonely after-school afternoons growing up in a small town. It's the particularity of the world that they're inhabiting that I think, okay, that's the tone. Yes, there's a hook. Who's in the body bags? Why'd they go into the house? Did somebody kill them? Yes, yes, yes. But it's the loneliness of the curtains [laughs] and that depressing deep-fryer smell that is seeped into the fabric — that's the tonal importance.



But I do plot out. There should be a big progression to the way the scares happen so that there shouldn't be the same thing twice unless there's a reason for it. In the case of *The Guardians*, it's an empty house and these people are safely outside of it, but it's about perceptions or events that conspire to bring them in. So instead of "You have to get out of the house!" this is, "Don't go into the house!"

TV: *But you will go anyway.*

AP: You will go anyway. So it was fun from an architectural, plotting point of view to plot out those movements from looking through windows, seeing glimpses of things through the windows, then seeing, no, undeniably that is a human figure in the window. What is that figure doing? There is no reason to go in this house — unless you make one. And that's why I think these guys need the Thurman house as much as the Thurman house and the boy need them. I think that's the nature of badness generally: every neighbourhood and every small town does have a haunted house, because they need it. We need to have a site for our fears. And if we don't have it, we'll make one up anyway.



by ANDREW RUSK

Henry Kissinger is rumoured to have said, "Academic politics are vicious because the stakes are so low." I know that most of you only pick up this paper to read my column and see if there is anyone cute in the streeter photographs, but I can assure you — U of T student bickering can get more intense than during a Sample Sale in Say Yes to the Dress.

You know what would make student politics a hell of a lot less vicious and maybe even more interesting? Champagne! Yes, last week in this special two-week spotlight on champagne I told you about an amazing holiday present I received from our Associate Arts Editor, Ariel Lewis. This week, you'll learn three amazing tips for enjoying bubbling wines to their fullest potential. But before I begin, you'll notice that after dozens of letters and phone calls, my editor has relented and doubled the length of my column. To further commemorate this development, we commissioned a custom illustration from Barrie native and distinguished sommelier-illustrator, Alex Nursall.

Before you open your next bottle of champagne, notice the metal cap ensuring the cork remains attached to the bottle. Bet the people you're with that you can guess the number of twists of the metal cap before it is fully unwound. I don't know why, but every bottle champagne manufactured has exactly six twists to fully unwind the metal cap. Pretty cool, eh?

When it comes to pouring the beverage, for God's sake be careful. After removing the metal cap, place your hand on top of the cork and slowly twist. Like unprotected sex, trying to pop the cork off is both dangerous and potentially messy.

When pouring the champagne, sommeliers will recommend that you keep the flute on the table and pour. If you're feeling daring, try tipping the glass like you're pouring a pilsner. At the risk of seeming unsophisticated, you preserve more bubbles and can pour the glass faster.

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arts' arts

We Are All Dripping
Christopher Greer

We are all dripping, dripping, dripping down storm drains into cosmic chasms of unknown proportions, terror, and bliss all neatly arranged in a freshly licked envelope stamped dogma; pounding the pavement as we scrape our bellies on industrial-era cobblestone and philosophize over who is pulling our feet; wishing upon fallen stars for more milk chocolate thrills and spills and kills so long as we feel the senses tingle and quiver like a ball of yarn under attack from the paw of a cat that is both soft and sharp because all that we can perceive of reality is what we feel, not the surreal or the ethereal or any other kind of real other than real itself due to the incontestable fact that nothing can be real other than what is real, and what is real is nothing other than what we feel, and to feel is to be and to be is to feel...

And so the never-ending cycle spins like classic American blue jeans in a dryer all sopped up with brand name detergents that wash away the sins of sinners who so happen to wear denim, since as we all know people who wear flannel can do no bad. If they did, their imperfections would stick like highway tar to their cloth personifications and all would know what they had done, because after all you need hot water to wash flannel, but no one can afford hot water these days which are really the same as every other day that has been, is, or will ever be.

And as we stand around flagpoles saluting with phantom limbs we dream in pixels of money falling from the sky like cats and dogs that bark and meow in our ears in the dead of night, so that when the sun rises we walk in a lucid trance through streets paved with childhood memories on our way to the retail store where we shake hands with the clean-shaven pimp and walk away clutching an aluminum whore.

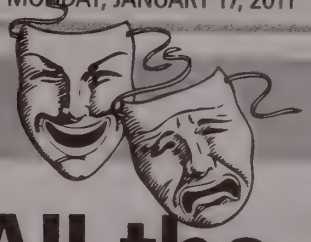
And under the light of jarred fireflies we slap cards on the decks of rogue locomotives that traverse the furrows of our brows as we stare through dilated pupils at the stars above and wonder how a tilt of the neck can make you a heretic.

And over cups of tea with Grandma we contemplate the color red before sharpening the blades of our sickle on Rockefeller's teeth as we make our way over trench-coat bridges to the place where Einstein sits all day strumming a ukulele and singing E=MC^2.

And all the while we are dripping, dripping, dripping away...



Protein
Adrianna Perricone



Campus Stage

All the dirt on *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

Ariel Lewis
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Hart House's Dirty Rotten Scoundrels *is well-acted but exhausting*



CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

About halfway through the first act of Hart House's production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, the song "All About Ruprecht" begins. Laurence, a charming con man with an English accent, sings "Ruprecht's all about sun and soda pop" to Jolene, a jovial Oklahoma heiress. She flits and dances across the stage, her shrieks of laughter reaching immeasurable octaves. "Ruprecht's all about hugs and valentines," Laurence continues. Meanwhile Freddy, the less-aged, less-suave con man begins to hump Laurence's leg. The orchestra is buzzing with upbeat show tunes and Jolene's high pitched squeals continue. With this high energy, in-your-face tone present from the very beginning, it doesn't take long for Jeffrey Lane and David Yazbek's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* to wear you down.

Based on the 1988 film of the same name, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* first premiered in 2004 and came to Broadway a year later. Of the recent surge in film-based musicals, this one certainly comes out on the better end of the scale. Set on the French Riviera, *Scoundrels* channels the Fred Astaire era of Hollywood musicals with its jewel-encrusted set, swaying palm trees, and an endless number of wealthy socialites ready to pass their time through song and dance. The humour is cheeky, the mood is fun, and the thin plot is there purely as a means to set up each coming musical number — the very definition of the phrase "frothy romp." However, where *Flying Down to Rio* and *Top Hat* run at approximately an hour and a half, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* nearly doubles that, and this lengthy musical rarely seeks more low-key moments. By the end of the first act few words have been spoken without the orchestra's accompaniment of jazzy show melodies, an effect that soon becomes overwhelming. Unfortunately Yazbek's music and lyrics, while melodious and tuneful, have no catchy quality, and none of the 24 music numbers stand out amongst the rest.

However, for a musical with weakness in plot, the Hart House Theatre cast and crew, as usual, offer excellent performances straight to the end. *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* is the story of two con men: Laurence (Neil Silcox) is a seasoned con artist whose suave and sophisticated act scores him big money from rich heiresses; and Freddy (Evan Dowling), a hustler whose unrefined etiquette brings him smaller sums throughout his travels. The two meet by chance and eventually fall into a bet, the loser of which must pack up and leave, never to con in the area again. With the musical's endless array of bubbly characters, Neil Silcox's calm, smooth demeanour served as an anchor throughout the production, his deadpan delivery contrasting well with the excitable personality of Evan Dowling's Freddy. The two actors shared great chemistry, feeding off each other to ramp up the comedy. Another strong performance came from Cameron Johnston, as the crooked French cop Andre. The character serves as Laurence's confidant and wise cracking foil. Johnston's performance is nicely nuanced and his stage French accent is spot on. The three female leads had lovely, well trained voices and were quite competent actors. However, as the story requires three easily duped victims, the subtle differences between the three characters are overwhelmed by the general tone of gullibility.

It is in movement and action that *Scoundrels* needed to find moments of lower energy. Ashleigh Powell's choreography was something quite spectacular. Each number exceeded in inventive qualities and was performed beautifully by the skilled chorus of dancers. Statues came to life and, for a play set in France, mimes were used accordingly. However, Powell's creative choreography would have been better accentuated had it been contrasted with moments of stillness and quiet. Instead, it became overshadowed by the abundance of glittery costumes and sparkling set, and the sheer volume of action happening on stage.

Near the end of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* the plot thickens and the audience is offered something to hold on to. Characters develop, the musical finds its ups and downs, and the ending is fulfilling. Had the orchestra and action been toned down, the musical may not have had quite the same overwhelming effect. The lengthy but simple story could have cut out much of its endlessly boisterous setup in act one, leaving the audience dazzled instead of frazzled.

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The All-Canadians



From left: Nordoo Gooden, Darragh McGee, Kyesia O'Neal, Hannah Tighe, and Kaelan Watson. *PHOTOS COURTESY VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

Five Varsity Blues have received a top CIS honour

Roxanna Dehghan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

While it's no surprise that the Varsity Blues boast stand-out players, it never hurts for the CIS to recognize them. Field hockey players Kyesia O'Neale, Hannah Tighe, and Kaelan Watson were named All-Canadians, as well as men's soccer players Nordo Gooden and Darragh McGee.

The Varsity: *How long have you been playing soccer?*

Nordo Gooden: I have been playing soccer for as long as I can remember. Growing up in Jamaica, soccer was what we did in our spare time, although I never really played competitively until I was about 11.

Darragh McGee: Coming from Ireland, where the game of soccer has a considerable heritage and tradition amongst rural communities, I began my playing career with my local soccer club at the age of six, before progressing through the youth system in Donegal. Following that, I signed semi-professional and subsequently professional contracts at the age of 18 with Finn Harps FC and later Derry City FC before moving to England to study for my master's degree.

TV: *Going to U of T comes with high academic dedication. How do you balance your school life and varsity sports?*

DM: Achieving the elusive balance between academic and sporting endeavours represents the biggest challenge for any student-athlete and during my short time in Toronto, I have seen many talented players struggle to maintain high levels of achievement in both facets of their lives. Speaking from my own experience of juggling my academic commitment as a PhD candidate with the captaincy of the men's soccer program, I believe the key issue is time management. Whilst many believe the student athlete lifestyle is one of great privilege, I would argue that it is also one of great dedication, determination, and at times, of total chaos. The truth is that this often involves late nights and early mornings as I strive to ensure deadlines are met and I am not neglecting any aspect of my academic development. However, this balance is something that is learned and developed so as a senior player, I do everything in my power to guide the younger members of the squad as they become acclimatised to the less glamorous side of being a student athlete.

NG: Being a part of the team really teaches you how to balance everything in your life and prioritize. Our two-hour practices are used as my break from studying, and travel times and hotel times on the road are vital for getting work done. Because we practice at nights, it enables us to get up early enough to start getting things done. Everyone on the team specializes in something educational, so if a teammate ever needs help with anything in a course, he can always get help from someone on the team, we have TAs and senior players who even if they can't help, know someone who can.

TV: *How long have you been playing field hockey?*

Hannah Tighe: I've been playing field hockey for about 11 years now.

Kyesia O'Neal: I've been playing field hockey since ninth grade, so for roughly nine years.

TV: *How do you find the female field hockey program in comparison to your high school field hockey career?*

HT: A large part of why I became so passionate about field hockey is because of my high school experience. I had amazing coaches who were passionate about the sport, and gave us lots of opportunities to play. The program at U of T has that same passion. Where it differs from high school is in our desire to compete and excel. The U of T program has a tradition of excellence and every year we work to carry on that tradition. Over the past four seasons I have learned a lot more about the game, and greatly developed my skills thanks to our awesome coaching staff. Our amazing facilities and support from the university is also something that wasn't available in high school and is a big reason for our success.

KO: It is on a completely different level. In high school, the majority of the players were just introduced to the sport, like myself. So those years were spent developing basic technical skills. Coming to U of T was a big step as it is a high performance program. It develops your basic skills but also develops player's game concepts and fitness making us more well-rounded hockey players.

Kaelan Watson: John DeSouza puts everything he has into this program. He is so passionate and committed to our team, and it's like nothing I've ever seen before. He gives our team so much heart it cannot even be compared to a high school program, or any field hockey team in the CIS.

TV: *How do you feel about this season in comparison to your previous ones at U of T?*

HT: We have approached every season with the same drive for success and desire to win and this year was no different. Our success this season came because we were blessed with some talented rookies and we really came together as a team. The CIS All-Canadians did not win this championship, every person that was a part of this team on the field won it.

KO: A couple of years before this, we started on such a high note and unfortunately did not perform at our full potential during CIS in the years right after. This year however, I felt we clicked at just the right time. We stepped up when we needed to and were able to reclaim our CIS title. We won our last CIS Championship in 2007 and so winning a second one during my time here, especially during my final year, makes it all the better.

KW: This season was really about coming together as a team and trying to use our skill over our experience. We are generally a pretty young team so it was tough to overcome the absence of experience but in the end our hard work really paid off. In my first year we were the best team in the CIS on paper, but by the time we got to CIS we looked almost like a high school team because our chemistry just didn't happen. We let experienced players take control and try to win it on their own. This year we went into CIS feeling like underdogs after losing the OUA and knowing we were the youngest team there. I think that feeling of knowing people didn't expect a lot from us is what really drove us to the win. We were determined to prove them wrong. We played as if we had nothing to lose, and it really paid off. We were so calm and collected for every game and hardly made any mistakes. I think in the end that was what really brought us success; we were able to minimize our mistakes while capitalizing on the other teams mistakes. It made us look like a team of all-stars but really we just all knew our role and how to successfully fulfill it in the 70 minutes of each game.

TV: *How do you feel after receiving the title of All-Canadian?*

NG: I am very honored to win the CIS All-Canadian Award. It has always been a goal of mine since my first season with the team. I have been striving to achieve it ever since, and to do it in my final year shows that I have developed as a player throughout my years with the Varsity Blues. As my coach told me, I have built a reputation in this league and even though we as a team failed to achieve our ultimate goal of winning national gold, winning the CIS All-Canadian was a bit of a consolation.

DG: Winning the 2010 CIS All Star capped off a fantastic season for me personally and was reflective of how much I have been enjoying this year. I began the season by establishing that as my personal goal and I was confident that if I gave the program my full commitment, success would follow both for me personally and collectively as a team. Having spent my first year playing out of position and hampered by niggling injuries, I felt I had a point to prove in Canadian soccer — to deliver on the billing I was given when I moved here having played professionally in Ireland. Everyone enjoys being presented with awards and I'm no different in that regard — the CIS All-Canadian Award was confirmation that I am progressing as a player, but I am by no means content. I would have happily swapped my personal accolades for a place in the CIS Final this year and I am now looking ahead to next season and the quest to improve the team and myself as we attempt to achieve gold in Victoria this November.

HT: Receiving CIS All-Star recognition was just icing on the cake of winning the national championship, and I like to think goes to show that hard work pays off. Playing on a team of such talented and competitive athletes forces us to challenge and bring out the best in each other.

KW: It's pretty unreal to be acknowledged as one of the top players in the country. It's a great feeling to win an award that you see other amazing players win because it makes you think that you are as good as they are. It's really cool to see your other teammates win the award with you because you know how hard they work behind the scenes and you know the amazing skill set that they possess, it's just so great to see that other people recognize it too. It makes you proud to play with them.

check our blogs at varsity.ca The Extra Inning

A good sport



MINHEE BAE/THE VARSITY

Under pressure

With his 600th career win under his belt and the Leafs on a winning streak, Ron Wilson can't really be doing that bad of a job, can he?

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

For a man so beleaguered in recent months, Toronto Maple Leafs' Head Coach Ron Wilson had quite the spring in his step after the Leafs' 4–2 win over the San Jose Sharks on Tuesday night.

Perhaps the reason Wilson was so chipper that night was that he had just returned to a building he had coached at for many years, to beat his former team, the Sharks, for his 600th career win. In a sport like hockey, 600 wins for a coach is a true milestone, and any win — but especially a milestohe one — against a former team is even sweeter.

The Leafs found themselves on a four-game winning streak, and good for five out of six games (or 10 out of 12 possible points in the standings) since the beginning of 2011. That, surely, brought some relief to Wilson, a man whose job security is openly debated several times a week.

Although in the immediate aftermath of Wilson's 600th victory it might seem a bit silly to try to objectively review his tenure as coach, it's hard to resist, especially given the vitriol with which Wilson has been (often unfairly) attacked.

It's true that, on the whole, his time in Toronto has been unspectacular. It's no overstatement to say that the vast majority of Wilson's career wins have come elsewhere. He's never made the playoffs — or, really, come all that close to making the playoffs in Toronto — and it doesn't seem like that will change this year.

But folks who hammered Wilson for all of these faults forget one crucial thing: his mandate right now is to develop, not to win immediately.

The Leafs are not supposed to be a winning team (and despite the win streak to start the year, no one whose opinion mattered seriously believed otherwise), so it seems more than a little ridiculous to hold their coach up to that standard.

Coaches in professional sports are always in a difficult position. When things are going badly, you can't fire the entire team, so the one guy who is "in charge" becomes the easiest target for criticism. But the fact is, Wilson has never made a bad turnover (at least not in a Leafs uniform), missed an open net, or let in a soft goal. Lots of players on the Leafs have done all of those things many, many times this year.

There are some amongst Wilson's detractors who have genuine, solid hockey criticisms of specific instances where he could have done more to assert the little real influence that coaches have to better the team. Those people are amongst the minority, though. Most people who call for Wilson's head do so out of frustration and anger, and he happens to be a convenient target.

So, the next time you call for another coach to lose their job ask yourself — what are the roots of the underlying problems, and will the next guy really do that much better?

What the Blues are brewing up

DANIEL TSIOKOS *takes a look at the prospects for Varsity Blues basketball during the second half of the season*

MEN

The Varsity Blues men's basketball team is 8–4 at the midway point of the season, sitting in second place in the OUA East and looking to lock up a first-round playoff bye.

The Blues have been taking the OUA by storm, surprising every team in the league, except for themselves, that is.

"Although a lot of people doubted us, we always believed in ourselves and believed we had the pieces to put a good season together," said Blues forward Alex Hill.

"We're definitely doing better than the preseason polls had predicted us to," added veteran point guard Anthony DeGiorgio.

Carleton was predicted to top the OUA East once again with Ottawa, Ryerson, and York finishing higher than Toronto by the end of the season. All three, however, have records below .500, while only Toronto has a winning record.

Assistant Coach Mike DeGiorgio is not at all surprised by the team's performance.

"As a coaching staff this is where we expected our guys to be because we expect them to play at a high level all the time," he stated. "To outside observers this is probably not where they expected us to be. A lot of preseason polls were picking us to finish fifth or sixth in the OUA East, and we knew that that wasn't where we were supposed to be."

After a quick glance at the standings, most people would be licking their chops after seeing the Blues' competition for the second half of the season.

Laurentian is tied with York for third at 6–7. Ottawa, Ryerson, Queen's, and RMC, who have a total of 11 wins combined, follow them. U of T plays Carleton and Ottawa once more, and have two games against the others.

Anthony DeGiorgio is quick to point out that the Blues are not paying any attention to what the standings say.

"We can't look at their records. We need to look at their personnel and what they're capable of," he said. "Like [Head Coach Mike Katz] said, when it's conference play it's a totally different ball game. It's more important because you see both teams twice, and the second game is always tougher because of adjustments."

Mike DeGiorgio stated that the records of their opponents can't fool Toronto, "Records don't mean anything at this point in the season. You go on the road anywhere in the OUA East and you're going to be in a tough game."

So what is it going to take for the Blues to reach their regular season goal of securing home court advantage with a first-round bye?

"I think what's going to be tough is not getting complacent," said Anthony DeGiorgio. "Taking every single game and not underestimating anybody."

"We also need to play our game and not play into the hands of our opponent," added Hill.

All season coach Katz and his staff has been pressing the mentality of 'win by committee,' and it has reaped enormous benefits thus far.

Four players are averaging double figures in scoring, with two others close behind. Only Ryerson has four double-digit scorers, but they provide all of their points, as their lineup is filled in with two and three point per game players.

"I think win by committee works well for our team because we have a lot of talented guys with no true superstar who lights it up every single game," said Mike DeGiorgio. "Win by committee is what we're striving to get to as long as everyone continues to execute and keep up the level of play throughout the season."

Though Mike DeGiorgio praises the team's success at this point of the season, he also believes that the players have not reached their full potential.

"I think everybody has room for improvement, especially defensively," he said. "We have traditionally been one of the better defensive teams in the conference, and even though we're scoring more and have a pretty good record, we're giving up a lot more points than we usually do. Defensively we need to live up to expectations a little bit more and be more consistent on that end of the court."

The Blues head out on the road to take on York and then Laurentian this weekend to wrap up a four-game road trip. If Toronto can take both games, they will be in a very good position to lock up second place as they end the season with seven of their last 10 games at home. Doing so would give them a first-round bye, and greatly improve their chances at getting to the CIS Championships.

"Obviously nationals is a great goal for us to have," said Hill, "but that is a long way away and we need to take this season game by game and day by day or that goal will never be reached."

WOMEN

Before the season began, the Varsity Blues women's basketball team had a goal of finishing on top of the OUA East.

As it stands, the Blues are 9–4 and hold second place, behind Carleton (10–2).

"One of our main goals coming into this season was to remain on top of the OUA east division and eventually make nationals," said forward Megan Stoncius. "However, due to minor mental mistakes and lack of effort at times we have fallen behind in the East."

An example of what Stoncius meant was evident in Toronto's two games to open the OUA East portion of the 2010–11 season. The Blues suffered one-point losses to Ottawa and Carleton, respectively.

"[That] weekend in isolation was not reflective of our capabilities and was not consistent with how we have been playing up to that point," said veteran guard Erin McNeely. "Those close one-point games last weekend were probably a blessing in disguise and will allow us to grow and make adjustments so we can be that much stronger mentally for what is to come later on in the season."

Despite their record, the Blues still have a very good chance to take the OUA East crown, so long as they can play to their potential and put in a complete effort in their remaining games.

The Blues lead the OUA East with 68.2 points scored per game, and are third best defensively, allowing only 59.1 points by the opposition per game.

The Blues will have to play Ottawa and Carleton once more, with both games being held at the Varsity Centre. Their remaining seven games, however, are going to be against sub-.500 teams.

"I believe we can go undefeated for the next games if we stick to game-plan and give continuous defensive effort," said Stoncius. "Everyone has a role which they need to fulfill, and when everyone sticks to the game plan things go well."

"The first half of the season was about testing the waters, finding out who works well together and what works for us as a team," said McNeely of the OUA West portion of the schedule. "It really is a whole new season now and playing time and roles are varying and teams are starting to scout more closely."

After winning last weekend's games against both York and Laurentian, Toronto will play seven of their last nine games at home, which will be a huge boost for the team. Playing at home, however, doesn't mean it will be a walk in the park for the Blues. "[I]t will come down to our execution and ability to read the defense and make the right decisions because the other teams will be anticipating our moves," continued McNeely. "It will also come down to mental toughness because there will be a lot of close games, crowds and pressure. It will come down to who goes the extra mile and does all the little things right."

"I do believe the goal of nationals is still very much in reach," added Stoncius. "[Our] keys to success include: 40 minutes of defensive effort, sacrificing your body, more confidence on offense, always running the floor, and finding more scorers."

What Stoncius is implying when she says that U of T needs more scorers is that they need to find someone other than veteran forward Nicki Schutz to put the ball in the hoop during crunch time.

Schutz is second in the OUA with 10.5 rebounds per game, and is averaging a double-double, but the other players need to fill in whenever opposing defenses find a way to contain Schutz.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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"She always has at least one and a half girls on her all the time," said McNeely, "so if we can hit some shots it'll be good for everybody."

The Blues have had their time to experiment and tinker with line-ups, matchups, and systems. At this point of the season, with a playoff berth and possibly a first round bye on the line, it will take effort and execution for them to succeed.

"I believe we have the potential to beat all the teams in the East, we are very talented but do not always come to play," said Stoncius. "As a team we need to find consistent effort if we want to make it to the next level."

"I think that we have a lot of talent and depth, which makes it particularly difficult for us to be stopped because on any given night we can get great performances out of anyone," continued McNeely. "In this half of the season it will be about everyone finding their role on the team and producing optimally. That is the key to us coming together."

Stoncius agrees, and believes that the team needs to take a minute to reflect, "Our team just needs to realize how talented we really are and play to our strengths."

The Blues begin a four-game home-stand, starting with this weekend's games against RMC and Queen's. During the last nine games of the season the Blues believe that if they leave it all out on the floor, they will reap the rewards.

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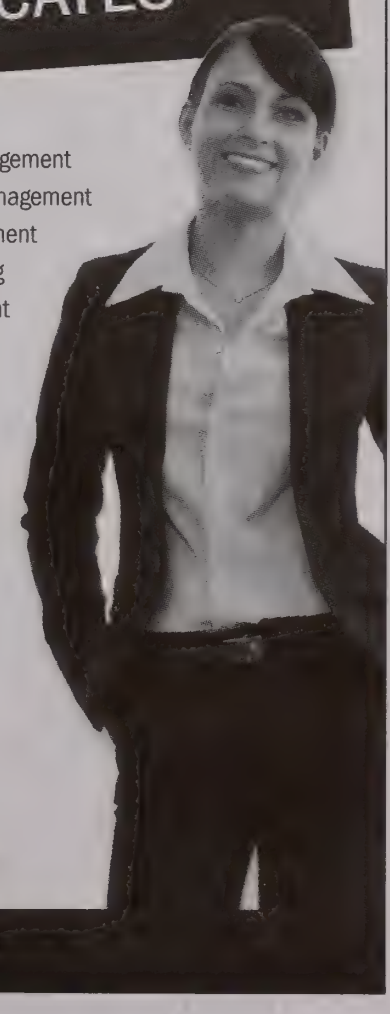
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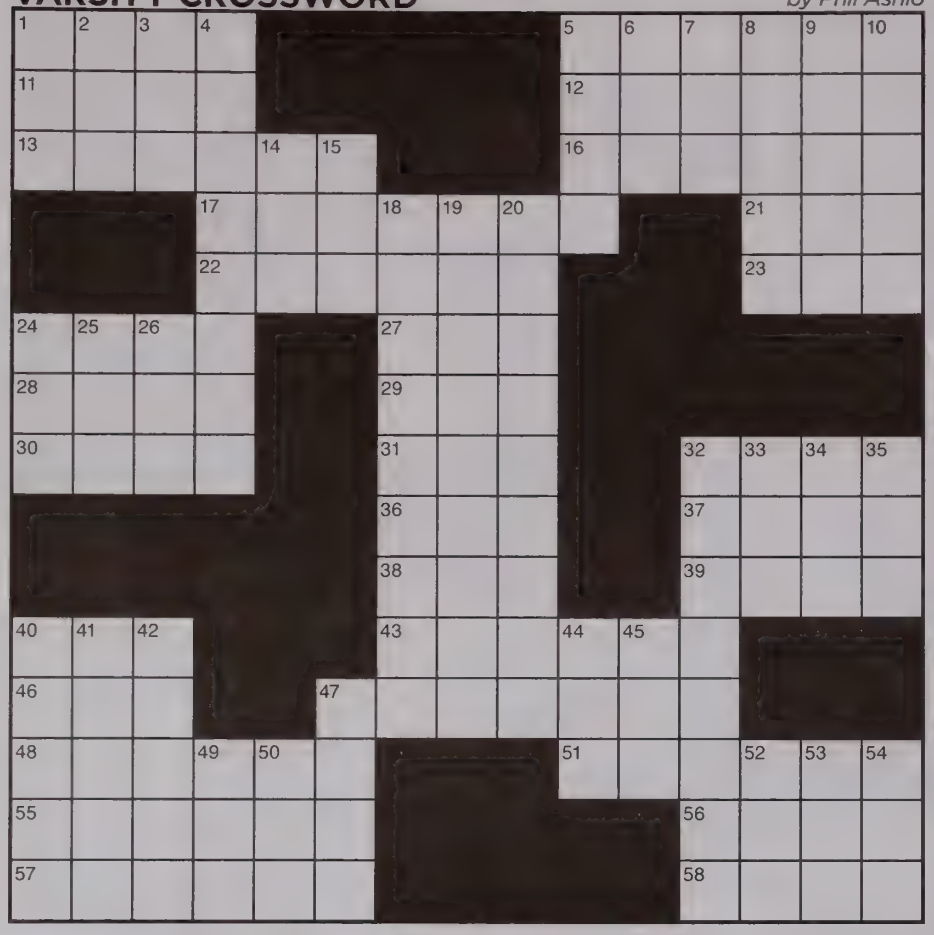


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VARSITY CROSSWORD

by Phil Ashio



ACROSS

1. Nourish
5. Christ's birthplace
11. Part of an Opera
12. Part of the breast
13. Insane, slangily
16. Remember
17. Deviation from the norm
21. Scottish negative
22. "John Smith, Staff Writer," eg.
23. Wind dir.
24. Ontario's cranberry capital
27. Trent Reznor, et al.
28. Gets old
29. Actor Thurman
30. Venetian duke
31. Article with "internets"
32. Texan neckwear
36. *The Name of the Rose* author Umberto
37. "Worst. Episode. _____."
38. Corona del _____
39. Bowie's *Aladdin* _____
40. Toast for canapes
43. Will of *Arrested Development*
46. Stray
47. Peruvians, for example
48. Slacker
51. Raged (against)
55. Black sheep
56. Took a plunge
57. What you can make with wax paper and a comb
58. Pitcher

DOWN

1. Yr 'rents, bro, sis…
2. Middle word in a Napoleonic palindrome
3. German pronoun
4. Excel spreadsheet, eg.
5. Mother of God
6. "Q: _____ We Not Men?"
7. Gross – expenses = _____
8. People from India's southwest coast
9. Biblical prophet also known as Elijah
10. TTC 109 bus route
14. Whichever
15. ROTFLMAO
18. Cold War-era missile
19. Pokémon of *Yu-Gi-Oh*
20. American singer and actress who died in May of 2010
24. Rotten
25. Gehry-desined art museum
26. Lower limb
32. West Side is the _____
33. Pullus products
34. Songwriter/poet Cohen to friends, maybe
35. Raw mineral
40. Toast for canapés
41. Kick the bucket
42. Italian designer label
44. Serving of corn
45. Maker of overpriced bags and sweatpants
49. Morocco's second city
50. "Et in Arcadia _____"
52. "Things we Lost in the Fire" band
53. Christmas has one; so does New Year's
54. German article

For the solution, please visit THEVARSITY.ca

Varsity Winter Open House

All are welcome! Come meet your editors and fellow writers, enjoy food, drink, warm company, and scintillating chat. There will be tears, laughter, triumphs, defeats, chases, escapes... (Okay, not quite, but there will be food and drink.)

Whether you've written before, or are interested in getting involved, making a pitch, or just meeting the folks who produce the paper you see on the stands every Monday, come join us this Friday!

Friday, January 21st, 1:00pm – 5:00pm
21 Sussex Avenue, 2nd Floor

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CLASSES:

U of T Dance Club Classes
Winter dance classes start this week at the University of Toronto Dance Club. They will be offering breakdancing, rumba, salsa, contemporary and hip hop classes, among many others. Their complete winter schedule can be found on their website. You do not need experience. Many classes are offered for beginners.

- *Various dates*
- *Various locations*
- *$40 for 10 classes (check dance.sa.utoronto.ca for details)*

DEBATES:

License to Sell: A Debate on the Decriminalization of Prostitution in Ontario
Don't miss this rare opportunity to listen to the plaintiffs and interveners outside of the courthouse. The event will feature brief presentations from the panellists who will each argue why prostitution should or should not be decriminalized in Canada. Afterwards, the audience will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue on the issue.

- *January 19 at 7 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Debates Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

GALAS:

EFUT Artshow Gala: Free Wine and Cheese!
EFUT celebrates its 3rd Annual Art Gala at the University of Toronto Art Centre. They are presenting works of art that represent this year's theme, "Political Identities in the Francophonie." The gala will have free wine and cheese as well as a jazz band. Make sure to call them fromage and vin!

- *January 20 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *University of Toronto Art Centre (15 King's College Circle)*
- *Free!*

RELIGIOUS EVENTS:

Jesus Awareness Week
This year, many of the Christian clubs at U of T, including Campus for Christ, have gotten together to organize Jesus Awareness Week. It will consist of several events, led by different guest speakers including professors, apologists, and pastors, in order to discuss the many different perspectives of the Christian faith.

- *January 21 to January 27*
- *Various locations on campus*
- *Free! (check jesusawarenessweek.com for details)*

OFF CAMPUS:

ART BATTLES:

Art Battle 10
There's a $500 prize this time... There will be three rounds of live competitive painting, audience voting, auction, great music, and more. Paintings that do not attain the minimum bid will be destroyed. These people are hardcore. Not all art is created equal! Takes place at The Great Hall. NB: Not the one in Hogwarts.

- *January 18 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *The Great Hall (1087 Queen St. West)*
- *$15*

CONCERTS:

Little Dragon
Little Dragon is an electronic music band, based in Gothenburg, Sweden. It consists of Swedish-Japanese singer Yukimi Nagano (vocals, percussion) and her close high-school friends Erik Bodin (drums), Fredrick Källgren (bass), and Håkan Wirenstrand (keyboards). They have been touring through Europe and their music has been featured on Grey's Anatomy.

- *January 17 at 8 p.m.*
- *Wrongbar (1279 Queen St. West)*
- *$13.50*

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS:

City Budget
Go and sound off about Ford's priorities. Shouldn't you, a member of the public, have a say in the city's budget? You need to call to get on the list, but it's a worthwhile forum in which to have your voice heard. While you're there, please ask them not to cut service to late night routes on the TTC.

- *January 19 at 6 p.m.*
- *York Civic Centre (5100 Yonge St.)*
- *Free (call 416-392-1032 to get on the list)*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

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Sports

THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880



"According to Marcel Danesi, napping appears unpopular partly because of the work-driven ethos of Western culture. Even the term "nap" is stigmatized." **p12**

Vol. CXXXI
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2011

CAMPUS ADVOCACY

Reform group hits campus

First meeting faces controversy from Student PAC

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Reorienting the university towards "social justice, equity, anti-oppression, accessibility, and anti-corporatization" was the goal of a meeting held in a crammed upstairs room of the Multi-Faith Centre last Wednesday. Over 200 students, faculty, staff, and U of T community members were present at the event, which saw the launching of a new, independent advocacy group called the University of Toronto General Assembly.

Seating space was limited and participants were often asked to speak up. The event received coverage from Parent Central and *Maclean's*, and was live-blogged by The Varsity through Twitter.

Along with the typical grievances of a large university, organizers focused on precarious working conditions and concerns over academic freedom.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences' flat fees implementation and academic planning exercise were prominent in the meeting's discussion, as were recent campus space proposals and donor influence surrounding the Munk School of Global Affairs.

Multiple people chaired the meeting, including CUPE 3902 Chair Leslie Jermyn. The first half consisted of ratifying four main points, each of which passed with wide support: that UTGA employ a one person, one vote decision-making model; that a two-thirds majority will rule when consensus cannot be reached; that UTGA be only accountable to itself and not administration or student unions; and that UTGA be open to U of T community members, "this includes, but is not limited to, students, workers, faculty, alumni, and neighbours."

One student, wearing a Student Political Action Committee button, criticized the inclusion of "neighbours," stating that the assembly should only consist of those who are "paying to go here." Her comment was met with an impassioned reply from Megan Kinch, a former student who said she dropped out due to financial constraints and still actively participates in campus organizations.

While many attending the meeting were members of union and labour groups, the assembly stressed that it is an independent group that is not tied to any organization, including UTSU. Two years ago, UTSU organized a similar town hall, titled "I F***ing Hate This School."

After ratifying its four main goals, chairs invited attendees to propose working groups. A variety of ideas were introduced, including labour rights, anti-corporatization, and international solidarity. Proposals were merged and then narrowed down to nine working groups, who dispersed to discuss proposals for 45 minutes. The assembly then regrouped and each working group presented its key points.

"I think that we started off on the right foot and we can hopefully maintain the momentum," said undergraduate student and co-chair Johanna Lewis. "In a year from now I hope that we'll have accomplished a lot of productive organizing and that those working groups will be meeting and communicating via email between meetings so that we're able to have substantive work done."

SEE **'UTGA'** – PG 7

"RADICAL POLITICS" VS. "ORDINARY STUDENTS"?



Many members of the Student Political Action Committee, a group advocating increased "accountability, efficiency, and realism" within UTSU, attended the event. The group ran a table outside the venue, distributing buttons and flyers that advocated for changes including a homecoming event.

SPAC members applauded one another each time one of their members spoke, sparking criticisms from other meeting attendees.

"Some members of that committee were being a bit antagonistic at the meeting, unnecessarily," said Lewis.

"It wasn't disruptive. [...] There was a large presence of people from various backgrounds of various opinions and we were able to have some constructive debate."

Andrew Agnew-Iler, part-time undergraduate representative on the Arts and Science Council tweeted a photo of the table with the caption noting that "the rich white men are out in force."

When SPAC member Aidan Fishman proposed a "political neutrality" working group, he was booed by some attendees. Fellow SPAC member Brent Schmidt replied by scolding the "childish" attendees, describing their behaviour as "a crying shame."

In a press release issued after the meeting, the group expressed disappointment that most attendees "attempted to discuss issues concerning ordinary students" and were instead overshadowed by those pursuing a "radical political agenda."

FACULTY

UTFA president rejects U of T pension numbers

Naylor responds with public letter

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

U of T's pension plan controversy gained fresh momentum over the holidays with a strongly worded public correspondence between U of T President David Naylor and Faculty Association President George Luste.

The latest round in this ongoing dispute began when Luste made a presentation to the Governing Council's business board on December 13 that was critical of the estimates adopted by the university for the pension plan deficit. Luste claimed that the real deficit was much higher than the university was stating and suggested that the situation was so dire that new faculty members might consider not joining the plan altogether.

Naylor then responded with a widely distributed public memo titled "George Luste's Pension Tragedy: Titanic Misinformation," in which he dismissed Luste's analysis as "absurd" and "wildly hypothetical."

"With regret, I observe that Prof. Luste's commentary seems designed primarily to provoke unwarranted panic about the university's pension plan," wrote Naylor. "There is absolutely no rational basis for the picture that he paints."

The heart of the controversy lies with the different estimates adopted by the university and UTFA for the real rate of return on future pension investments. Naylor and the university favoured a real rate of return on pension assets of 4 per cent over the long term, while Luste and UTFA argued for a more conservative lower real return of 2 per cent. The university's figure implies a pension plan deficit of $1.1 billion while UTFA's implies a deficit of $2 billion.

Prof. Luste's commentary seems designed primarily to provoke unwarranted panic about the university's pension plan. There is absolutely no rational basis for the picture that he paints.

— David Naylor

In his memo, Naylor also alleged that Luste was promoting projections based on his own views without obtaining independent financial advice. In fact, Luste had consulted with an independent actuary, Stephen A. Eadie, who agreed that U of T was using a very aggressive estimate for its rate of return, according to Luste.

Senior administration officials nevertheless insisted that their estimates were more appropriate. "The deficits quoted in President Naylor's memo are not his estimates but rather those calculated in accordance with accepted actuarial practice by the Plan Actuary, and accepted by the pension regulator as being appropriate for purposes of funding the pension plan," wrote U of T Chief Financial Officer Sheila Brown in an email.

Luste responded by saying the solvency test used by the province was defective. "The answer I want to get is how much money [we are] in a hole today for all the people that we've made promises to as of today. Forget tomorrow and the future but if we want to actually pay off all our debts today to the pensioners, where do we stand? My claim is that the answer to that is 2 billion dollars — we're short."

There is at least some evidence that Luste's fears are being taken seriously by a number of faculty members. The president, provost, and other senior officials, for example, have been receiving calls and emails from faculty, staff, and retirees expressing concerns about their pensions, according to Angela Hildyard, vice-president human resources and equity. Hildyard said that it was in part to allay some of these concerns that Naylor chose to respond publicly to Luste.

"The thing with the pension plan is because every year the only money that goes out is money for the pension cheques for the pensioners. Other people don't have access to their money," said Luste. "You cannot have a run on the pension plan in the same way so it's not held accountable. So if the money isn't there you won't find out until it goes down to the bottom of the barrel."

In order to bring the plan back onto a sustainable footing, the university has, during

SEE **'PENSIONS'** – PG 7

STUDENT SUCCESS

U of T dominates national entrepreneurship conference

The Next 36 raises next generation of entrepreneurs with classroom and real life experience

Semra Eylul Sevi
VARSITY STAFF

Nine students at the University of Toronto have been chosen as finalists for The Next 36, a national competition and training program that aims to transform students into high-impact entrepreneurs.

The Next 36 program consists of two parts. The first part divides students into groups, equipping each with $50,000 to program a mobile application with the aid of industry experts. The second part involves a residency at Massey College where they will receive lessons on entrepreneurship.

"The University of Toronto has been thrilled to help support the development of The Next 36 program by an outstanding group of Canadian business leaders and educators," said U of T President David Naylor.

"I also want to congratulate the nine students from our university who will be part of the inaugural group. I wish all 36 participants the very best with their program in the months ahead."

The vast majority of the students from U of T come from the faculty of engineering, which sent a notification about the competition to all undergraduate students. There are also students from commerce, economics, and political science.

"I heard about it the night before the deadline and jumped at the chance," said David Berkal, a peace and conflict studies student at U of T and a finalist in the program.



Serial entrepreneur David Berkal was among the finalists for The Next 36. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

"The people running this program are putting so much into it, including their own financial resources, that you just know it's going to be a great program."

Asked about the selection process, Berkal said, "There was a standard online application and then a fairly intense selection weekend in Toronto with the top 70 students.

"It was a bit of a reality TV show-esque scene. The actual selection came down to six 10-minute interviews with different industry leaders."

Shahed Al-Haque, another finalist studying engineering, believes The Next 36 is a once-in-a-life time opportunity.

"[It's] an opportunity to engage and work with some incredibly talented, like-minded peers from all around Canada who share my passion for making a difference."

Asked what he learned so far, Al-Haque said, "Right now, we are in the initial stages of starting our venture. The focus so far has been working in interdisciplinary teams to come up with an idea for our mobile app.

"We're all scattered around Canada so working together has been a bit of a challenge since we can't meet in person."

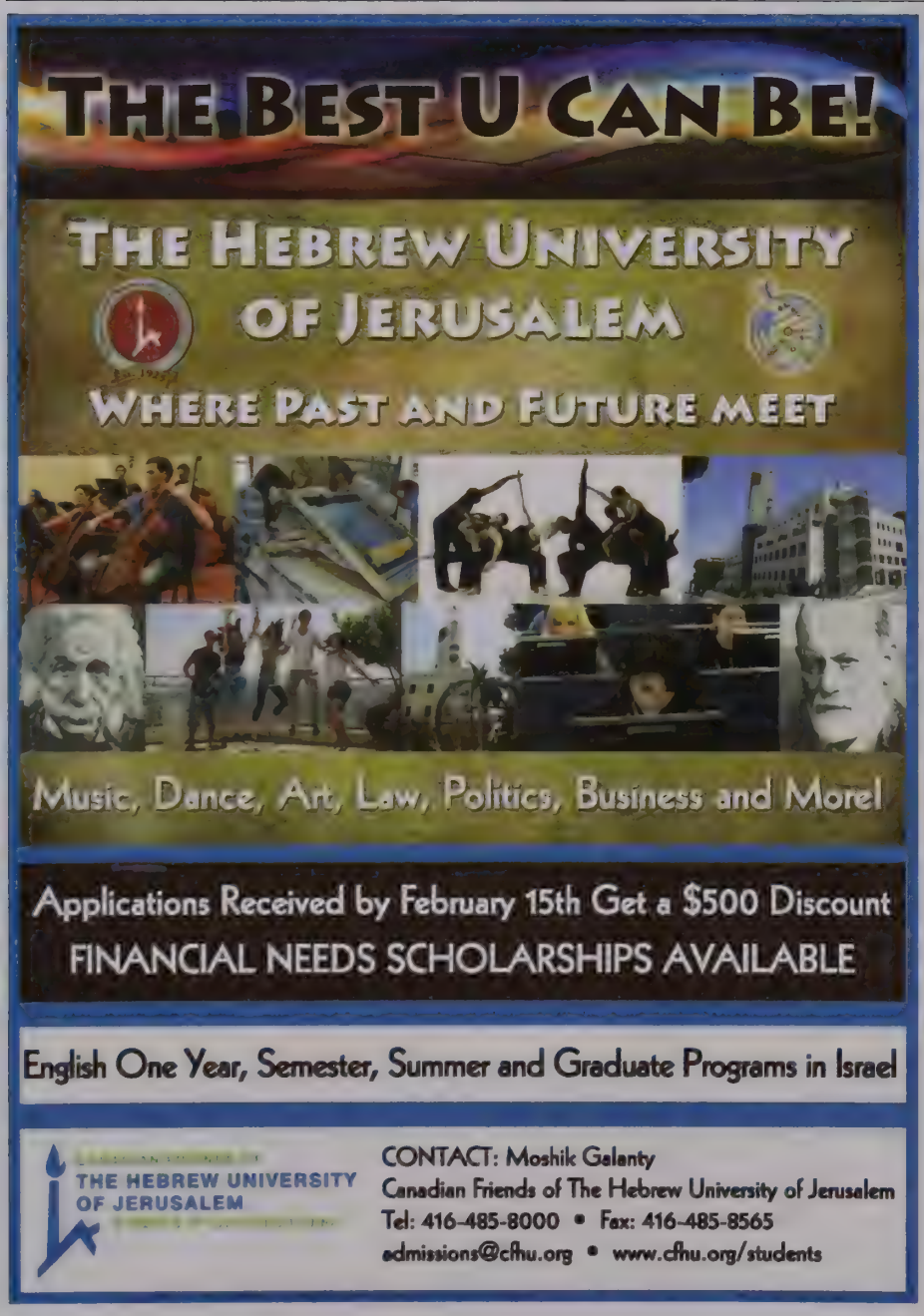
Eran Henig, another finalist in computer science and economics, said, "It is important to set high expectations for yourself."

Henig was influenced by Satchu's class, Economics of Entrepreneurship: "Reza Satchu is a great mentor. He taught me many important life skills.

"The effort he puts into providing his students with a lifetime experience is admirable. His impact reaches far beyond the walls of the University of Toronto."

Other U of T finalists are: Michael Del Balso and Tulika Gupta in electrical and computer engineering, Shane Gu in engineering science, Ke Li in commerce and computer science, Daniel Rodic in the Rotman Commerce program, and Saksham Uppal in engineering science.

The competition received more than 1,300 applicants. The group of finalists includes social and serial entrepreneurs, academic award winners, campus leaders, accomplished artists, scientists, engineers, and elite athletes.





ENTREPRENEURSHIP

UR TV TXTS U

Remembertowatch.com *texts users before their favourite shows*



After Michael Rice built *RemembertoWatch.com*, he never missed another TV show. Never! DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Deborah Chan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Michael Rice doesn't doesn't exactly have the persona of a successful web developer. Quiet and to the point, this second year computer science student is a stark contrast to some of the personalities of *The Social Network*. In partnership with a friend at San Francisco State University, Rice created *RemembertoWatch.com*, which issues free text or email reminders for upcoming TV shows.

The Varsity sat down with Rice to learn more about how he came to create Remember to Watch at U of T.

THE VARSITY: *How did you get the idea for Remember to Watch?*
MIKE RICE: I just started getting annoyed when I missed shows, and I tried to set up reminders on my computer and stuff, but I always ended up being out when the show aired.

Paul, a fourth-year radio and television major at San Francisco State University, is the one who initially came up with the idea, and I loved it, so off we went. He's definitely the more technical of the both of us.
TV: *Did you create any other apps before Remember to Watch?*
MR: Yeah, nothing as big-league or as successful as this one, though. Mainly just small side projects, like little tools that would help me out.

But with all my projects — I just love to collaborate with other people. It's great to work with people and learn stuff that way, because they always teach you little tips and tricks that help you in the long run. It's a lot more hands-on than sitting in lecture — to make something that people end up using, and helping them out.

TV: *Let's talk about the success of Remember to Watch.*
MR: We were pretty fortunate for our launch. Especially when we got picked up by *Lifehacker.com* — that kicked everything off. Then other blogs started mentioning us, including *PC World Magazine*'s blog.

Visits and use and sign-ups have been consistent but we definitely want to get more people on. We didn't expect it to be so successful. We definitely didn't expect a lot of people to use it. Which was crazy, because we have to pay for the hosting, and especially sending out the texts is the biggest expense.

I think [the key to the site's success] was the texting. We wanted people to be notified immediately, and we knew that people carry their phones around religiously and react immediately when they get a text.

TV: *What message would you like to send out to your fellow students at U of T?*
MR: People need to keep on building stuff. Don't say you have an idea and wait around to do it. Just build it right away, because you never know what's gonna happen. Because that's what happened to us. We just built it, and it turned out that people liked it.
TV: *What is the biggest problem you are working on right now with the site?*
MR: The big downside is that we don't have text notifications in Canada right now. It's just been kind of a pain, really, because it's so cheap to send out texts in the US from a short code. But it's really difficult to find a company that we trust over here, because obviously we have to make sure that we keep people's privacy, because we have all their phone numbers. We're still looking for a company we can trust.

But other than that, things have been running smoothly. We had some hiccups with our last hosting company, but we switched over to a new one, and performance has improved a lot.
TV: *Why should people care about* Remembertowatch.com*?*
MR: If you're a student, and you don't have a PVR, and you like TV shows, the last thing you want is to miss a new TV episode, especially if you're studying, because we all love to procrastinate. We made it really easy so that people get reminders at the click of a button, and people can subscribe to new episodes. They will automatically get a notification.

University of Toronto
Dept. of Nutritional Sciences

Participants Needed for Nutritional Study!

Involves 2 sessions over 2 weeks

Eligibility:
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- BMI: 20-24.9 kg/m^2
- Age: 18-30 years
- Non-smoker

$ Compensation is provided! $

If interested, please contact us at: appetite.studies@gmail.com

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Please recycle this issue after you are finished with it

AFTER U OF T

What are you doing this summer?

Trying to find the best techniques to land the perfect job, The Varsity headed to U of T's Career Centre to talk strategy.

Robin Buller
VARSITY STAFF

While the frigid weather may be the first thing on most students' minds, after April exams there is a new challenge perhaps more daunting than slippery winter walkways. Some students will be looking for summer jobs and internships. Others will be looking for careers.

"Think strategy," was Mary Giamos' first suggestion to students looking for employment. A career management consultant at the Career Centre, Giamos believes job success begins with getting a head start. Earlier is always better when it comes to getting the best jobs.

"Most people aren't starting their job search now," she explained, "so, there are more opportunities to find potential employers."

Giamos suggests that approaching employers before they're advertising positions is a great tactic. Send employers an introductory email expressing interest in their field and asking for career advice in order to build a relationship with them before inquiring about potential opportunities.

"They won't have to go through the hassle of [reviewing] hundreds of applications if they can find someone who has shown initiative," said Giamos. "It's a win-win for both the student and the potential employer."

Similar to writing an essay, Giamos suggests that those students who focus on a small area will be the most successful. "Identify [a few] organizations, research them well, and build contacts," advised Giamos. "You will have more of a success rate than if you fire off your resume to every job out there."

Hacking down the mound of potential positions to a mere few, though, sounds daunting. The career centre emphasizes the importance of the student knowing their goals. "It really begins with the student giving some thought to what kind of experience they're looking for," said Giamos.

After assessing what their goals are and what they are trying to achieve, it is time for the student to assess their current skills and abilities. Giamos explained the tactical angle of responding to an employer's advertisement: "Try to match your skills to their needs."

The job search tool on the career centre website (*careers.utoronto.ca*) is a great tool to find a job suited to needs and ambitions. The eHarmony of careers, it will match positions according to your availability, interests, and skills. What is more, it is only open to U of T students. This not only means less competition, but also that the employers listed are explicitly looking to hire students from our university. The site also has a page dedicated to internship opportunities.

Other services offered through the Career Centre include career information sessions, a communications internship programme, and workshops covering everything from career personality suitability, to interview techniques, to workplace etiquette. Drop-in resume clinics are held Tuesdays to Fridays from 2–4 p.m. and run on a first-come, first-serve basis. "Make sure you've got a tailored resume," stressed Giamos. "A perfect one."

While the time is indeed ripe to start planning for the summer, there is no need to crumble under the pressure. The resources at U of T are readily available to point students in the direction of success. It is important to remember that any position will give the student an edge they didn't have before.

"Any job is a good experience," said Giamos. "Good career decisions are made on multiple experiences."


SAM[illegible]MANN/FLICKR

QUICK CAREER TIPS

Get in touch with the alumni. Many colleges and campuses run active alumni associations. Find yours and see if they run any career-oriented events. Many will place students with a mentor that can set you up with industry contacts and tips.

Do an online sweep. Clean up your Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Even private information can be found by potential employers who snoop around. Removing embarrassing information and remaining active will present yourself as a responsible, consistent candidate.

Cold call. Showing initiative is a great way to get your foot in the door. Call up the person your cover letter's addressed to. Calling 15 minutes before lunch Tuesday to Thursday is the best time to reach people. Think of a relatively useful question, like the breakdown of a typical day or the most desired quality. Introduce yourself and ask your question. Being quick, polite and interested will make you stand out of the pack.

Do your research. At least read up on the company's website. Find out what's new in the past two months. If you want to be really thorough, search the company on Factiva, a newspaper database available through your library account. You can dig up the trials and successes of the businesses you apply for, and know what to discuss in the interview.

Look presentable. Make sure you shower, brush your teeth and dress sharp. Clean your fingernails! Eat and sleep well the night before and rehearse potential questions beforehand. And avoid perfume or cologne as some people are allergic. It's okay to be a tad nervous, but stay positive during the interview and you'll project a confident image.

Follow up. Call your interviewer a few days afterwards. Let them know that you're interested in the position and ask if they'd like any supplementary material. Make sure you're not lost in the pile of applicants.

Have you ever cheated on a test or an exam?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



A

Evolutionary biology,
"Never. I don't know how to."



V

English,
"Not in university. I have in high school."



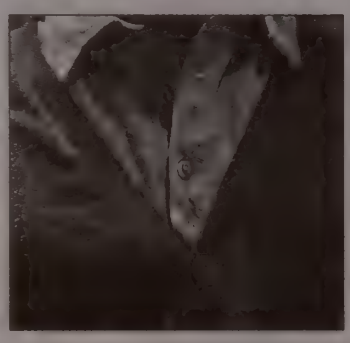
J

Dentistry,
"In grade five. I got called out and never did it again."



R

Health Studies,
"In high school. Now it's just not worth the risk."



P

English,
"Yes. I was 11 years old."



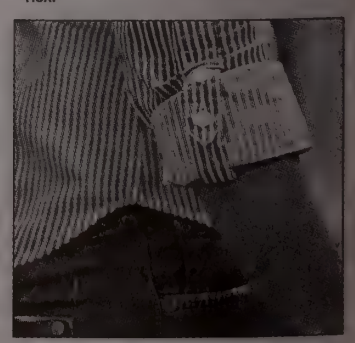
B

East Asian Studies,
"Yes. An entire university exam."



X

History,
"No, never."



I

Immunology,
"Just once."

HART HOUSE

We're number nine!

Brent Kettles beats out 680 debaters for ninth at the World Universities Debating Championship

Samya Kullab
VARSITY STAFF

Results from the most recent World Universities Debating Championship in Botswana are in: of roughly 680 debaters participating, U of T's Brent Kettles ranks number nine.

Kettles, a political science master's student, was humble about the outcome.

"I feel really fortunate. It was a really good competition. Frankly, I was pretty surprised. I wasn't able to crack 100th in previous championships."

This past WUDC, from December 29 to January 3, was Kettles' fourth and therefore, according to eligibility criteria, his last championship at the international level.

"It was a nice way to end my debating career," he said.

The WUDC is the largest world-wide debating tournament. It is held using the British parliamentary debate format and is hosted by a university selected by the World Universities Debating Council.

The competition begins with three days of nine preliminary rounds. Within these three days 80–90 debates carry on simultaneously around the campus. In each round, four teams are set against each other and are ranked according to respective feats. Judges score and pair up teams as the tournament progresses according to performance. Then the judges, who are often students from competing institutions, turn in their scores to the adjudication team.

Kettles and debating partner Christine Wadsworth had a good first day, scoring eight points out of nine. Though, faring well in this debating forum is often left to chance.

Kettles and Wadsworth learned of their pairings, what rooms they were debating in, the positions they were to assume, and the "motion" or subject of the debate only 15 minutes prior to its start.



This was Brent Kettles' fourth trip to Worlds. DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

As the official website for the debate describes, "You will see a wild frenzy of activity as debaters attempt to think and walk at the same time."

To prepare for the competition, Kettles and Wadsworth participated in three intercollegiate tournaments, at Yale University, Queen's University, and Dalhousie University. In addition, both had weekly sessions with the Hart House Debate Club.

"Christine and I also did a fair amount of research. The subjects are impromptu so we couldn't anticipate them."

Kettles read numerous publications that covered a wide area of topics in international relations. He lists *The Economist* as key.

The first nine rounds are followed by a break at which point elimination rounds are announced. From this point, 32 teams proceed, of which two teams from each debate proceed to the quarter finals, semi-finals and the Grand Final. The number of judges as also increases as the tournament progresses.

Both Kettles and Wadsworth progressed to the finals, or achieved "breaking." It was Kettles' very first time.

He describes the playoff rounds as a little different, including a bigger audience and most importantly, "If you don't come out on top, you don't advance."

Alas, the U of T dream team did not advance to the final on a split decision. They were covering the subject of the buying of votes in international organizations.

"Every debater comes out of a round feeling like they won it. Having self-confidence is key. Christine and I left feeling we made the best arguments we could."

For aspiring debaters, Kettles has some advice: "The most important thing is to practice a lot. The more debates you do, the more confident you'll become and the more arguments you'll know."

The next WUDC will be hosted by De La Salle University in the Philippines in 2012



January 18 marked the 10th anniversary of the murder of Visual Studies faculty member David Buller, who was repeatedly stabbed in his office at 1 Spadina Crescent. Last [illegible] and friends gathered at 1 Spadina to commemorate the 10th [illegible] of his unsolved murder.

CHARITY

UC student cycles and freezes for Haiti

Andreas Kloppenborg aims to cycle 280 km in 24 hours

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

On January 29, U of T student Andreas Kloppenborg plans to cycle non-stop from Kingston to Toronto in a charity effort to sponsor schoolchildren in Haiti. Kloppenborg will attempt to complete the 280 km trek — a route usually completed in three days — in 24 hours. The Canadian winter, which will be Kloppenborg's biggest obstacle, inspired his cause's name: Frostbike.

Kloppenborg, who has volunteered in the past helping other charities such as UNICEF, was inspired by the struggles happening in Haiti since its tragic earthquake exactly one year ago. January marks a year since the catastrophic event, and Kloppenborg thinks it is important to remember the devastation and to continue with support for the struggling country.

"I've been following the Haitian story closely," explained Kloppenborg, "and things don't seem to be getting that much better. I figured that cycling would definitely raise some money, and cycling really long and in the freezing cold would make a lot of money."

FrostBike is directly affiliated with the Starthrower Foundation, a larger Canadian charity organization based on providing education to Haitian youth. Kloppenborg's goal is to raise $1,320 dollars, the exact amount needed to fund two students. Starthrower Foundation is a very humble charity with a little school that currently has hundreds of Haitian's waitlisted to attend.



Andreas Kloppenborg aims to cycle from Kingston to Toronto. DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Kloppenborg chose to partner with Starthrower Foundation in part because of its small size. "A small charity would benefit the most," said Kloppenborg. "It will mean the most."

SEE 'CYCLING' – PG 6

'CYCLING' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

Kloppenborg has always been a cycling enthusiast. He spent the entire summer clocking in miles across bike routes in Europe, but his training for his upcoming venture only hit high gear this winter break. During the holidays, Kloppenborg was cycling over 220 km every week, along with consistent weight training. His training has slowed since the start of term to avoid leg injury.

Balancing training and academics has worked out nicely for Kloppenborg. "This month school is just starting up which is nice in two ways, people are more willing to help when there's less school work, and it's easier for me to train."

During the charity cycling mission, Kloppenborg will not be alone with only snow to keep him company. Two of his friends, Diane Ashbourne and Chris Frankowski, will be riding in a car behind him. The car will be prepared for any emergency, and will be packed with a first aid kit, multiple jackets and socks, cycling shoes, a toolbox, spare wheels, and more.

So far the charity has raised $1,000 dollars and has been receiving support from both students and other charities. Lance Armstrong's charity, Live Strong, donated wrist bands and other paraphernalia, and is now an official associate of FrostBike. Students from both U of T and Queen's university have helped support Kloppenborg's noble cause. Most notably, the UC Lit and U of T UNICEF are hosting a pub night on January 27 at O Grady's.

To donate or find out more about Frostbike, visit frostbike.ca

U OF T RESEARCH

City segregation?

U of T research suggests that the city's middle class is shrinking



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Sarah Ramsaran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

New U of T research suggests that if current trends continue, Toronto will be divided between wealthy neighbourhoods and poor neighbourhoods, with little middle ground.

Authored by Professor David Hulchanski of U of T's Cities Centre, *The Three Cities Within Toronto* suggests that Toronto is divided into three different cities. Using 2006 census data, Hulchanski's study updates his 2007 study that analyzed the the progression of Toronto's city neighbourhoods from 1970 to 2001.

The report, published last month, divides Toronto into three "cities." City #1 consists of high-income earners who are located in the city centre, close to subway lines. This group makes between 20 to 40 per cent above the median income for the city. City #2 and City #3 are the middle and lower income neighbourhoods respectively.

These three groups are defined by the average individual income of their residents. In the neighbourhoods of City #1, the average income is 20 per cent or more above the average individual income for the census metropolitan area as a whole. In City #2, the average income is within 20 per cent above or below the average. In City #3, the average income is 20 per cent or more below the average.

Hulchanski's research validates his 2007 findings, which indicated that Toronto's middle class is disappearing. Since 2001, four per cent of formerly middle-income neighbourhoods rose in income. Meanwhile, seven per cent of these middle-income neighbourhoods dropped to lower income status.

Hulchanski stressed that these trends are not only limited to the city boundaries of Toronto. "The suburban municipalities around Toronto are subject to the same trends."

Income is not the only dividing factor among the three cities. Population, visible minorities, and levels of education are all defining characteristics. City #1, City #2 and City #3 contain respectively 17, 38, and 43 per cent of Toronto's total population. In 2006, 61 per cent of residents in City #1 had a post-secondary degree compared to 35 per cent in City #2 and 31 per cent in City #3.

Hulchanski's research suggests that if this trend continues, by 2025 City #1 will consist of about 30 per cent of all Toronto's neighbourhoods and City #3 will cover 60 per cent of the city. That would leave only 10 per cent of Toronto as middle-income neighbourhoods, down from 66 per cent in 1970.

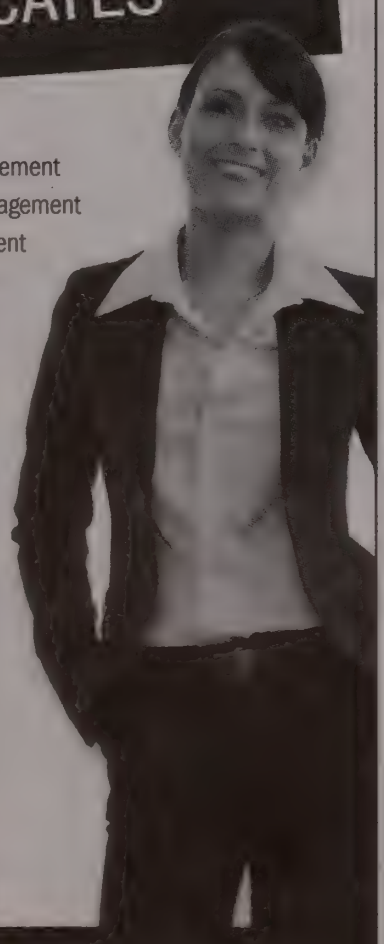
While difficult, Hulchanski suggests that changes in public policy might halt this demographic progression. "We need the federal and provincial government to work together to fix this problem."

The research was completed in consultation with both the University of Toronto and St. Christopher House. It was funded through the federal government's Community-University Research Alliance program.

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GLOBAL VILLAGE?

100 years of Marshall McLuhan

Roberta Bell
VARSITY STAFF

This year marks the centenary of media visionary Marshall McLuhan's birth.

The University of Toronto, along with Ryerson, York, the Ontario College of Art and Design, and various cultural institutions across the city, will host the four-day McLuhan100 international conference in November. A select group of artists, technology innovators, and academics previewed of the plans for the McLuhan100 on Thursday.

Conference committee co-chairs include media visionaries Professor Paul Hoffert of York University, who is chair of both the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund; Professor B. W. Powe, also of York University; Director Dominique Scheffel-Dunand of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology; and Mozilla Executive Director Mark Surman, who's company has offered a $10,000 scholarship to go along with the occasion.

"We are thrilled that the City, Toronto's universities, private sector firms, and other partners are working through the McLuhan100 committee to deliver such an exciting array of engaging and legacy-making activities," said Dr. Seamus Ross, dean of the Faculty of Information, which is coordinating U of T's contribution to the event.

"The committee's goal is to showcase and exploit the innovative powers of Toronto's cultural and digital sectors to deliver both a year of activities and an ongoing McLuhan legacy that, in form as well as content, exemplifies the edgy, enduring, and ultimately world-defining spirit of McLuhan himself," said Scheffel-Dunand.

Marshall McLuhan, who was educated at the University of Manitoba and Cambridge University, had a career spanning over 30 years at U of T, teaching at St. Michael's College from 1946–1979. He became a full professor 1952.

Much of McLuhan's most influential work was conducted at the Queen's Park Building known as The Coach House, which the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology is now part of.

He is renowned for coining the expression "the medium is the message" in his book *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, which suggested that media should be a focus of study.

'UTGA' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The assembly is now compiling a steering committee and invites people to follow the UTGA blog for updates. The committee will meet to form a mandate and constitution, to be ratified following the February 21–25 reading week.

The meeting was financially supported by the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), the Arts and Science Student Union, CUPE 3902, the Graduate Students' Union, the Toronto chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, the United Steelworkers local 1998, and the University of Toronto Faculty Association. UTSU also helped promote the meeting but did not provide financial support. Expenses included food and drinks, sign-language interpreters, poster printing, and childcare.

Asked what makes UTGA different from all its sponsoring groups, Lewis replied that the assembly brings together a diversity of voices.

"We have everybody coming together to do some serious organizing. I think that what's really special about it is that we're able to bring different circles together," said Lewis.

"We're all able to come together and do more work in a more sustainable way and in a more long-term manner."

'PENSIONS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

the most recent round of negotiations with UTFA, argued for an increase in members' pension contribution rates — but its arguments were rejected by the independent arbitrator. At the meeting of Governing Council last September, for example, Naylor criticized current pension contribution rates at U of T as unsustainable. Hildyard said that the university would definitely be bringing the issue back to the table during the next round of negotiations later this year.

Perhaps the most controversial element of Luste's criticisms, however, has turned out be his suggestion that new faculty members ought to consider not joining the plan. Naylor took particular exception to this, calling it a "direct attack on recruitment and renewal in every department of the university."

"They're the ones who are at risk," replied Luste, who was careful to add that members ought to take independent advice before doing anything prematurely. "And then you're caught in this dilemma of where should your loyalty be. Should your loyalty be to the pension plan or should your loyalty be to the individual members of the pension plan, I feel that you have to try to be honest on both sides. You have to tell young faculty members that look, if the plan is in such dire straits, then who knows what the future will be and you should really worry about that and you should really take that into consideration.

"I cannot say whether it will be 10 years, 20 years, or 25 years but some time down the road I'm convinced it will be a rude awakening. I may well be dead by then but I think it's my duty to try to warn people about it. Whether they listen or do anything about it in the end is up to them but I feel that it's sort of my duty that if I know something, not to sort of keep it secret or cover it up."

We have more space than we know what to do with.

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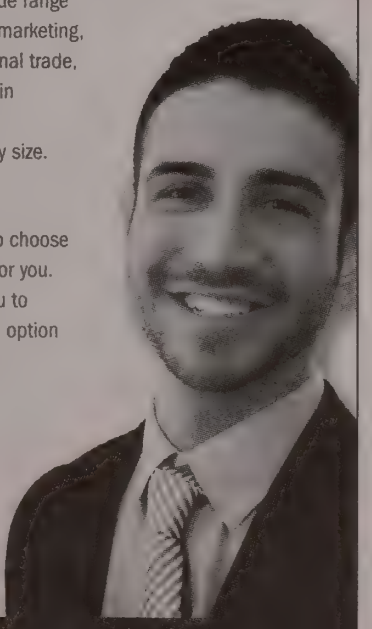
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The 'N-word'

Why the new versions of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer aren't so bad

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

Mark Twain was a man who liked being talked about. After the release of his autobiography last fall he was discussed in many papers, due to the book's overwhelming success. This holiday season brought more media attention to feed the ghost of Twain's ego with the publication of new, censored versions of his two most famous works: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In the case of *Huckleberry Finn*, the book has removed the N-word (a racial slur used 219 times over the course of the novel) and replaced it with the word "slave." This upset the literary world.

The *New York Times* wrote an op-ed about the replacement of the n-word and showed how such censorship has resulted in the life being sucked out of art. The article displayed lines from Shakespeare, rendered to be politically correct; they became plain pieces of poetry, worlds away from Shakespeare's masterful prose. And, while it's understandable for the literary world and artists to be up in arms over the censorship of Twain's classic book, I feel it's a slight overreaction.

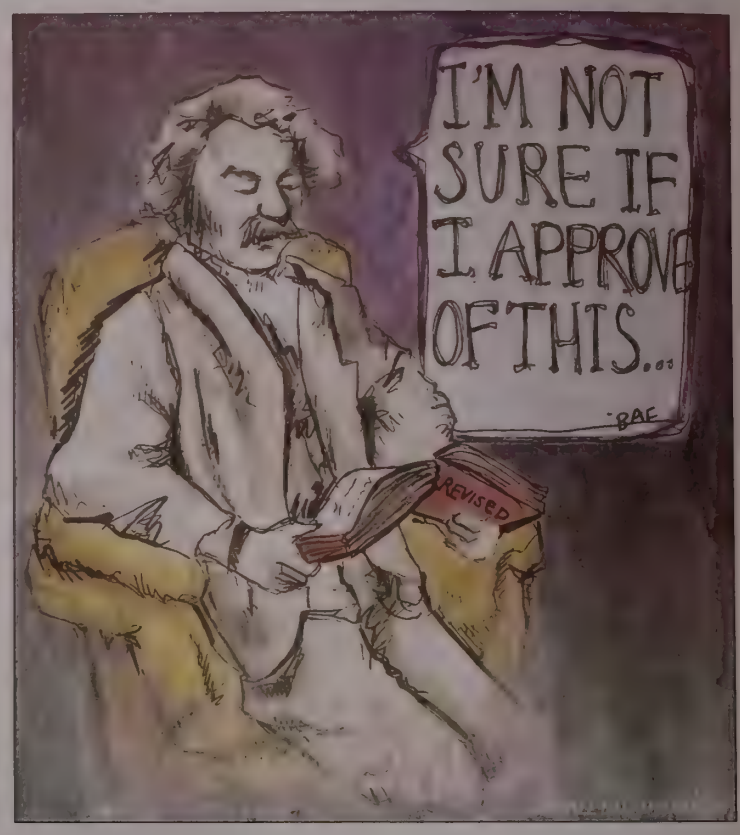
The newly censored version of Twain's book was produced by Alan Gribben, a professor of English in Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama. Gribben produced this edition with the hope of seeing the book re-appear on school reading lists. Gribben believes that the book has been slowly disappearing from syllabi due to its harsh language. He wanted to present a more user-friendly version of the text, so that anyone who felt alienated or found the language too appalling could now read it. With these reasons in mind, I think it is absolutely fine to release a politically-correct version of the book. It would have been a larger issue if Gribben's edition was going to replace the original. But the new version of Twain's book should not be seen as some government "big brother" move that is attempting to destroy literature Fahrenheit 451-style. No, the edition has been produced by a professor of literature, who is attempting to widen the book's readership. Is that not a virtuous goal?

Furthermore, it seems no different from musicians releasing cleaned-up versions of their songs. Censoring a song or an album opens up the artist's work to a wider audience. For instance, rap tracks have for years been censored when played on the radio. In such songs the n-word has been used in such a way as to remove its original derogatory meaning, unlike *Huckleberry Finn* which only portrays the maliciousness of the word. But even with the empowering usage of the N-word in such songs, the term still gets censored along with other inappropriate phrases.

Many may see the censorship of *Huckleberry Finn* not only as a violation of Twain's original words, but something that undermines the central themes, tensions, and ironies of the novel. But while the removal of the n-word definitely weakens the overall harshness of the society that is being presented, the irony is not removed. African-Americans were horribly discriminated against and de-humanized, and while removing the racial slur used against blacks might make the world of that time seem less evil, the black characters are still being de-humanized — actions, and things said beyond the n-word in the novel, go so far as to present those very problems, to an even harsher degree than the use of the n-word. When a character asks Huck whether anyone got hurt in a boat explosion, does it really matter if Huck says "No Ma'am, a slave," or "No Ma'am, a nigger"? The fact still remains, that the likeable child hero, Huck, after spending days on a raft with his runaway slave friend Jim, still doesn't consider a black person a human being. It seems that the conflict and tensions of that time are in full effect, regardless of the N-word being there or not.

Unearthing the themes, ironies, and tensions of the novel (which I believe are the reasons why the original text should be studied at a post-secondary level): are those things somehow secondary to the literature itself? Can literature no longer be read and enjoyed for the sake of it? An artist doesn't write something for its themes to be dissected by academics, so isn't the argument that the censoring of the novel undermines the central themes of the book not itself undermining the very purpose of why the novel was written in the first place, which was to be read and enjoyed by readers?

While I fully support the study of English literature (*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is, after all, an exhilarating tale of a boy running away from home) can we really expect children in grade five to understand the full impact of the N-word when reading the story? The word would probably fly over the child's head, if anything, and would be detrimental to their vocabulary. It thus seems beneficial to have a



child-friendly version of the novel, so our youth can engage with classic literature. Some would argue that children shouldn't be engaging in such a complex text, but that seems counter-productive. It is beneficial for the youth of our society to read classic literature, and if reading altered texts, they can go on to study the original text and dissect it to their hearts' content when they enter university.

While it can seem like society's attempts to make everything politically correct might seem overbearing and sometimes unneccessary, the censored version of Huckleberry Finn seems more beneficial than detrimental. It should be remembered that this is a censored version. The original text is not being banned. But offering readers a more inclusive version of the story is a good thing. And what would Mr. Twain want? He'd probably want to sell more books and have more people talking about him. Censored or uncensored, at the very least, Twain is still grabbing our attention.

LETTERS

Re: Who is Jenny Peto?, January 10

Ms. Peto's thesis inaccurately represents our program and organizational goals, and she continues to do so in this interview. March of Remembrance and Hope (MRH) in Canada has been an independent program of the Canadian Centre for Diversity since 2007. It is unfortunate that Ms.Peto did not speak with any staff member, program participant or survivor who experienced the MRH program. By contacting us, she would have learned that MRH provides students from diverse backgrounds with the education and understanding they need to speak out against antisemitism, Holocaust denial, genocide, racism and other forms of discrimination without any political agenda. As is the case with all our programs, MRH educates young Canadians to see beyond stereotypes, to respect difference, and to be leaders for positive social change. More information regarding the program can be found on our website at www.centrefordiversity.ca.

ZAHIR JANMOHAMED,
Chief Executive Officer,
Canadian Centre for Diversity

Re: Who is Jenny Peto?, January 10

Werner Cohn justifies his dismissal of Jenny Peto's OISE MA thesis as "a piece of propaganda rather than scholarship" because he has "carefully studied" it, and noted, among its many alleged faults, that his own contributions to the field haven't received the attention he seems to feel they merit. He's been very energetic in making this case in a variety of venues, both on and off campus.

Many readers of Dr Cohn's criticisms of the thesis, in his letter to The Varsity, his comments in the media, and his "report" [sic] of December 10 to President Naylor will wonder, though, whether his extraordinary attention to this dissertation is motivated less by a concern for the academic integrity of the department than by a desire to police the boundaries of acceptable debate within Canadian universities on Israel and Middle Eastern politics. In making his case, his own credibility as an advocate for standards of academic research comes into question. In his letter to President Naylor, which claims to diagnose "a larger systemic problem at OISE," he argues that of "36 currently internet-available theses completed at the SESE department of OISE, University of Toronto" half "appear to be so marred by political jargon and political preconceptions that they should never have been accepted." His foundation for this sweeping charge? A perusal of the "abstracts of all eighteen theses" and a conclusion arrived at on what he admits to be a "a prima facie basis." This seems to me to be a remarkably casual foundation for such broad claims, and one which suggests that the speed with which the charge was levelled was driven by concerns other than the purely academic.

There is, however at least one positive outcome from this pile-on. Ms Peto's thesis is now, I'm sure, the most widely read MA thesis ever submitted within this university. The public fall-out has raised serious and interesting questions about the nature of the MA thesis as an academic exercise, the relationship between academic research and political advocacy, and the nature of political controversy within the university. In my view, the public statement by the Provost that "the best way for controversy to unfold is for members of our community to engage with the perspectives and arguments they dispute," offers a better way forward than Dr Cohn's transparent attempts to shut it down.

DAVID GALBRAITH

Re: No Place Like Home?

Coming from a resident at the Primrose I would personally not recommend living here to anyone. The private-shared room is not worth the money I am paying. The beds are smaller than a regular single bed. The mattresses for these rooms are pieces of foam that you would find at a camp. Actually, the "mattresses" I slept on at camp as a child were better than these ones. The room I was given was nothing like the one I was shown. I was not able to fit my wardrobe into the room unless I removed the desk. The desk is now sitting outside my bedroom. In fact, it's holding up my entire wall. The walls in my room are not even walls, they are pieces of plywood screwed together. My roommate's door frame is sitting on top of a pile of room cards. The beds within the rooms are falling apart and when I requested to have my bed fixed, they took the part and never returned. The cleaning service is sub-par. They come in and vacuum and mop the bathroom floor[sic]. The sink, toilet, and tub are rarely cleaned. Overall, unless you pay the money to get a single room or choose the shared room, you're losing out on sleep, as well as cleanliness, and expect to be overfed carbs.

JENNA MURRAY

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers. Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

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Opinions submissions are also welcome.

Living in a Facebook world

The social networking website has broken down the barriers of our individualistic society

Arash Azizi
VARSITY STAFF

When TIME's Person of the Year was announced for 2010, it's fair to say many people around the world didn't know who the recipient was. This isn't because the 2010 Person of the Year was unimportant or irrelevant, but because he was one of the few creators who share the curious curse of being less well-known than their creation. Mark Zuckerberg is the founder and creator of Facebook, a name much more recognizable than his own.

Few innovations can claim to have inspired such radical change as Facebook has.

Facebook, of course, wasn't the first of its kind; similar social networking sites had existed before. As a nomadic internationalist who has lived on three continents and in various different countries, I witnessed the rise of a few of these in different places. In Iran, like much of South Asia and for some reason Brazil, it was "Orkut." In Malaysia and Southeast Asia, it was "Friendster." In Britain and a lot of different countries, it used to be "Hi5." But Facebook surpassed all these to become a truly global network.

Facebook now has more than 500 million accounts (and growing) and has become somewhat of a fixture in the lives of many of these millions.

It has also, inevitably, led to a lot of discussions and appraisals. Let's look at some criticisms leveled against Facebook.

First up is the assertion that Facebook is eroding our privacy.

Don't we have the choice to put on Facebook what we want to be fairly public or shared with others? What is all this fuss about privacy, then? That maybe governments or other unwanted organisations will access our accounts? They already have the potential to access a lot of info on and off of Facebook. I understand the demand that our personal information be kept safe from states and corporations, but how is that a criticism against Facebook?

I, for one, believe that Facebook should be praised for eroding some of this obsessive "privacy" that is, in reality, reflective of a atomized view of the self that has put so much distance between us and our fellow citizens. All this panic, all this fear about interacting with more people and making bonds between them has just made us more alienated from each other. This is especially true in a North American context, where, I am afraid to let my fellow Canadians know, urban life is practically non-existent. Whatever happened to public spaces where thousands of people can be close to each other every day, without worrying so much about "privacy"?



EMILY SMIT-DICKS/THE VARSITY

The second criticism that I usually hear is that Facebook has created a "fake" or "virtual" world and, as a result, people interact less in "real life." This one seems slightly more plausible. After all, it is not hard to observe that, for many people alienated from our society, the Internet has become a way out; they can spend endless hours at home behind their computers, never truly going through the process of meeting people in real life.

But, when we look at the issue more broadly, this criticism is at best naïve and not a new one in any case. Facebook has made it easier for me to get to know people whom I had previously met in "real life." Also, it has made it possible for me to be in touch with dozens of my friends all over the world, which would have been impossible otherwise. A few months ago when I visited Britain, all I had to do was to post a status about being there and a swarm of my old friends and classmates contacted back, asking me to come out for a drink. You see, we went on to have drinks in real life with the aid of Facebook. (Much less amusing, though, was my grandmother, online from Iran, complaining about me not visiting some distant relative in Birmingham.)

Facebook has also been used as a strong tool for organizing and mobilization. This, and the problematic nature of some Internet "activism," is an issue broader than the scope of this article. But can anybody who's ever done organizing deny that Facebook has made their lives easier? Canadians remember well the mass protests organized against the prorogation of Parliament by the Conservative government that started on Facebook. The most fundamental contribution of Facebook was that it enabled tens of thousands of people to interact with one another and see how their ideas were shared with thousands of others all over the country. This happened right in a public sphere called Facebook.

In the capitalist society in which we live, connecting with people around us is hard because of the emphasis on being singular and individualistic. Online public spheres like Facebook have made it easier to break through these barriers. This is, of course, not enough. More urgently, in this society of private malls and gated communities, we need urban public spheres beyond the Internet. Finally, when we radically alter the foundations of society so that production happens for need and not for profit, social harmony will rise to unprecedented heights and information-sharing tools like Facebook will be put to much better uses.

Meanwhile, feel free to "stalk" me on Facebook. I don't mind.

Arash Azizi is a member of the U of T New Democrats executive and a co-chair of the Marxist Discussion Club.

A historic vote

Will South Sudan become the world's newest nation?

Aviva German and Shauna C. Keddy
VARSITY CONTRIBUTORS

"You'll be able to eat what you want and do what you want," exclaimed Daniel Bior Garang, one of the millions who cast his vote for South Sudan's independence. Feelings of jubilation and excitement abounded as scores of Sudanese citizens lined up to cast their vote for the secession of South Sudan on Sunday, January 9, 2011. Although final results will not be released until February, the week-long referendum could result in South Sudan becoming the world's newest nation. According to recent reports, voter turnout exceeded 90 per cent in some areas. Observers from around the world, including the EU, the Carter Center (founded by former US president Jimmy Carter) and the Satellite Sentinel Project (a partnership between Google, Harvard University, the UN, and the Enough Project, an anti-genocide organization) have all praised the legitimacy and relative peacefulness of the referendum. However, the vote marks the beginning of a lengthy process to secure a new governing body in the south and it remains to be seen whether the region will be able to finally reap the benefits of their abundant natural resources to develop an economically thriving society.

As one of the world's poorest countries, Sudan has long struggled to establish good governance and deliver basic social services. Following its independence in 1956 from joint Egyptian-British rule, the fragile nation was ravaged by decades of civil war rooted in deep economic, ethnic, and religious conflict. The war finally culminated in 2005 with the historic signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, in which Canada and the U.S. played key diplomatic roles. Darfur is arguably the most troubled region in Sudan. The area, in western Sudan, caught the world's attention when a rebel group attacked the capital of Khartoum in 2004. Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir reacted to this attack by sending out government militias to defeat the black African ethnic groups who protested neglect on the part of al-Bashir's Islamic central government. Reports of brutal raids, mass killings, and widespread use of rape as a weapon of war began to surface. Although al-Bashir claimed the militias (known as "Janjaweed" or "devil on horseback") were not government-sponsored, this prompted UN intervention and an outpouring of humanitarian assistance. According to the UN Secretary General, the number of internally displaced persons rose to over 2.2 million in 2007, and the death toll now sits at no less than 400,000. In 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for al-Bashir, indicting him on five counts of crimes against humanity and two counts of war crimes. Despite this, he won re-election the following year, when Sudan held its first multi-party election in 20 years. Massive development — schools, infrastructure, and hospitals — spurred by oil revenues may explain al- Bashir's popularity with northern voters. Along with the establishment of a ceasefire between the rebel group Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and the Sudanese government, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement would ultimately set South Sudan's referendum in motion.



Concerned citizens in Canada have responded to the call to action by supporting social justice organizations, such as STAND Canada, a student-led, anti-genocide advocacy group. Our members have worked to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur, but our mandate has recently expanded to encompass the greater socio-political circumstances of Sudan. As an advocacy organization, STAND engages directly with politicians, in an effort to bring this conflict to Canada's foreign policy agenda. A number of policy proposals have been communicated to members of parliament, senators, and bureaucrats. One such proposal includes creating a Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity, under the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Going forward, there are a number of issues yet to be resolved. Abyei, an area rich in oil fields, will be having a separate election in the months ahead to decide whether it joins North or South Sudan. According to the *New York Times*, this contested region, which straddles the North-South border, has recently seen a spike in violence, with officials reporting that more than 40 people have been killed. Many also fear that violence may rise as both sides negotiate control over the country's vast oil reserves. BBC News states that South Sudan produces more than 80 per cent of the country's oil, but only receives 50 per cent of the revenue.

While U.S. President Barack Obama has appointed a senior diplomat to deal with Sudan's North-South issues, Canada has yet to outline a strategy for on-the-ground presence following the referendum. A recent recommendation by the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development recommended that Canada send a high-level delegation to the area. STAND strongly urges Prime Minister Stephen Harper to implement this recommendation as soon as possible. Although the overall security of Sudan during the referendum is currently at the forefront in major news outlets worldwide, STAND considers the peace and security of the Darfur region to be an ongoing concern.

Aviva German and Shauna C. Keddy are Co-Presidents of STAND U of T.

Honduras: one year later

The Latin American country is reliving its deadly past

Juan Carlos Jiménez
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Since June 2009, Honduras has been hit with a wave of growing domestic violence. A report from Honduras released on March 31, 2010 from the head of the National Commission for Human Rights, Ramón Custodio, had noted that Honduras now has the highest murder rates in Central America, with 66.8 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. This is an increase from 2006 numbers, when Honduras had the third-highest murder rate in the region, trailing behind El Salvador and Guatemala. Today, it is ranked first. Hondurans are victims of criminal organizations and drug cartels. We must ask what has triggered the sudden spike in death tolls in this state. A sudden increase in murder rates is chilling to hear about, especially two decades' after an era of civil wars and Latin American death squads. Even more chilling is the fact that these deaths come during the reign of a new government to power, led by right wing leader Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo, who came in power five months after a coup d'état hit Honduras. High death tolls and a coup d'état? The socio-political map in Honduras is looking much like Central America from 1970s-1990s.

In June 2009, the democratically elected president Manuel Zelaya was ousted from Honduras, and replaced by a temporary military regime led by Roberto Micheletti. The coup was answered by widespread popular mobilization from municipal and rural communities who demanded the return of their elected president. This movement was met by military forces who arrested, detained, killed, and beat down protestors and community organizers. Opposition to Pepe Lobo, which consists of rural farmers, workers, intellectuals, students, and journalists, boycotted and denounced the elections — which occurred during a de facto military regime — and declared them illegitimate. A general boycott of the elections was declared by all those following the Resistance movement. Five months later, in November 2009, a contested election brought the right-wing National Party into power, with candidate Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo as president.

Fast forward to 2011. Today, Hondurans around the Aguan region have mobilized and voiced their opposition to the new regime of Pepe Lobo, who they say has been putting the concerns of those who have backed the coup over the needs of the impoverished communities in the North. In response, community activists from groups such as the United Campesino Movement of Aguan, the Campesino Movement of Aguan and the National Movement of Popular Resistance have been attacked and threatened by paramilitary groups and police forces resembling the death squads which once haunted Latin America. Groups such as Rights Action have been documenting the human rights abuses occurring to those in opposition to the new government of Pepe Lobo, including unsolved killings of community activists, arrests, disappearances, and occupations of communities by the military.

The situation in Honduras is looking very much like the Central America from which many Latin American immigrants escaped; reliving a history that once haunted the region. The increased death tolls come from an illegitimate state ruled by those who ousted a democratically elected president through the use of military force, and silenced the opposition movement through the same brutal tactics used by death squads during the civil wars in Central America. Resistance against the coup and the new government has mounted since the initial ousting of president Zelaya, with thousands from both the rural and municipal population rallying throughout the capital, Tegucigalpa. From these communities, the National Resistance Movement took form, and continues to oppose the illegitimate government. The Honduran government has also gone to such lengths as censoring the media in the country. From the beginning of the coup, the state shut down media outlets that questioned its leaders, asking whether the coup was legitimate, and documenting the process of the resistance. The response to media questions was censorship, arrests, beatings, and threats from the military in power.

I have tried to shed light on the issues occurring in Honduras, and to condemn the illegitimate government by discussing the disgusting methods it is using to silence community organizers, beat them, and kill them in order to preserve itself. Arguments in favour of the coup state that, by law, the military had a "legal" (if you would like to call it that) right to act in opposition to the president. Manuel Zelaya wanted to push a constitutional reform that would allow the president to be elected on two consecutive instances in order to prolong the presidency. This bill was rendered unconstitutional by the senate, whose members were largely against the president. Manuel Zelaya tried to push the referendum, handing out ballots to the public. The senate and the courts ruled this to be illegal, and took decision to act in ousting the president. With this, the Honduran state now legitimizes its government.

But in the end, how is a state legitimate when it kills and oppresses its civilians using forces resembling death squads? Furthermore, Manuel Zelaya was an elected president, who was just ending his term prior to the coup. In calls to the UN, Zelaya pleaded to be reinstated in order to finish his term. The coup was essentially a halt to the democratic process replaced by a hostile regime which continues to silence opposition. Simply put, Honduras is following a path similar to the harmful methods of Central American oligarchies of the twentieth century through its illegitimate and oppressive government. If this instance sets a precedent for further actions by the military groups against elected governments, Latin America may very well continue living the past it will never forget.

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POINT COUNTERPOINT

Fixing our electoral system

Direct democracy will restore power to the people

David Woolley
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It is no secret that our electoral system is broken, and all sides seem to have an idea about how to fix it. The parties who feel they are underrepresented in parliament demand proportional representation; those who are wary of party power push for preferential ballots; still others call for more or fewer representatives.

Some of the most recent fallout from our broken electoral system comes from the 52 per cent of Torontonians who did not vote for Rob Ford, despite his election as mayor. Despite Ford winning the election fair and square under the current rules of the game, people still feel that their voices will not be heard and their priorities will be ignored.

But imagine for a minute a place where people did not give up their political power on election day, where politicians were continuously accountable to voters and not lobbyists or donors. A magical world where the complexities of human opinion did not have to be compromised when deciding who to vote for — where you could support contracting out garbage collection and at the same time oppose eliminating the streetcars. Such a place exists, not merely in the dreams of radical democrats, but in many different and diverse constituencies around the world. What does sunny, debt-ridden California have in common with the snow-capped, wealthy tax haven of Liechtenstein? What does neutral, mountainous Switzerland have in common with small, Puritan New England towns? All these places practise, in one form or another, direct democracy — a system that empowers the people to be the lawmakers.

In California — along with 23 other U.S. states — citizens who can get a specified amount of enough signatures in an allotted time frame can result in a standing law being scrutinized and possibly voted down; or an issue the legislature refuses to confront can be decided by the people it affects. In Swiss communes, and many New England towns, all political matters are decided by residents who show up to town meetings to vote on an issue-by-issue basis, cutting politicians and political parties from the process altogether. Democratic reformers like Ralph Nader and Mike Gravel have been pushing for the adoption in the United States of what amounts to a citizen's veto, whereby, after a bill passes the legislature, it is put to the people for an up-or-down vote deciding its fate. All these systems have pros and cons and — most likely — the best system would combine aspects of each of them. What system we adopt is for the voters to decide. Of course, direct democracy has been lampooned by those who feel the public will agree to anything — most famously by Rick Mercer who started a petition to force then-Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day to change his first name to Doris. Likewise, criticism has come from those who oppose measures such as California's Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in that state. However, what people seem to ignore when talking about direct democracy in Canada or Toronto is the fact that if such a system were adopted, it would be established that Charter-protected rights could not be put to a vote; likewise, any law would have to apply equally to every citizen. In addition, rules could be established that force initiatives to address only a single issue and do so within a limited word count. Likewise, before people jump to conclusions about how others would vote — especially when looking at citizen empowerment on a local level — we need to really look at how we view each other. Do you really think your community, friends, and neighbours are so at odds with the way you think and so devoted to doing the wrong thing?

Ultimately, what it boils down to is this: do we trust each other? Either you believe people are good enough and smart enough and committed enough to be empowered to run their own lives, or you think the people you interact with every day are stupid, brutish, and need to be controlled. Either we believe in democracy or we don't. Proportional representation, preferential ballots, and other electoral reforms make a lot of promises about fixing our broken system, but ultimately, only direct democracy offers power to the people.

Direct democracy is not a workable form of governance

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

Modern voting, purists would say, is a pale imitation of what democracy should be. We vote too infrequently and on too few issues. Choosing representatives is important, but we should also be empowered to vote directly on crucial issues through plebiscites and referenda. Voting could be made cheaper and more efficient if we implemented electronic voting, particularly a method which would allow voters to cast their ballots directly from their homes. The result, they hope, would be greater satisfaction among citizens about decisions made by government because they participated in reaching them — but also, and more importantly — better decisions.

This view is based on two arguments. The first is that our democratic principles demand that we allow as many people as possible to participate in decisions which affect them. Those who hold this view argue that the best way to achieve this goal is to let citizens vote directly on policy proposals, particularly those which are especially costly or otherwise significant. The second is based on the presumption that ordinary people are collectively wiser than their representatives ever can be. For this reason, people should be allowed to vote on proposals directly to provide a check against bad decisions.

The principled argument is intuitively right. If we believe that people have an equal stake in the state, then they should have an equal role in governing it. However, this view is inconsistent with the modern world. While new technologies might well allow more people to participate in political life, they will not reduce the breadth and depth of proposals that governments will be forced to consider. It is precisely because of this complexity that we elect representatives on our behalf to govern for us. Important proposals are more complex than everyday ones, which is why it is even more important that we allow our representatives to debate and decide between them.

This is not to say that people should have no role in determining what government does. However, the current system provides a good opportunity for influencing what it does by allowing us to vote regularly for representatives and at the federal and provincial level, indirectly for a party. What we should be concerned with is the quality of our representation, including the electoral system by which we choose our representatives. We should also pay great attention to ways we can improve access to our representatives and the services that their offices provide to citizens.

Furthermore, we can draw on new methods of informed direct democracy, such as citizens' assemblies, to transform public consultation from a token exercise to a necessity. Rather than asking citizens to make direct decisions about complex issues, citizens' assemblies ask a small number of randomly-selected individuals who are given a crash course on the issue to make recommendations about the priorities and values that should guide decision-making. An assembly on Toronto's budget might express a preference for citywide programs over neighbourhood-specific ones, while one on the TTC might emphasize speed improvements rather than suburban expansion.

The pragmatic argument that, fundamentally, people are better at making decisions than politicians, also seems intuitively right. Toronto's history is replete with governments making bad decisions, such as preferring the Sheppard subway over the proposed subway to the airport along Eglinton, or the proposed Spadina expressway. Both Ontario's and Canada's histories are filled with similar examples. However, there are likely other situations in which voters would have made worse decisions than politicians did. Likewise, direct democracy leaves little room for governments to make unpopular, but necessary decisions, such as the harsh cuts that the Chrétien government made in the mid 1990s to quell Canada's swelling budget deficit.

While people might be less likely to make bad decisions than politicians and more prepared to take ownership of them, people are not necessarily equipped with the information they need to make decisions on important issues. Even a major public education campaign would do little to ensure that people are making informed votes. This can lead to a situation such as in California, where decades of ballot initiatives have progressively robbed the government of the capacity to raise taxes, which has led to a deep budgetary crisis.

By involving citizens through better public consultation and more robust civil society organizations, they can exert significant influence on government.



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

navigating the notorious NAP

by *Ariel Lewis* & *Erene Stergiopoulos*
illustrations by ***Jing Peng***

Both commended and condemned, the nap may be on the verge of an identity crisis. While scientists, historians, and anthropologists can agree that napping is good for us, there's something that's keeping us from incorporating the nap into our daily lives.

This way, children, and hear me tell
Of Rip Van Winkle's wonderful nap,
The oddest fortune that ever befell
A merry and good-for-nothing chap;
Of all the snoozes and slumbers deep,
The strangest, longest, and strongest sleep!

Edmund Clarence Stedman
Rip Van Winkle and His Wonderful Nap (1870)

"When do you fall asleep? I guess in our prehominid days, the nighttime was a time when it was best to go to bed. That's not necessarily so in secularized urbanized cultures, right?"

Marcel Danesi, anthropology professor at the University of Toronto, weighs the effect of the digital age on the way we sleep — effects that have been at work since the invention of artificial light.

Technology changes sleep patterns. You work when you can, and sleep when you're not working. Shorter stints of sleep — or naps — seem like the natural solution. Yet for a culture where technology permits a flexible daily rhythm, we still cling to the monophasic sleep cycle of solar-driven workers.

The nap is a touchy subject at best. Both the symbol of sun-dappled repose, and the cardinal sign of indolence, naps maintain an equivocal status in contemporary Western culture. While a long history of scientific research has pointed to the clear benefits of a midday's rest, a recent spike in media coverage has begun to change the nap's reputation.

In 2003, Harvard psychology graduate student Sara Mednick reported her finding that naps of 90 minutes improve participants' learning of perceptual tasks, in the same way as a full night's sleep. The article was published in the prestigious journal *Nature Neuroscience*, where it catalysed a new fascination with the nap in the popular press.

Mednick is now an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego where she researches the benefits of napping on learning, creative problem solving, and verbal memory. In her self-help book, *Take a Nap! Change Your Life*, Mednick explains the merits of napping, pointing out that humans are naturally predisposed to biphasic sleep — that is, we're biologically inclined to sleep in two major phases, both at night and during the day.

James Maas, a seasoned sleep researcher at Cornell University, is well-versed in the benefits of an afternoon slumber. As the man who coined the term "power nap," he warns against the lingering assumption that napping is a sign of idleness.

Any time in our technological society when people are sleeping and not working, as a public, we feel that that's a sign of laziness. And nothing could be further from the truth.

"Any time in our technological society when people are sleeping and not working, as a public, we feel that that's a sign of laziness. And nothing could be further from the truth. Napping during the day is a sign of sleep deprivation — which is extremely dangerous.

"Not only are you drowsy during the day, at inappropriate times, but you're irritable, anxious, depressed, likely to gain weight, and at a much higher risk for hypertension, heart attacks, strokes, Type 2 diabetes, obesity, and even cancer. It also affects our cognitive processing; we can't remember, we can't concentrate. We lose our critical and creative problem-solving skills."

Napping, which is decidedly frowned upon, even in a culture where sleep deprivation has become the norm, can in fact lessen the effects of sleep loss.

"We know that it refreshes the body and the mind," says Maas. "It's not as good as solid nocturnal sleep. But people who do take power naps of a short duration seem to be more alert."

Aside from simply countering the effects of sleep deprivation, however, napping also has added benefits. Julien Doyon, a professor at the Université de Montréal explains that learning new motor sequences — as in the case of playing the piano, or learning a sport — is facilitated by a short sleep stint.

"What we find is that one can learn a new skill if you sleep for a period of 90 minutes. Then, when you return to the task, your performance will be better than if you didn't sleep. That means that naps help with the consolidation of this process."

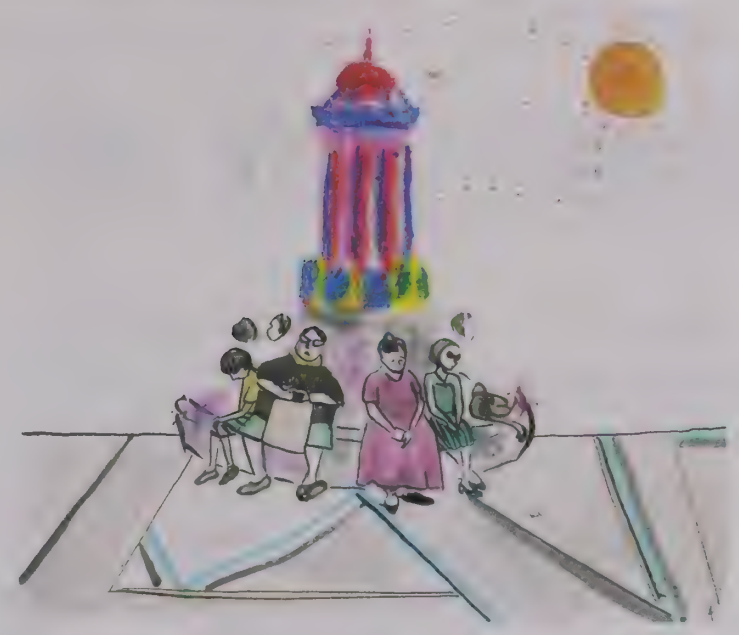
It should come as no surprise then that Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and Napoleon Bonaparte were distinguished nappers.

In fact, so is Toronto-based trader Bruce Lion. Lion started napping in 1974, after coming across a series of studies on the virtues of the nap. "It wasn't a difficult habit to pick up," he says.

When Lion began his journey into naphood he worked on a film set with irregular shifts, often starting work when others were heading to bed. Being able to nap during the day was a necessity. "It allows you to pace your day differently."

In particular, Lion highlights the benefits he reaps artistically by taking time to snooze in the afternoon. "Creatively there was a distinct difference. I could access my creative energies. I started writing, started many projects. […] There's a different kind of wakefulness at 10:30 at night."

After years of experience, he has now mastered the nap. "I find my optimal time for napping is between 2 and 5 p.m. I put on comfortable clothes and get into bed.





"So what? I'm groggy when I get up in the morning too, but you get out of it and it's worth it in the long run."

I definitely nap three to six days of the week."

Lion has had mixed responses from family and friends about his lifestyle. "When people think you're goofing off because you nap, they don't think about the fact that, hey, I'm getting up earlier than you and staying up later. But I think I've been able to convert a lot of people to nap."

Now that his shift to trading work leaves him with a rigid 9 to 5 schedule, Lion says that getting in a nap at the end of the workday is his first priority. "If I had my druthers, I would nap every day."

As for his response to the groggy after-effects that so often tarnish the nap's reputation, he says, "So what? I'm groggy when I get up in the morning too, but you get out of it and it's worth it in the long run."

According to Marcel Danesi, napping appears unpopular partly because of the work-driven ethos of Western culture. Even the term "nap" is stigmatized. "If you change the name 'napping' to 'afternoon rest' it changes the whole nature of the game, doesn't it?"

Has this always been the case? According to Roger Ekirch of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, it would seem the answer is yes. A specialist in pre-industrial Britain, Ekirch explains that napping, and "excessive" sleeping in general were "disapproved of, but tacitly accepted."

Sleep during the day offended middle-class morality in particular, Ekirch continues. "This was coupled with the belief in the Protestant faith that when people were asleep they were thought to be most vulnerable to the devil and Satan's minions, including witches."

Yet, for all of its ill fame, Ekirch says the nap was a favourite theme amongst painters in the 17th and 18th centuries. The work of William Hogarth provides a wealth of etchings depicting people of all classes, most notably a judge, falling asleep at the bench. Dutch painters in particular often depicted scenes in ale houses where a person, usually female, was napping. The napper was subject to ridicule as fellow patrons made odd gestures above her head.

In today's fast-paced culture, where many may struggle with post-lunch fatigue, some have found alternatives to dealing with the afternoon onslaught. Spain is known for shutting down businesses, offices, and restaurants come 3 p.m., all for the purpose of going to bed. The siesta is a prominent part of Spanish culture and daily living. Or at least it once was.

Cambridge Professor Brigitte Steger has done extensive research on sleep, using a cross-cultural perspective. Steger describes three distinct sleep cultures: monophasic, siesta, and napping. In monophasic sleep culture there is one major sleep phase in the night, whereas the siesta culture also includes a socially agreed-upon time in the afternoon to sleep or remain quiet. The third, which she refers to as napping culture, is where people take their naps whenever it is convenient and practical.

Steger says that the siesta culture is slowly retreating, particularly in the Northern and urban parts of Spain. Increased communications with other European countries necessitates adjusting to other nations' daily schedules. Steger also mentions that the siesta is currently developing an old-fashioned or "backward" connotation.

While the siesta may be under fire, sleep continues to flourish elsewhere. Steger places Japan in the "napping culture" category, though the Japanese have another word for it. The term used is *inemuri* which means master napper. Many people find this daytime activity quite enjoyable and tend to treat it like a hobby.





Rather than a designated time for rest, *inemuri* is viewed more like daydreaming. The only difference is that your eyes are shut and you're actually asleep.

"In Japan, it has always been regarded, at least from the 17th century, to get up and do your work at night, because it's harder to do it during the day," Steger explains. "The only way you can show off that you've been working hard, aside from your results, of course, is if you are exhausted during the day. But because you have to be modest, you cannot show off all the time. So a way to show it is to just fall asleep when you're exhausted."

Inemuri plays an advantageous role in other social situations. For instance, in the case of a board meeting, a boss may pretend to sleep if he feels his presence in the room is too daunting, preventing his younger employees from freely communicating with each other. "It's quite an interesting and difficult situation to navigate, actually. It requires a lot of cultural competence to know when you can do something and when you can't." When on the train, *inemuri* can work as a convenient way to avoid eye contact with strangers nearby.

Of course, Steger mentions that *inemuri* can also simply be a way to catch up on lost sleep. She explains that in the instance of a boardroom or classroom, so long as active participation is not required, *inemuri* is viewed as another way to be present in the situation.

Steger also notes that even among the napping cultures, sleep practices vary drastically. In Somalia, for instance, only men are allowed to nap, whereas in Japan gender no longer plays a role in the activity. The gender barrier in Somalia is due in part to the loss of control over one's body that comes with falling asleep.

While Western culture may appear to lag behind in the napping realm, the recent media buzz on naps, along with inspiration from Japanese corporate culture, have helped to inspire a new movement that is learning to revel in the afternoon repose.

Nicolas Ronco is the founder and CEO of YeloSpa, a wellness centre in Midtown Manhattan where clients can pay $15 every twenty minutes to nap in cocoon-like cabins. As Ronco explains, one of his inspirations for starting YeloSpa was his observation of Japanese corporate life.

"In Japan, I discovered that the nap was widely accepted in the corporate environment," says Ronco. "I could see people sleeping at their desks in the middle of the day, even sleeping at meetings. […] People were actually way more patient, drinking much less coffee, doing far fewer drugs."

Sleep scientist James Maas describes his own rationale when he coined the term "power nap": "In response to some work that I was doing for IBM — who, at that point in time was very much into 'power breakfasts' and 'power lunches' — I said, instead of a coffee or coke break, which destroys or at least inhibits REM sleep at night, why not take that ten or twenty minute coffee break that you get in the middle of the afternoon, and take a power nap?

"I could see people sleeping at their desks in the middle of the day, even sleeping at meetings."

"Since that time, it's become part of the vernacular, and that term is now used worldwide."

Despite the attention that napping has received in the West, the stigma persists. Metronaps is an international conglomerate where customers buy time to nap in a futuristic pod. However, YeloSpa still treads with caution.

"I think that in certain cultures — for example, if you work in Wall Street, if you're a trader or a stock broker — if you tell people that you're napping, that's going to be frowned upon," explains Ronco.

Instead, clients that take naps often buy a traditional spa service. "So if people think that you're actually going to a 'real' session, then they think it's acceptable. […] No one has to know that they're adding the naps.

"But the interesting thing is that 80 per cent of our customers are adding twenty-minute naps to whatever treatment they take.

"Napping is becoming more and more accepted," says Ronco. "What you realize when you open this kind of business is that people are closet nappers. As soon as you tell them you have a nap spa, you have CEOs of major companies and politicians that say, 'You know what, I actually nap three times a week.'"

It's reasonable to suppose that the solution to the stigma is to transform the nap into a service rather than a sin. Napping may be the next new trend.

However, it takes more than new packaging to shake off centuries of negative connotations. For the time being, napping will just have to be a guilty pleasure. As Ronco observes, "it's like the dirty secret that no one talks about, but everyone does."

The geometry of strings

World-renowned mathematician Professor Shing-Tung Yau visits U of T for public lecture on string theory, **ELLIOT CHEUNG** *reports.*

Last Wednesday, Bancroft Avenue was abuzz with mathematicians. Dozens of PhD students and professors crowded around the Earth Sciences Auditorium to attend a public lecture presented by world-renowned Fields Medalist, Professor Shing-Tung Yau.

The Fields Medal, often described as the Nobel Prize for Mathematical sciences, has earned Prof Shing-Tung Yau a great deal of respect within the academic community. One would think that having such a display of scholars in attendance would suggest an esoteric and elite discussion of mathematics. However, these attitudes are precisely what Professor Shing-Tung Yau's new book, *The Shape of Inner Space*, sets out to prevent.

Yau explained in his lecture that mathematics does not need to be a strictly abstract discipline, contrary to popular characterizations of the field. Instead, it plays a central role in the understanding of our immediate universe. *The Shape of Inner Space* attempts to portray such ideas in a manner accessible to any general, yet curious, reader.

Yau is famous for his 1976 proof of the Calabi conjecture, a proposition offered by Eugenio Calabi over twenty years earlier, in 1954. Along with much of his additional work, this proof has provided a framework for attempts at unifying various theories concerning our physical world.

However, Yau explains that although his work has applications to string theory and theoretical physics, these applications were not something he directly intended. As a mathematician specializing in geometry, he is interested in mathematically describing a diverse collection of shapes and objects, an interest which took him to the study of "curvatures." These curvatures are coincidentally what make up the geometry of physical space.

Yau admits that, although his studies in geometry were not wholly motivated by their relationship with the physical universe, he is nonetheless pleased and inspired by how his work was, and is, able to answer many fundamental questions in physics. He describes mathematics as a beautiful field of study, where discoveries or propositions have the potential to account for many different implications and results that extend beyond the original motivations.

In Yau's opinion, major advances in physics can be partially credited to advances in geometry — in particular, classical geometry and calculus work behind classical physics, and Riemann geometry work behind Einstein's theories of physics. Yau's findings led him and his colleagues to open up a new avenue of geometry, an avenue known as "geometric analysis." In response to a question from the audience, he also explained that the future will bring about a new kind of geometry — one that will be able to account for many theories in quantum physics.

The lecture also aimed to provide its audience with a sense of his individual experiences with mathematics, and how his investigations brought him through a personal journey spanning much of his career.

Yau recalled his first encounter with curiosity in geometry. He explained that with all the geometry and mathematics he had learned throughout high school, he still could not describe an object so common and seemingly simple as an apple. From there, and throughout college, Yau had a deep interest in being able to describe objects mathematically — objects common to everyday experiences, as well as abstract idealized objects.

Yau personally adopts an imaginative approach. He explains that his investigations have lead him to ponder the possibilities of most "extreme cases," — that is, he wonders how a certain object would be affected if some property were ignored, or reduced to null.

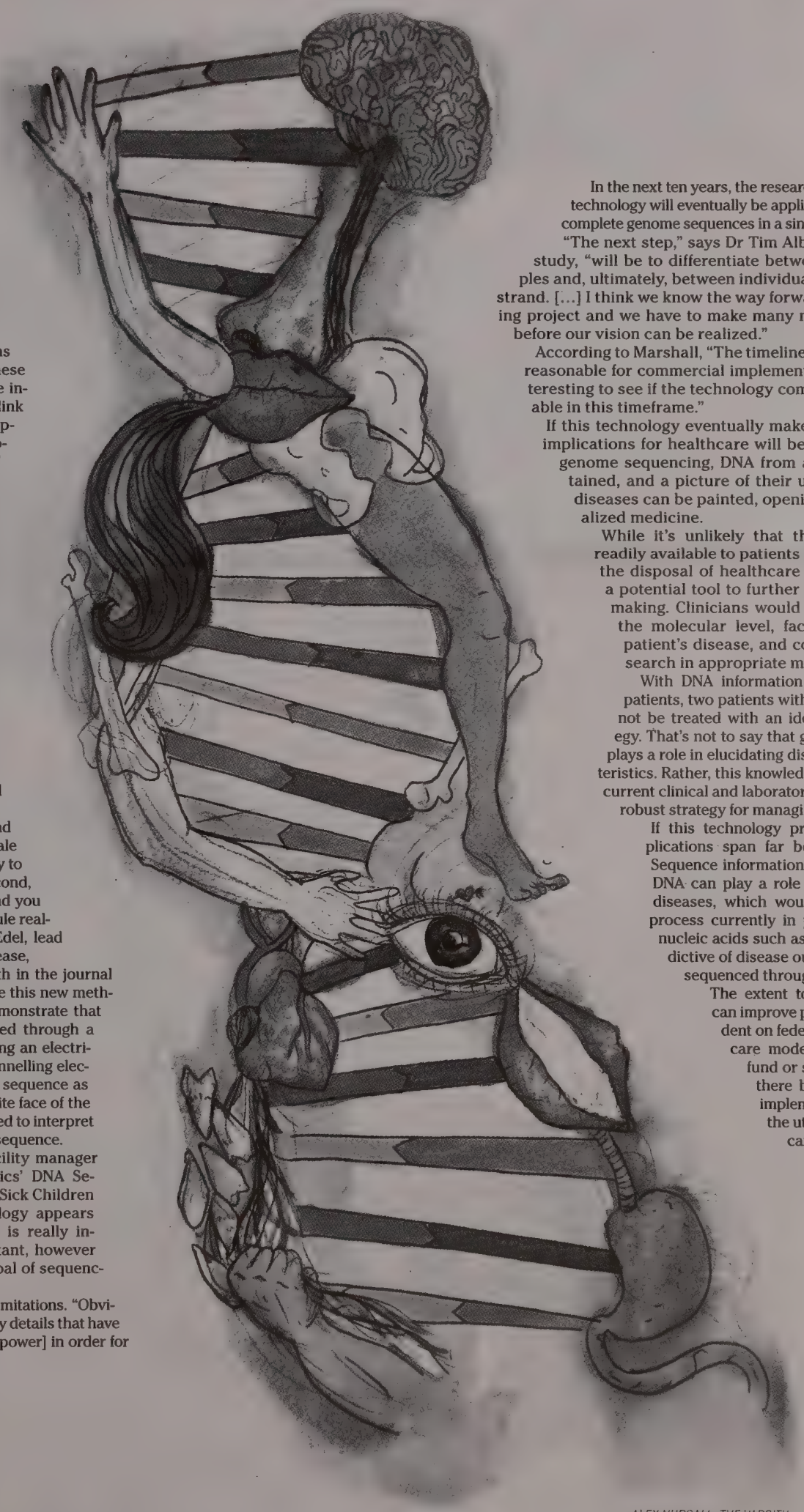
Yau also explains that a geometer who relates his work to the realm of physics is much like a painter or artist who relates his work to reality. When a painter sets out to paint a landscape, he is first guided by his imagination. Only when he is satisfied does he look back to see how much of it is physically accurate.



In superstring theory, the 6-dimensional Calabi-Yau manifold is thought to model the extra dimensions of spacetime.
JBOURJAI/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

It's personal

New technology may pave the way for cheap DNA sequencing within minutes. **NARDIN SAMUEL** *explores the implications for genetic research and personalized medicine.*



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

As the era of gene-based medicine comes increasingly closer, current scientific research is focused on identifying genes linked with disease. A complete DNA sequence harbours many variations and differences, ranging from small changes in a single letter of code, to variations in the number of copies of a gene. These variations are the focus of extensive investigation, as researchers try to link each variation with the risk of developing certain diseases, disease prognosis, and even a prediction of patients' responses to medications.

However, when it comes to genome sequencing, there are two limiting factors in implementing scientific findings from the bench to the clinic: the cost, and the time involved.

In response to these limitations, a research group at Imperial College London has ambitiously sought to tackle the obstacles in genomic research by patenting a technology that they propose can sequence an individual's genome within minutes. What's more, while current commercial sequencing costs at least a couple of thousand dollars, these researchers propose that their technology will cost a fraction of that.

"It should be significantly faster and more reliable, and would be easy to scale up to create a device with the capacity to read up to 10 million bases per second, versus the typical 10 bases per second you get with the present day single molecule real-time techniques," stated Dr Joshua Edel, lead researcher in the study, in a press release,

In their study, published this month in the journal *Nano Letters*, the researchers describe this new method of chemical sequencing. They demonstrate that DNA strands can be rapidly propelled through a 50-nanometre pore, or nanopore, using an electrical charge in a silicon chip base. A tunnelling electrode junction recognizes the coding sequence as the strand comes out from the opposite face of the chip. A computer algorithm is then used to interpret the signal and construct the genome sequence.

Dr Christian Marshall, interim facility manager of The Centre for Applied Genomics' DNA Sequencing Facility at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, states that the technology appears promising. "I think the technology is really interesting, and represents an important, however minute, step towards the ultimate goal of sequencing a single DNA molecule."

Marshall also outlines the present limitations. "Obviously there is a long way to go and many details that have to be worked out [such as computing power] in order for the technology to be feasible."

In the next ten years, the researchers anticipate that their technology will eventually be applied to create tools yielding complete genome sequences in a single lab procedure.

"The next step," says Dr Tim Albrecht, an author of the study, "will be to differentiate between different DNA samples and, ultimately, between individual bases within the DNA strand. [...] I think we know the way forward, but it is a challenging project and we have to make many more incremental steps before our vision can be realized."

According to Marshall, "The timeline of ten years does seem reasonable for commercial implementation, and it will be interesting to see if the technology comes to fruition and is viable in this timeframe."

If this technology eventually makes it into the clinic, the implications for healthcare will be enormous. With rapid genome sequencing, DNA from any patient can be obtained, and a picture of their unique susceptibility to diseases can be painted, opening the door for personalized medicine.

While it's unlikely that this technology will be readily available to patients themselves, it will be at the disposal of healthcare providers, and may be a potential tool to further guide clinical decision-making. Clinicians would be equipped to see, at the molecular level, factors contributing to a patient's disease, and could look to current research in appropriate management.

With DNA information available for individual patients, two patients with the "same" disease may not be treated with an identical therapeutic strategy. That's not to say that genetic information alone plays a role in elucidating disease and patient characteristics. Rather, this knowledge can be combined with current clinical and laboratory tests to provide a more robust strategy for managing disease.

If this technology proves successful, its applications span far beyond DNA sequencing. Sequence information from viral and bacterial DNA can play a role in diagnosing infectious diseases, which would bypass the culturing process currently in place. In addition, other nucleic acids such as microRNAs may be predictive of disease outcomes, and can also be sequenced through this technology.

The extent to which this technology can improve patient care is also dependent on federal and provincial healthcare models. Will the government fund or subsidize such tests? Will there be immediate barriers to implementation? In any case, the utility of such a technology cannot be ignored.

As Marshall puts it, "Beyond the low cost and speed, sequencing single molecules would help us understand somatic genomic changes and have a huge impact on personalized genomic medicine."

Book review: *Dance of the photons*

Author Anton Zeilinger makes the mysteries of quantum physics accessible for a general audience in his new book

Fiona Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Dance of the Photons: From Einstein to Quantum Teleportation,
by Anton Zeilinger
Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Quantum physics has a reputation for being complicated and beyond the understanding of those who attempt to study it. Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize Laureate himself, once said, "I think I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics."

In the past century, countless experiments have challenged the classical theory of physics and our intuition of how things might work at the atomic and subatomic scales.

Meanwhile, Anton Zeilinger, a Professor of Physics at the University of Vienna, sets out to explain quantum mechanics to the general public in *Dance of the Photons: From Einstein to Quantum Teleportation*. He traces its very beginnings with the founding fathers of the field — renowned names such as Planck, Einstein, and Heisenberg — to recent applications of quantum physics, such as in artificial satellites and quantum teleportation. No, physicists haven't found a way to teleport humans yet, but the technique has great potential in transferring data in quantum communication and computation.

Throughout the book, Zeilinger interspersses his descriptions of quantum physics with a story of two fictional experimentalists, Alice and Bob, and how they arrive at several different conclusions that contradict or support each other. His way of conveying the trials and tribulations of generations of experimental physicists gives the reader an almost personal connection in understanding how certain theories



remain widely accepted by the scientific community, while others have been disproven over time.

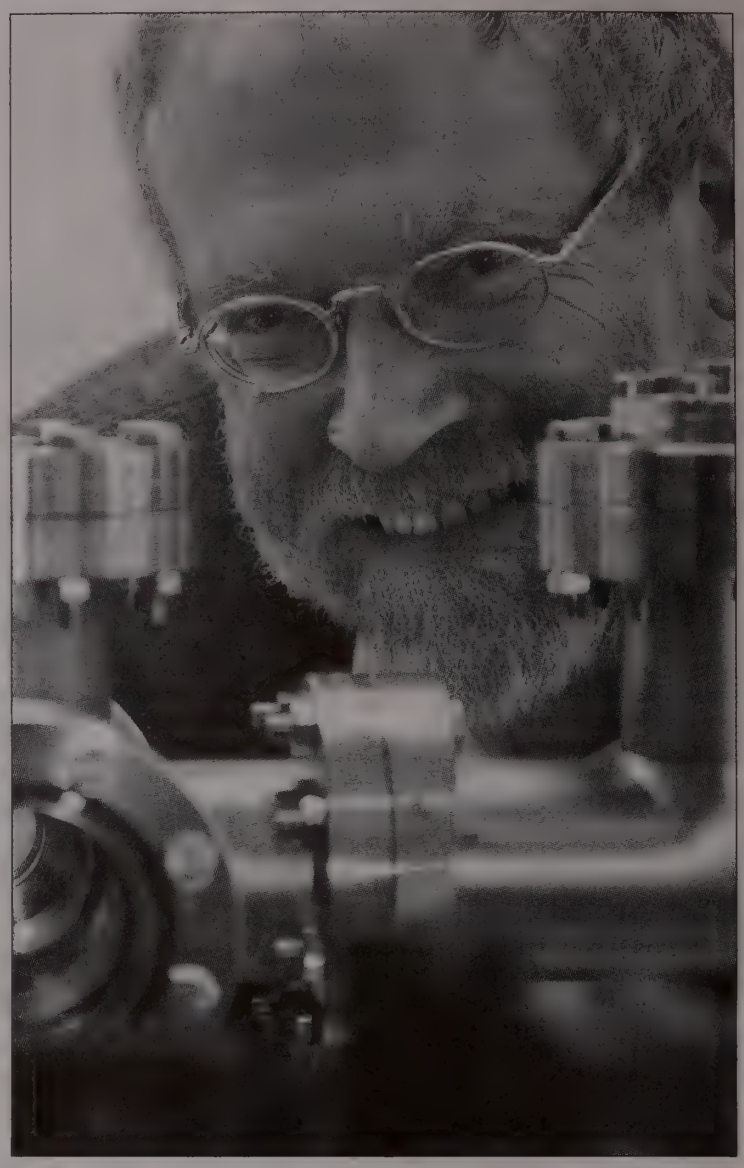
On the other hand, one perplexing issue in Zeilinger's narrative style is the careful explanation of hypotheses, when some are immediately shot down as a contradiction to other experimental results or established theory. Separating fact from fiction, so to speak, was difficult in this sense. Or perhaps this was Zeilinger's intention — to motivate the reader to dive into the questioning mindset of an experimentalist?

What might set this book apart from, for example, a standard quantum mechanics textbook, is the focus on conceptual understanding over mathematical reasoning. Zeilinger makes it his mission to portray physics in an informative, yet interesting and occasionally humorous, manner. The material is based on up-and-coming research — after all, the technique of quantum teleportation was only experimentally confirmed in 1997 — and the clear explanations, complete with real-life analogies, make this book a worthwhile introduction to the phenomena described in quantum mechanics.

In learning about a subject as potentially abstract as quantum mechanics, some sort of motivation is often necessary to keep the material appealing. In this case, motivation came from the emphasis on real-world applications and experiments that have been done in real life. Somewhere in between Zeilinger's narratives, philosophical musings, and enthusiasm for putting the material in simple terms, the reader gets hooked on the basis that the knowledge has practical uses.

With that said, a scientific background, particularly in physics, would be very useful for the reader in order to follow the concepts ranging from the particle- and wave-like behaviour of photons to the basics and potential significance of quantum information technologies. Of course, given that the intended audience for the book is the general public, such a scientific background is not necessary to understand the thought processes of physicists in history, nor the logical sequence of events that has gradually established what little we know about quantum physics.

After all, as Zeilinger points out, there remain many unanswered questions and strange phenomena that have yet to be explained. There are so many ways in which the phenomena we do know about might prove to have practical uses — for example, quantum cryptography, quantum computing at higher speeds than existing ones, and quantum communication using satellites. The mere thought of future developments in the field, and what mind-boggling conclusions physicists continue to draw in their research, makes quantum physics the science whose complexity gives it a strange, intriguing beauty.



Anton Zeilinger is a professor of physics at the University of Vienna. *JACQUELINE GODANY/GODANY.COM*

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Malt syrup

From malt to corn to golden syrup, our food is loaded with syrups. While golden syrup comes from sugar cane, and corn syrup obviously comes from corn, malt syrup comes from barley — an unusual source for a not-so-sweet sweetener commonly found in baked goods and breakfast cereals.

Malt syrup is produced using a process called malting. This is the same process used to create many foods and food ingredients, the most famous being beer. In places like the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe, beer is not the only popular beverage produced from malting. Malta, a soft drink consumed in many countries, is also produced from malted barley.

Malting takes place when grains are allowed to germinate for only a short period of time. Before their germination is complete, the process is interrupted, allowing for enzymes within the grain to cut its starches into smaller compounds, such as maltose. Because maltose is part of the same family of simple sugars (monosaccharides) as glucose and fructose, malt syrup, which contains maltose, functions as a sweetener.

Nevertheless, malt syrup is less sweet than other sweeteners. This difference is due to the fact that malt syrup is primarily composed of maltose, as opposed to other monosaccharides. Thus it is unlike sucrose, which is 50 per cent glucose and 50 per cent sucrose; or high fructose corn syrup, which can be as high as 90 per cent fructose but is most often 55 per cent fructose. Malt syrup is also unique because of its protein content, which is not found in other sweeteners.

Though many food additive syrups are currently the subject of much debate and criticism, malt syrup doesn't fall into the same category. It is a safe ingredient, not to be feared on a food label.

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

Why women find macho men sexy

A chiseled chin, strong jaw, narrow eyes, and thick eyebrows are the quintessential features of a manly man's face. A recent study in the journal *Evolution and Human Behaviour* found that women have sexual fantasies about men with these facial qualities, particularly when they are ovulating, and when their partners do not meet mucho macho standards.

The researchers suggest that this preference is due to the fact that masculine features signal high testosterone levels, but testosterone comes at a price: it impedes immunity. This means that testosterone handicaps men, and only those with robust immune systems can afford to have high levels of the hormone. As such, masculinity may functions as an indicator for "genetic quality".

But what if your face is slightly feminine? Are you forever doomed to the ranks of the unattractive? Well, no. "Pretty boys" are generally even more attractive. They appear more trustworthy, caring, sensitive, and are preferable as long-term partners.

— TU-VY DINH-LE

Source: University of Colorado at Boulder

Hey, doll face! Determining what makes a face look alive

A recent study published in *Psychological Science* has found that in order for a face to appear alive, it must be similar to a human face.

In the study, conducted by Thalia Wheatley and Christine Looser of Dartmouth College, pictures of dolls' faces were morphed with photos of similar-looking human face. The researchers created a continuum of intermediate pictures that were a blend of human and doll faces. Participants then viewed these pictures, and decided which faces were human and which were the faces of dolls.

Looser and Wheatly found that the distinction between the faces of dolls and humans was made about two-thirds of the way along the continuum towards the human side, with the eyes being the most important facial feature in determining life.

The results suggest that telling the difference between inert objects and living organisms allows humans to reserve social energies for faces that are capable of interacting with us and forming connections.

— SHERINE ENSAN

Source: Association for Psychological Science

Curry derivative protects brain against stroke and traumatic brain injury

A synthetic compound developed by scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies may have potential for treating neurological conditions such as ischemic stroke and traumatic brain injury.

While there is no available treatment for TBI, the current treatment for stroke, known as tissue plasminogen activator, or TPA, is only successful in approximately one fifth of cases. A novel drug to treat these conditions, CNB-001, was derived from the turmeric, a spice commonly used in curry. The compound initially proved effective in targeting several components of neuron damage in tissue culture models, and scientists subsequently moved on to testing in animal models.

CNB-001, which was tested in animal models of ischemic stroke and TBI, was found to prevent behavioural changes due to stroke, reverse the behavioural changes caused by TBI, and preserve the cell survival signaling pathways in both conditions.

— KIMBERLY SHEK

Source: Salk Institute

The long(board) and winding road





Can arts and sports ever peacefully coexist? The Varsity's **ASSUNTA ALEGIANI** *investigates longboard shop/gallery Longboard Living and gives peace a chance.*

PHOTOS BY RÉMI CARREIRO

Art and sports are like cats and dogs. In school you have the preppy jocks versus the weird artsy kids; girls either fall for the captain of the soccer team or the lead singer of the local garage band, and Taylor Swift longs for the guy whose girlfriend is cheer captain while she's listening to the kind of music the girlfriend doesn't like. Of course, this is a slightly clichéd view (anyone remember *She's All That*?), but it is true that art and sports generally attract different kinds of people with different lifestyles. But why this pick-and-choose mentality when you could have it all? After all, both art and sports are simply ways to enhance the way we experience things, just through different means.

A model of a successful hybrid of the two is the longboard company Longboard Living, owned by Ryan Rubin and located in Kensington Market. Occupying the basement of a residential house, the shop/gallery operates as an active resource for Toronto's longboarding community, as well as supporting and driving the local arts scene by featuring artwork on the boards. The company was founded in 2008, and the idea to commission local artists to paint on the boards was born of necessity. "Not having a large capital investment to have boards printed in a factory, I was able to reach out to some of the artists who were displaying their work along the streets in Toronto," says Rubin. "For example, Mike Parsons [a.k.a Heyapathy] is well known for displaying his work on Queen West. I wanted the art on my boards to reflect the city and the artists within it, rather than the traditional West Coast, California surf longboard that often has images of palm trees and waves, which are great but just not relevant to the environment that we are using to skate and surf."

Artists were soon found and approached. "The fact that we were a small independent company with low start-up capital, reaching out to artists and developing a collaborative relationship is what allowed us to work with them and upon the sale of the board we would then share profits," Rubin continues. "From there we basically just reached out to any artist who was interested in the project. Longboard Living would provide a board that was locally made by an independent builder and the artist would paint it. Through that we built our sort of roster of artists and then we began to do shows at galleries, displaying the artwork."

The concept makes sense considering the time and place in which we live. Unlike skateboarding, longboarding is not about doing all kinds of crazy tricks, but is rather a mode of transportation for surfing the streets. In a city where space is a diminishing commodity, and where transportation is getting increasingly expensive and crammed, longboards cater to the growing demand for an environmentally friendly lifestyle. At the same time, the yearning for individuality with style has never been greater; the longboard as canvas is, as Rubin says, an exciting new medium for artists to explore. By featuring commissioned artwork on the boards that is highly embedded in its cultural sphere, the demand for individuality, uniqueness, and style is visualized and transported into daily life.

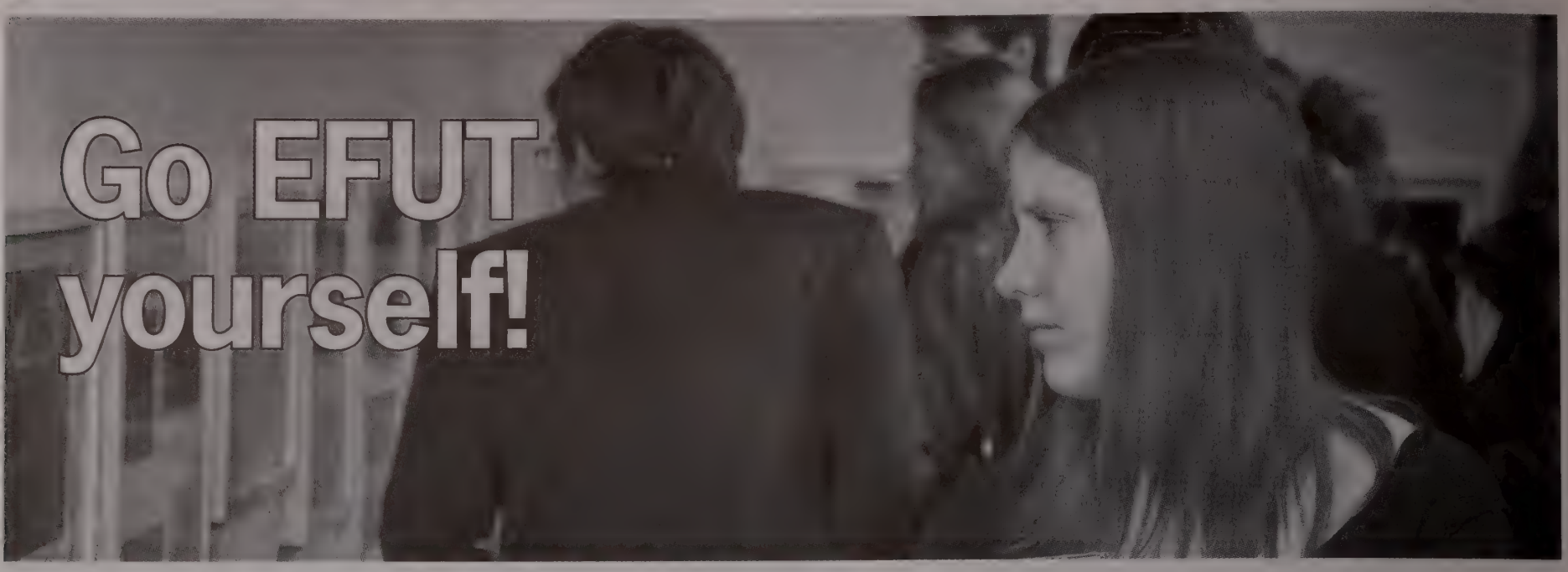
In its beginnings, when Longboard Living only served as a provider for customized boards and did not have its own shop/gallery, the response to the focus on the artwork was mixed. "There was a pretty large difference between the response we got from the current longboarding community, which is less interested in customized graphics on the bottom of the board," says Rubin. "What is more important to them is the shape of the board, how it responds, and the kinds of things you can do with it rather than how it looks, so less of an accessory and more of a tool for doing gnarly stuff."

However, adds Rubin, "When starting the company my goal was to reach out to new riders who didn't have a longboard, didn't know about any of the products or any of the brands involved and become a source for people that weren't currently involved in the community." This turned out to be the right approach; there was a big demand, which allowed Longboard Living to move into its current location at 74 Oxford St. in March, 2010.

"The shop opened up a lot of new doors for us. It allowed us to expand into a longboard-specific skateshop, which otherwise the city does not currently have. It also allowed us to have our own in-house gallery for all the artwork that we had and to open up the shop as a canvas itself. The floor, the walls and the entrance have all been painted by different artists who have done boards for us. Again, there's an opportunity for us to help promote the artists and it adds a lot of good character and vibe to the space."

It is true that the scope has expanded. While the distinctive feature of Longboard Living remains the artwork on the boards and the promotion of local artists, they also offer weekly group rides through the city, as well as free longboarding lessons, welcoming all ages and levels of experience. Through this holistic approach to the sport the company has fostered a community that, before, did not exist in this way. The name Longboard Living is descriptive of the company's philosophy, making longboarding more than a sport, but a lifestyle. By including artwork that is so much based on locality and individuality stemming from the streets of Toronto, the longboarding experience is captured and channelled in a creative way that creates accessibility to more than just riders. To most longboarders the sport is an integral part of their daily life; riding to class, to the subway, or just for recreational purposes. With the graphics on the bottom, the gallery expands throughout the whole city, and the art it features is carried out into the world it was inspired by. "We would like to continue to build bridges and networks for Toronto's large artist groups or surplus of emerging artists. We would like to continue to find jobs for them in this fast-growing industry of longboarding."





Go EFUT yourself!

ELAINE CHAN *sits down with Jennifer Yee, the curator of EFUT's Art Gala, to talk about "Political Identities in the Francophonie."*

PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUSK



Jennifer Yee at the exhibit's opening reception.

The Varsity: *What inspired you to choose "Political Identities in the Francophonie" as the theme for the EFUT Art Gala?*
Jennifer Yee: Because of all the events that are happening Francophonie [global community of Francophones] right now, [this theme] is really making headlines, not just in French media but internationally. So many things are happening, from the ban of the burqa and the expulsion of the Roma people in France, the G20 in Toronto, the Black Bloc, and the earthquake in Haiti. Now, with some of the former dictators returning as well as with the Tunisia uprising, I think there's been a real outcry from different populations of the Francophonie, and I wanted all those voices to be heard. Especially in Canada, where French is a second language, everyone experiences living in a dichotomy of having two official languages in some way.

TV: *In the curatorial statement, you mentioned that the chosen theme reflected the current political climate and that as French-speakers, bilinguals, or Anglophones, we are integrated in a community which embraces two official languages. What drew you to this subject?*
JY: I think being involved in EFUT [influenced me]. They're such an inclusive club! I noticed it's not just French speakers who go, but also English speakers and people who identify themselves as being bilingual. There's a sense of inclusivity and I wanted have the same feeling [at the gala]. You don't have to be a French speaker in order to be in this show. As an Anglophone, you experience French culture in some way and it does have a direct effect on your narrative of your own life story.

TV: *Tell us about some of the artists featured in this exhibition.*
JY: We have six artists, seven including myself, involved. We have a good range of students, from PhD to undergraduates from here at U of T, to OISE, York, and OCAD.

Brooke, one of our artists, took a trip through the French speaking region of Western Africa and photographed her experience. She went by herself with a backpack and a camera to take these photos, whereas before, that was what you saw done only with *National Geographic*. There's definitely something to be said about globalization, the western gaze and also a focus to what most of us here ignore, such as the ongoing effects of war, especially in the Congo.

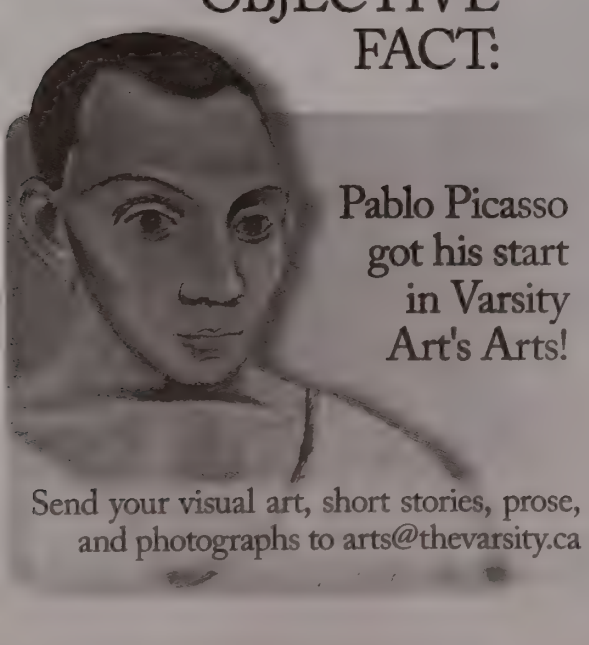
Jay's set of photographic collages talks about the expulsion of Roma people and the political implications that reside in kicking people out from a place they've called home. Marc's piece was about the Black Bloc at the G20 and how French speakers were targeted while a police state was created here in Toronto.

Overall, everyone did a good job in responding to the call. I didn't have to rework anything — they were just the ideas they had themselves.

TV: *When people leave the exhibit, what would you like them to take away from it?*
JY: I would like them to take away that everyone is welcome in the French community, at EFUT, at U of T, and welcome to participate. I find when we have a call-out people usually need convincing to submit. If you make art, you're an artist. I feel that people are very reluctant to take that term and should feel empowered. When people see this show, I hope they feel that they don't have to be just on the viewing end but at the participating end as well.

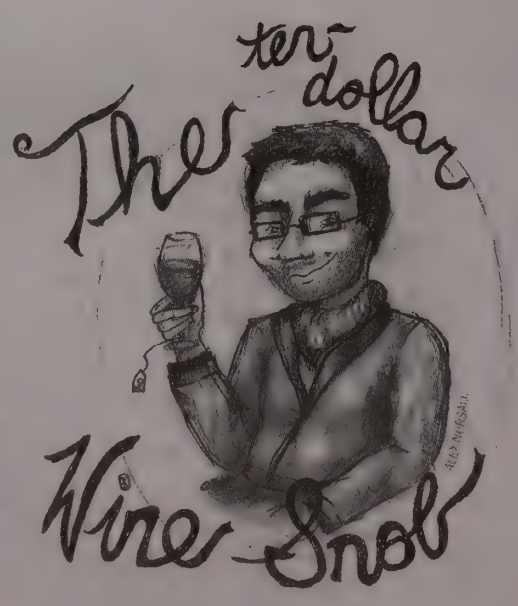
TV: *Given the successful turn out of such a great project, how do you feel about the overall experience?*
JY: It's definitely overwhelming. It's a lot of work, but when you're backed by a club, it makes it a whole lot easier. I think U of T has done a great job in creating a space where students can be heard. At the end of the day, I know I worked blood, sweat and tears into this show and I didn't do it alone.

EFUT's 3rd Annual Art Gala runs through February 19 at University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle.



Vila Regia Douro, 2008

$9.99 at the LCBO



by ANDREW RUSK

This week, the Ten Dollar Wine Snob tried a sumptuous Red from Portugal produced in The Douro region. The Douro is considered to be Portugal's premier wine region, but it wasn't always that way. Located north of Porto, the region was previous known for its Port production and its production of mediocre table wine. An emergence of the wine-makers in the region, however, has caused the area to really turn around.

Priced under $10, many would still consider this a table wine, but considering its price it's really quite delicious. The first thing you notice is the dark, rich, red colour of the wine – a burgundy or perhaps ruby colour. The nose of the wine is subtle, boasting hints of red berries, apple, and a small hint of vanilla.

How do you taste these flavours, you may ask? The Varsity is proud to present the three steps of under $10 wine tasting! Step one: when the wine is first poured, place your nose above the lip of the glass. Slowly tip your nose into the glass as you continue to smell the wine. Step two: place the wine back on the table and swirl the glass – this helps open up the bouquet. Repeat step one. Step three: take a sip of the wine, ensuring you swirl around your mouth, fully covering your tongue.

The wine is rich and full-bodied and has a lingering fruity aftertaste with a hint of coconut. Best paired with a lazy evening in, during these frightfully cold -20 degree nights.



SIGNS OF LIFE

A&E Editor **EMILY KELLOGG** explores Ron Terada's latest exhibit and finds beanbag chairs and Vampire Weekend

PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE





I'm sitting in a black beanbag chair, watching the projection of a record spin one of my favourite Vampire Weekend songs, and thinking about myself. The record is entitled *Sounds For An Exhibit* and is featured in a glass case next to the video installation. But when I close my eyes and lean back in the moderately comfortable bean bag chair, it's easy to forget that I'm in an art gallery.

My narcissism is (kind of) justified. The most recent exhibit in the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, *Ron Terada: Who I Think I Am*, is all about identity. Ron Terada is a 42-year-old Vancouver-based artist, known mainly for his appropriation of street signs and word-for-word recreations or representations of these found objects. This particular exhibit easily blurs the lines of the-shit-you-see-on-the-street-next-to-highways and "high" art.

The first room is filled with baffling signage: most notably, a poster for a previous exhibition, *Universal Pictures*, which features a photo of a "Welcome to Vancouver" sign. A glossy photo across from the video installation shows a large sign next to what looks like a construction site with the fluorescent words: "See Other Side of Sign." In the adjoining room is a neon sign in the shape of a star. It says "BIG" in the middle of the star. The star isn't big. It's moderately-sized, at best.

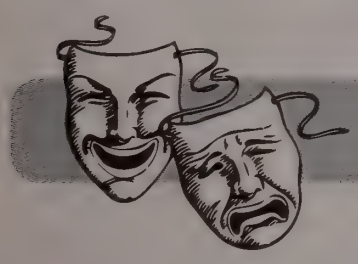
I'm starting to wonder about Ron Terada's idea of self-conception. There is no explicit reference to the artist — but in the other room his favourite songs play next to a poster for his own exhibit — that either references his own confidence in his music taste and a celebration of the design team of whatever gallery put on his last exhibit, or it is an elusive reference to self-representation. The piece in the next room seems to be more explicitly autobiographical. A series of black canvases inscribed with white text narrates the tale of a New York artist's haunting account of the nature of art, art-world snobbery, self-destruction, and crippling isolation.

"In a way, I ruined my life, but I did a body of work, and for that body of work it was worth ruining my life," the piece concludes, leaving the last canvas a mass of black space with only a few lines of white text. It's clear this isn't Terada's own autobiography. Everything about the exhibit exudes a sense of play, a light-hearted tongue-in-cheek in juxtaposing a piece called "Big Star" with a purportedly self-identifying exhibit. He listens to Vampire Weekend. He hardly seems like the self-destructive artist who wrote: "And the only way I can make art is by taking drugs to ease the pain of the emptiness in my stomach, the emptiness of my life." Yet, here are the words, neatly configured against the white wall, in an exhibit entitled *Who I Think I Am*.

Reading the text-based piece is almost an uncanny experience. Reading is a familiar and comforting process for me, something I like to do in the fetal position, in bed, with a cat curled up beside me and maybe some hot chocolate. This exhibit requires you to stand, physically move across the room, crane your neck and hurt your eyes if you endeavour to read it. It's physically demanding to read, and reading white on black text is difficult. After a while, it's almost dizzying. You can't just look at this piece; you have to engage with it for it to make any sense at all.

I find out later that the excerpted text is a chapter from the biography of Jack Goldstein, a conceptual artist who achieved fame in the 1980s until secluding himself well beneath the poverty line in Southern California. In true artistic form, his works weren't really included in any kind of artistic cannon until after his death in 2003. He is, as such, the quintessential tortured artist, who romantically sacrificed everything for his body of work, and never saw the fruits of his labour.

What Terada has assembled in this exhibit is a collection of signs. Deviating from his representation of street signs, he's given us a collection of the kind of signs that we all use to represent our own identity. Terada chose an excerpt from the autobiography of a tortured artist, a tongue-in-cheek neon sign, an installation of his favourite music, and advertisements for his art exhibits. I would probably choose an excerpt from Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* and my Facebook profile pictures.



Campus Stage

Homicidal hilarity

Victoria College Drama Society's production of Arsenic and Old Lace puts the "laughter" in "slaughter"



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

Shauna C. Keddy
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Two seemingly harmless old women are actually stone cold killers — this is the premise of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Written for the stage in the 1940's by Joseph Kesselring and adapted to the screen around the same time, it was first performed on Broadway, and, more recently, performed by the Victoria College Drama Society.

Who doesn't have the occasional oddball in the family? Did they ever murder someone? Well, Mortimer Brewster, the protagonist of the story, has a family filled with eccentric characters with homicidal tendencies. Victoria College's Drama Society did a superb job adapting this retro play without making it feel old, with the cast of around a dozen students and alumni overacting just enough to make it clear that murder doesn't always have to be so depressing without too much over-the-top cheese.

The plot centers around a love story involving the two characters who are not totally off their rockers, and the characters are played with reassuring normalcy. The play is all about comic timing and physical comedy, which the actors exhibit throughout. Michael Mackinnon, as Teddy Brewster, and Michael Welch as the evil assistant, Dr. Einstein, played their roles with relish. Teddy Brewster, a delusional who thinks he's Theodore Roosevelt and plays the role with a perfect deadpan. Michael Welch as the doctor nailed a comedically-over-the-top German accent and maniacle giggle. The old ladies played by Gwyneth Hodgins and Nora Boydell, embodied the comedic physicality necessary to their roles, and were absolutely hilarious.

Things heat up as Mortimer discovers that his aunts have killed 12 men who have stayed at their house. They rent out rooms, and happily explain that the dead bodies in their window seat are poor souls that they have "put out of their misery" — by promptly serving them wine with arsenic. So, when Mortimer's brother, Jonathan comes home and tries to stash a body of a man he has killed in their cellar, he finds killing certainly seems run in the family. The sinister faciel expressions of Jonathan (Matthew McGrath) were alone worth the cost of admission.

Spotlight on: THE VARSITY BLUES NORDIC SKIING TEAM

by CHARLOTTE TOMBS





With the first race in their competitive season just two weeks away, the Varsity Blues Nordic Ski team is gearing up for a snowy ride.

The team, which is comprised of seven women and ten men, trains all year round and is coached by Hans Fischer, who has been a team member since 1999.

Nordic Skiing encompasses all skiing events in which the heel of the boot is not attached to the ski. This contrasts with Alpine Skiing where the boot is attached to the ski at all times. The Varsity Blues Nordic Skiing team only focuses on competing in cross-country skiing events, however, and avoids other Nordic Ski events such as biathlon, ski jumping, and Nordic Combined.

Team tryouts, which take place in September, last for one week and include fitness testing, interval training, and weight training. Although team members are chosen based on their results, Blues skier Patrick Monette also remarks that participation on the team is "more [commitment-based] than performance-based."

The team members are very committed to their sport, training six days a week.

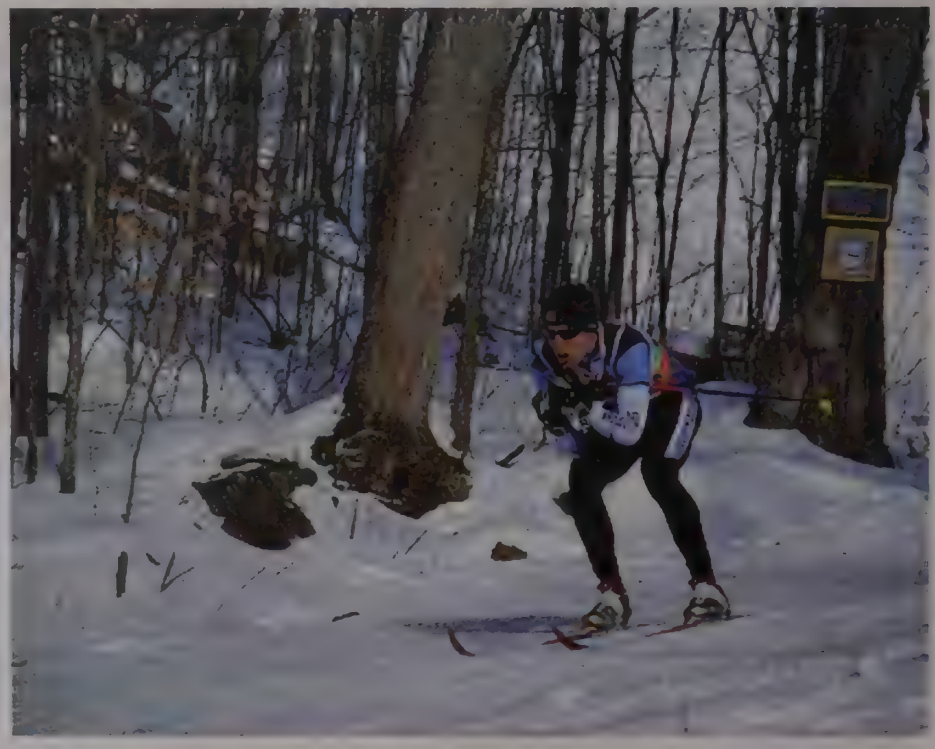
"In the fall we'll be on dry land and we'll roller ski twice a week and run twice a week and go to the weight room twice a week," says team member Hilary Mallinger. "Tuesdays and Thursdays we're in the weight room and Mondays and Fridays we run intervals, so that could be a long distance run with hill-repeats in the middle. Wednesdays we roller ski in High Park. Sundays we roller ski by the lakeshore for two hours, slow and steady."

The team attends a roller-skiing competition in Guelph every November. Roller-skiing was invented so that skiers could train on pavement; it's meant to emulate cross-country skiing.

"It's easier to perfect your technique on regular skis," adds Mallinger.

While some of the athletes have been skiing for many years as members of private clubs, others have much less experience, only skiing on their high school teams. In fact, no formal ski experience is required to join the team, only a strong commitment to attending practices and competitions is necessary.

A few athletes on the team, however, show talent in other sports as well. Sisters Kate and Jennifer Sauks are Varsity Blues rowers, Melanie Belore played on the Waterloo Warriors Varsity Basketball team for five seasons before coming to U of T, and Mallinger is a Blues mountain biker.





January is the time for the athletes to start focusing on upcoming competitions and the team is ready to participate in a variety this year, including three major competitions as part of the University Cup, and four as part of the Ontario Cup. Each competition consists of a few races of different lengths: men's races are typically 10 to 20 kilometres long while women's races are five to 15 kilometres long.

There are two different styles of cross country skiing: classic and skate. For "skate" the skis move side to side, similar to the way a hockey player skates, while for "classic" the athletes are only allowed to move vertically.

"Classic is more technical [than skate]; there is always something to work on. You never get perfect at it," says Monette.

"Skate is a much faster race," adds Mallinger.

Races usually consist of 40 skiers but some races can reach around 150.

Instead of focusing on getting a better time than athletes from other universities, Mallinger says that she tries to focus on doing better than one of her teammates.

"You don't know how well someone on another team has trained that year, but when it's someone on your team you know where you stand with them so it's easier to compare yourself [to] someone else on your team."

Monette, however, has other aspirations, "Carleton can take spots one through eight easily. A bunch of guys from Whitehorse decided to go to Carleton together and they're all [excellent] skiers. This one guy's pretty quick but [I've placed better] than them before. My goal is to win a medal."

Guiding the team through competition season is Head Coach Hans Fischer. Mallinger describes Fischer as very supportive; in fact he is responsible for the team's very existence.

"[Hans] is the reason we still have a team; he's great," says Monette.

This season the women's team hopes to improve on last year's results, while Monette says that "for the men's team, [our goal] is to show that U of T can actually ski."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE VARSITY BLUES NORDIC SKIING TEAM

Who's the boss?

MURAD HEMMADI *sizes up the English Premier League managers and their prospects*



CLAIRE SERWATKA / THE VARSITY

WHO'S OUT, WHO'S IN

OUT

MARTIN O'NEILL
-Aston Villa
What went wrong? O'Neill left Aston Villa before the season started, so it's not as though he wasn't meeting league objectives. It has been said that he was unhappy with the amount of money available for signings. Randy Lerner, Aston Villa's owner, claimed that he and O'Neill disagreed about how to move the club forward. As the £18–26 million (depending on the report you read) deal for Darren Bent shows, Lerner is willing to put his money where his mouth is. Recent links with the job at West Ham have proved inconclusive.

ROY HODGSON
-Liverpool
What went wrong? The squad he inherited wasn't exactly Champions League standard. Negative tactics, and general indifference from the fans made Hodgson's departure inevitable.

CHRIS HUGHTON
-Newcastle United
What went wrong? Hughton brought Newcastle back to the EPL in style, and was doing well considering how little money he had for signings over the summer. Newcastle even beat its derby rival, Sunderland, 5-1. Seems like owner Mike Ashley just didn't like the guy.

SAM ALLARDYCE
-Blackburn Rovers
What went wrong? Depends on whom you ask, really. Blackburn's new owners said Allardyce was sacked as part of their wider plans and ambitions for the club. It's not unusual for new owners to get rid of a manager to bring in their own man. And for all Allardyce's claims that he's better suited to managing the likes of Real Madrid and Inter Milan, his particular brand of football is boring.

IN

GERARD HOULLIER
-Aston Villa
What's changed? A lot – and it hasn't been for the better. Houllier took Aston Villa, who finished sixth last season, and led them straight down to the relegation zone. Along the way he managed to insult the club's fans (by being a little too nice to his former supporters at Liverpool), striker John Carew, and even all-round nice-guy and 'keeper Brad Friedel (by openly looking for a replacement).
What's next? Darren Bent. Houllier's signing was uninspiring to say the least. One way or the other, the huge fee for Bent will define Houllier's time at Aston Villa.

KENNY DALGLISH
-Liverpool
What's changed? Not a whole lot, in all honesty. Dalglish's first game was against Blackpool and he lost it. Badly.
What's next? Potentially disaster. If he's brilliant for the rest of the season and Liverpool does well, he deserves the job. If the team crashes and burns, clearly he needs to go. In the short term, players that just aren't performing need to be shipped out – the time for shaping up is long gone. Winger Ryan Babel looks to be the first out the door.

ALAN PARDEW
-Newcastle United
What's changed? Not a great deal. Newcastle is still inconsistent, winning some and losing some. He has made winger Hatem Ben Arfa's loan move from the French club, Marseille, permanent, which should help get the fans on his side.
What's next? Hopefully more of Andy Carroll. The latest in a long line of fan-favourite centre-forwards at Newcastle, they need to hang onto him.

STEVE KEAN
-Blackburn Rovers
What's changed? Not much. It's hard to see what's changed at Blackburn really.
What's next? Possibly former football star Diego Maradona, according to himself. Blackburn, however, probably isn't trying to bring him Ewood Park like they did with Cristiano Ronaldinho.

HOW THE OTHERS ARE DOING

CARLO ANCELOTTI
-Chelsea
Season so far: Preparation, or work on the training ground, seems to be the difference between last year's EPL winner and the team that found itself on a six-game losing streak in November/December.
What next? A new centre-back is key. Ancelotti let Ricardo Carvalho rejoin his predecessor Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid, and has had to play reserve-team players in the position because of it. Chelsea can't be ruled out of contention for the title just yet, but there are only four top spots to be filled in the Champions League and five serious contenders. Suggestions that Ancelotti could be sacked, however, seem like overkill.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON
-Manchester United
Season so far: United hasn't played particularly well this season, but hasn't been playing poorly either. A good team can play badly and win, and after over two decades at the top Ferguson knows that.
What next? Ferguson has yet to find adequate replacements for midfielder Paul Scholes and goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar, both of whom look set to retire at the end of the season. Owen Hargreaves, the Canadian-born successor Ferguson bought to replace Scholes, has lost two years of his career to injury and looks more likely to retire than to star. Andres Lidergaard, this month's goalkeeping acquisition, is unlikely to amount to more than a backup.

ARSÈNE WENGER
-Arsenal
Season so far: Wenger's team has been its usual inconsistent self, but adding striker Marouane Chamakh to the mix in the summer has proved a clever move, even if it has sidelined Andrey Arshavin. Midfielder Samir Nasri has also been revelatory under Wenger.
What next? A defensive overhaul, please! Goalkeeping has been a serious problem for Wenger for a while now, and his stubborn refusal to replace the not-good-enough Manuel Almunia and Łukasz Fabianski is infuriating to Arsenal fans and sympathetic neutrals alike. A new centre-back is also called for, as Laurent Koscielny has not been the talent that his eight-figure salary suggests.

HARRY REDKNAPP
-Tottenham Hotspur
Season so far: Tottenham is still in the hunt for Champions League qualification this season, though Redknapp's claims of a title tilt should probably be put down more to his motivational techniques than to reality.
What's next? More of striker Gareth Bale, hopefully. As Tottenham proved when buying the extremely versatile Rafael Van der Vaart at the start of the season, it is now a club that players want to be at.

THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - A club competition for the teams that finish in the top places in their respective European leagues. Clubs that qualify for the Champions League (in the EPL that's the teams that finish in the first four places in the league) make about $20 million from TV rights - and more if they progress in the competition. This is where you get to see matches like Manchester United versus Barcelona in real life, instead of just on your gaming console!

RELEGATION - At the end of the season, the clubs that finish in the bottom three spots in the EPL (18th, 19th and 20th) get demoted to the second division of English football - the Championship. Three clubs from the Championship (the teams that come 1st and 2nd and the winner of a playoff between teams that finish in places 3 to 6) take their place in the EPL the following season. Relegation can cost a club as much as 200 million dollars in revenues.

POSITION-BASED REWARD MONEY - EPL teams earn money different amounts of money depending on where they finish in the league at the end of the season. This gives an incentive to teams that are not in contention for the Champions League spots or fighting to avoid relegation. Each team also get a certain minimum amount of money from the sale of TV rights of EPL games.

ROBERTO MANCINI
-Manchester City
Season so far: City spent over £100 million in the summer transfer window. Then this month it bought strike Edin Džeko for another £28 million. Carlos Tévez, despite a bit of a stroppy attitude, has played at full capacity in every game so far, and if City ends up atop the league at the end of the season, it'll be mainly because of him.
What's next? For the sake of sanity, lets hope no more new players. City has to get rid of some of their fringe lot, not because they need to reduce costs (it's pretty clear that the money doesn't matter), but because players like striker Emmanuel Adebayor are a distraction.

DAVID MOYES
-Everton
Season so far: It has been a totally underwhelming season for David Moyes. No money for new players, not much mileage in most of the attacking ones he has, and general indifference from non-Everton fans.
What's next? A new striker, likely someone on loan as LA Galaxy's Landon Donovan was last season.

ALEX McLEISH
-Birmingham City
Season so far: Birmingham seems to

SEE 'ELP' – PG 22

'EPL' – CONTINUED FROM PG 21

have had a downturn in fortunes this season after a mid-table finish in 2010.
What's next? McLeish wants a new striker – and he may be justified. Nikola Zigic, for all his one-of-the-tallest-players-in-the-world physique has been about as effective as if he were an NBA player instead of just looking like one. David Bentley, a winger on loan from Tottenham, should bring some creativity.

TONY PULIS
-Stoke City
Season so far: Pulis has slowly improved on his team-playing style and Stoke is sitting comfortably in mid-table.
What's next? Not Eiður Guðjohnsen. The former Chelsea and Barcelona star is a reserve at Stoke these days.

MARK HUGHES
-Fulham
Season so far: Fulham drew six of their first ten games of the season.
What's next? The lower half of the table, and maybe, just maybe, Shaun Wright-Philips. Owner Mohamed Al-Fayed's relucatance to bring in Wright-Philips in understandable though, like most of the merchandise at Fayed's former business Harrods, Wright-Philips is abhorrently expensive to buy and maintain.

STEVE BRUCE
-Sunderland
Season so far: Bruce has had some time now to remodel the squad, and it shows: the likes of striker Asamoah Gyan and loanees Nedum Onuoha and Danny Welbeck (from Manchester City and Manchester United respectively) have once again proved his transfer-market smarts.
What's next? Not striker Darren Bent – Bruce was clearly keen to hold onto his top scorer of the last eighteen months, but Bent chose Aston Villa. Sunderland is a possible outside bet for the Europa League spots.

OWEN COYLE
-Bolton Wanderers
Season so far: Coyle has been something of a returning hero to Bolton fans, moving on from Sam Allarydce and Gary Megson's physical style passing football. Bolton has been attracting the attention recently, and judging by their position in the table, it's likely because Coyle is getting results.
What's next? The Europa League next season, if they continue as they started. Holding onto striker Johan Elmander will be important. Defender Gary Cahill looks certain to leave in the summer though, so replacing him with David Wheater (who currently plays one division lower for Middlesborough in the Championship League), as Coyle has been trying to do, looks like a smart move.

MICK McCARTHY
-Wolverhampton Wanderers
Season so far: McCarthy's style of play has won little praise and the constant rotating of his ineffectual strikers hasn't helped either. On the plus side, the disciplinary problems of the start of the season seem to have dried up.
What's next? It's hard to see anything beyond a relegation battle, and it will surprise few people if the Wolves do go down. In the event that does happen, forward Kevin Doyle and goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey are unlikely to stay.

ROBERTO MARTINEZ
-Wigan Athletic
Season so far: Wigan came close to relegation last season, and this season they look likely to go one worse. Forward Mauro Boselli, who was signed in the summer, failed to perform and was loaned out to Italian side Genoa for the rest of the season.
What's next? A new striker, or they're going to be relegated for certain. Hugo Rodallega has already scored six goals this season, and he's not likely to go double-digit. Wigan's goal difference also suggests that the defence could use some work.

AVRAM GRANT
-West Ham United
Season so far: West Ham has been at the bottom of the table, almost without interruption, since the beginning of the season.
What's next? Relegation - a team that's bottom for that long almost always goes down. It's surprising that Grant hasn't been sacked yet. It would be even more surprising if he makes it through to the end of the season.

ROBERTO DI MATTEO
-West Bromwich Albion
Season so far: Good results at the start of the season had West Brom dreaming, but they've been brought down to earth since their five-game losing streak over winter holidays. Di Matteo has them playing good football though, and the signing of Nigerian Peter Odemwingie in the summer has provided them with a top-flight striker.
What's next? Di Matteo should be looking to consolidate West Brom's place in the EPL. He doesn't have the greatest quality in the league at his disposal, but a few solid summer signings might help.

IAN HOLLOWAY
-Blackpool
Season so far: Blackpool was supposed to be at the bottom of the table by now. Almost every football pundit prophesied that Blackpool would be up, down, and soon forgotten. Instead, Holloway has Blackpool playing well, the team isn't going to be forgotten any time soon.
What's next? Please, please, please, let it be another season in the EPL. Between Holloway's straight talking and the team's attacking play, Blackpool deserves another season in the league.

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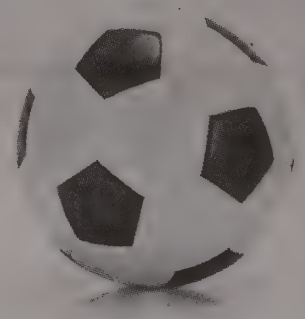
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A good sport

Super Bowl skepticism

How credible is the NFL playoff series?



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Upsets have been the dominant narrative of NFL post-season coverage this year, and that narrative hasn't been lost on the players or coaches.

One of the biggest upsets of the playoffs came before they even began — when the Seattle Seahawks won the National Football Conference Northwest Division with a 7–9 record. They became the first losing team to make the playoffs in NFL history, a remarkable (and largely unforeseen) feat.

The Seahawks took the approach, as articulated by several of their players, that the only thing worse than being the first playoff team with a losing record would be to lose to that team. The Seahawks trounced the New Orleans Saints — the defending Super Bowl champions — in Seattle, and pulled off one of the biggest upsets in recent playoff history.

The Seahawks' had a remarkable year, despite the fact that their path to the Super Bowl was interrupted by the Chicago Bears last weekend. The Chicago Bears fell to the Green Bay Packers yesterday afternoon, which effectively ended their chase for the Super Bowl as well.

Any conversation about upsets has to centre around the New York Jets' performance this postseason, though. The Jets came into the first round against the Indianapolis Colts with a massive bull's-eye on their backs after head coach Rex Ryan called the rivalry "personal." The Jets pieced together a good enough game, capitalizing on key mistakes by Peyton Manning, and pounding home the winning field goal with no time left on the clock.

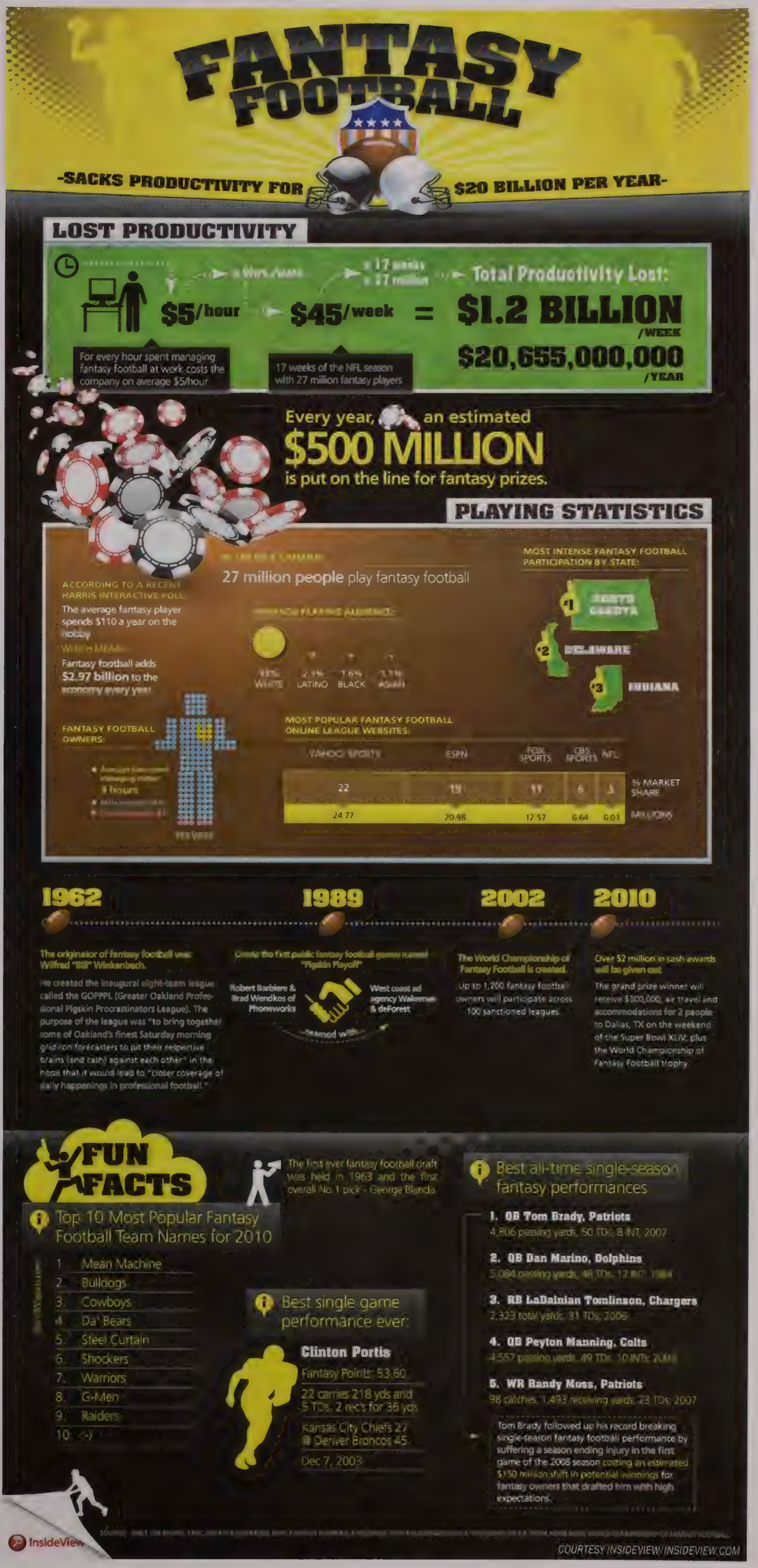
The Jets went to New England the next weekend to play the dynastic Patriots. The week prior to the game featured a lot of public chatter, most of it by Ryan, about the importance — and yes, personal nature — of the game. When it came time to play, the Jets flat-out delivered and wound up winning 28–21 in a game that they had greater control of than the final score suggests.

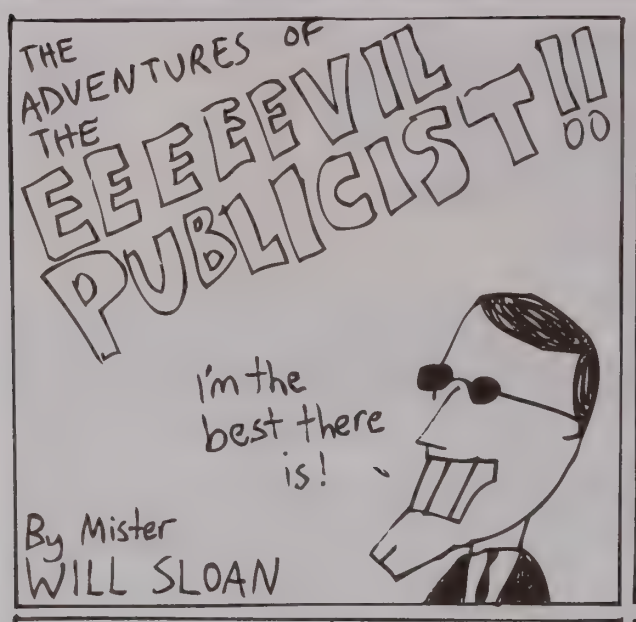
They fizzled out this weekend against Super Bowl favourite the Pittsburgh Steelers who will be playing the Green Bay Packers in two weeks.

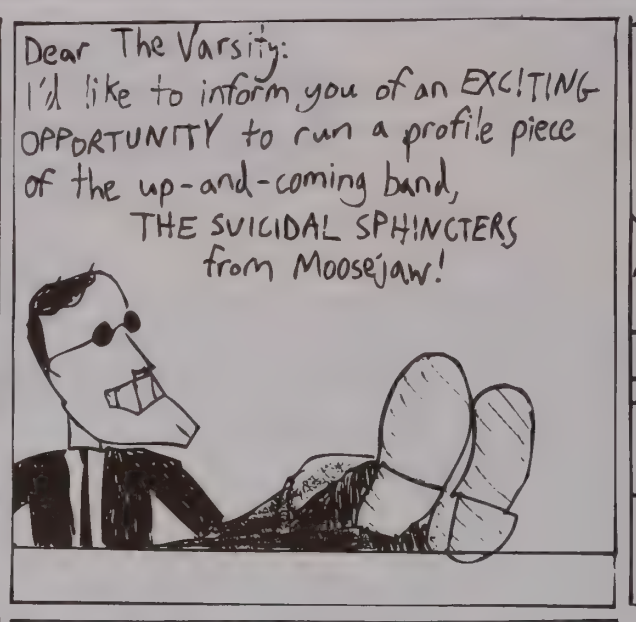
Playoff upsets pose interesting questions about the nature of the sport. The goal of each team heading into a season is to win the championship, but the winner of the championship depends more on the one-month playoff period than the regular season.

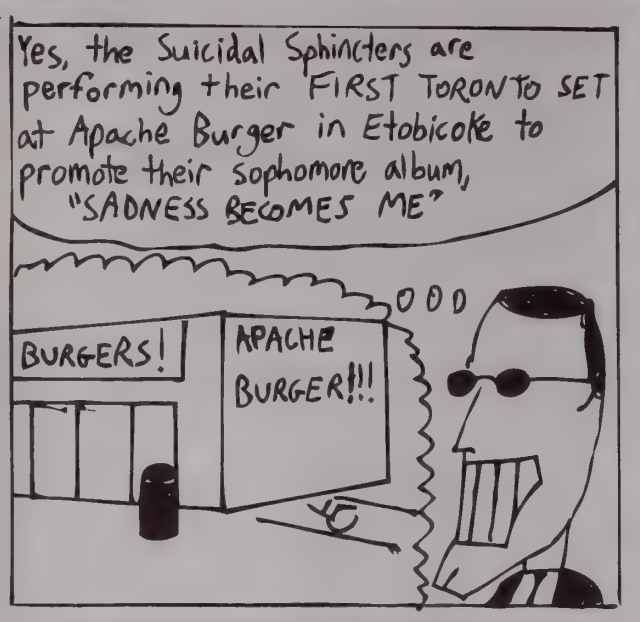
In the NFL's short playoff series, factors such as momentum, luck, and injury can do more to determine the outcome than which team is better. That is not to take away from teams that post big upsets, but it's a self-evident fact when a six-month season's final outcome is determined in a compressed time frame.

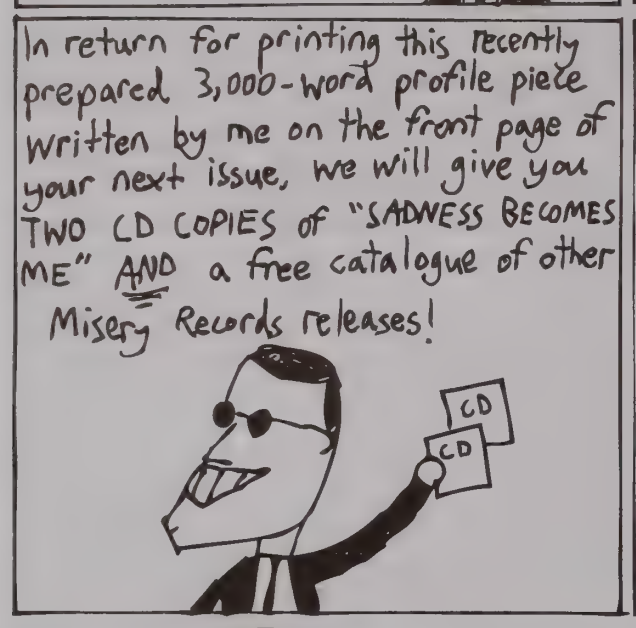
But after all, isn't that the fun of the playoffs?

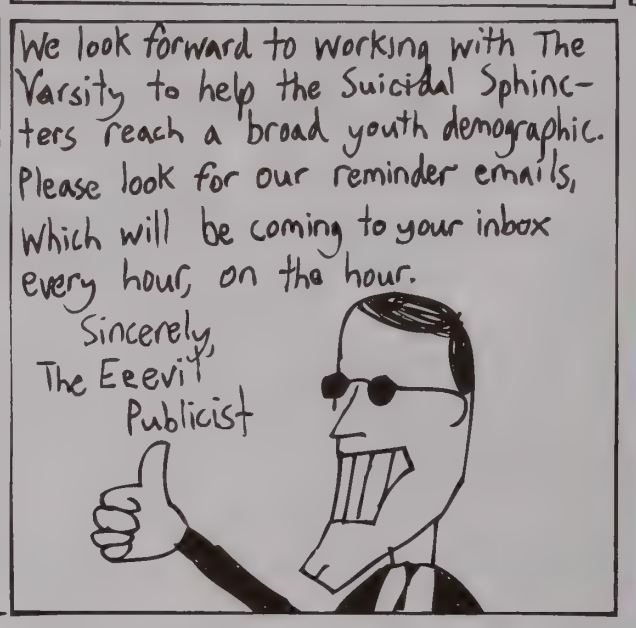












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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CLUB EVENTS:

Greek Students Association Academic Night

This night will be a meet and greet, and wine and cheese academic night. The event will provide an opportunity to bring together the university's student body with professionals of Hellenic descent. The evening will close with a lecture series by acclaimed professors who will give insight into Hellenic culture.

- *January 26 at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *RSVP at gsa.stgeorge.@utoronto.ca for more details*

FILMS:

Mr. Vampire 3/ Holy Weapon

Presented by the Cinema Studies Student Union as part of their Free Friday Films, *Mr. Vampire 3* and *Holy Weapon* will be playing at Innis Town Hall. Both movies are around an hour and a half long, making this double bill the perfect way to spend a Friday night.

- *January 28 at 7 p.m.*
- *Innis College, Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave)*
- *Free!*

Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Café

The Trans Inclusion Group is hosting a free screening of this documentary about how trans people and sex workers led the charge for human rights (pre-Stonewall). There are linked stories on sexual liberation, civil rights, and anti-war movements. There will be a community discussion afterwards, and snacks will be served.

- *January 31 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free!*

SHOWS:

A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant & A Prayer

A collection of monologues, edited by Eve Ensler, which highlight the issues of violence against girls and women. All proceeds will go to the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, The White Ribbon Campaign, and the 2011 V-Day Spotlight Campaign on Haiti's Women and Girls.

- *February 4 and 5 at 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Debates Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$16.95 (tickets available at www.uofttix.ca)*

PRESENTATIONS:

Seeing and Believing: Books, Art, and 3D Cinema

Laura U. Marks and Willy Le Maitre will be making presentations at Hart House. Marks will be using a mixed-media presentation on her groundbreaking book on Islamic contemporary art, *Enfoldment and Infinity*. Le Maitre will screen a presentation of his 3D media work Edia.

- *January 28 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

CULINARY EVENTS:

Winterlicious

This is Winterlicious' ninth year, and there are culinary events all over the city. Some of Toronto's top dining establishments will be offering prix-fixe menus with starters, entrées, and desserts. There are 150 restaurants participating this year. You can check out all their menus online. This is a not-to-miss event for any foodie!

- *January 28 to February 10*
- *Various locations in Toronto and the GTA*
- *$15.25 for lunch, $25.45 for dinner*

DESIGN EVENTS:

Come Up To My Room

Art-crowd fave Come Up To My Room is back at the Gladstone Hotel, with 44 designers taking over 11 rooms and 14 public spaces throughout the hotel. This year's curators have asked the artists to create installations showing us what's going on in their heads. It should be crazy fun!

- *January 27 to 30, various times*
- *Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. West)*
- *$10.50 (check comeuptomyroom.com for details)*

FILM EVENTS:

An Evening With Spike Lee

Acclaimed filmmaker Spike Lee speaks with host Clement Virgo about the role of music in his films, from Stevie Wonder to Prince, and collaborations with his father, jazz bassist Bill Lee. The evening combines conversation with clips from Lee's films in celebration of Black History Month. There are a limited number of rush tickets, so get there early!

- *January 25 at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Varsity Theatre (55 Bloor St. West)*
- *$20*

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ON SCREEN



THE VARSITY MAGAZINE



ALL ARTS ISSUE

THE VARSITY
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FROM THE EDITOR



PHOTO BY DAVID PIKE

Welcome to The Varsity's All Arts Magazine, the fourth in as many years, and one of the most ambitious we've attempted. For the first time, we've built the issue around a distinct question, one that challenges any and all expressions of human creativity.

"But is it art?" is by no means an original question, and when considering the theme of this issue we were never under the impression that we were pursuing something profound by posing it. I would like to think that many people have embraced the idea that anything can be art and anyone an artist. With that being said, the question still provides an ideal platform for exploring new, obscure, and contentious forms of art. It allows us to learn why those who engage in them not only think that their creations should be identified as art, but also believe that potential exists to create great works within their chosen medium.

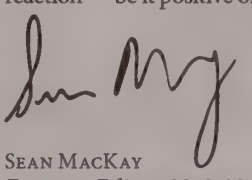
Some of the pieces may surprise you. Erene Stergiopoulos's exhaustively researched "(Art)ificial Creativity" accentuates a novel development in the ever-shifting artistic paradigm. Does a human need to be the one holding the paintbrush (or any implement of creation for that matter) for a piece to be considered art? Where would human creativity be left if a machine could mimic the process perfectly? Her article transcends the issue's original question and explores a key aspect of the human.

In one of the more polemical contributions, Jakob Tanner examines the inextricable relationship between creativity and wealth, asking if this is an ultimately harmful association. Through a series of interviews, he finds that it would be spurious to categorically claim that wealth has either positively or negatively affected art — there are, as you will see, many more dimensions to contemplate.

As for the Found Art Scavenger Hunt, I don't want to spill too much ink on that here — especially since Emily Kellogg has done such a fantastic job elucidating the goals of our little experiment — but let me assure you that the small group of us who participated in the project discovered that suffering is certainly an important element in the artistic process.

I want to thank all the writers and copy editors who ensured that the content was top notch, and the design team who worked tirelessly to create a visually stunning magazine. It's been a long weekend (and not the good, day-off, sleeping in type of long weekend) but the final result was worth the stress and sleep deprivation.

You may not agree with all of the points made by the writers and those whom they interviewed. But I suppose that's inevitable in the subjective realm of art and it reflects one of the more bizarre aspects of our relationships with the creative works of others. There's a certain kind of pleasure you derive from being repulsed by an aesthetic you dislike and endlessly arguing with an intransigent friend about the merit of a particular work. So I hope you don't like everything you find here, but I do hope that each story evokes some kind of reaction — be it positive or negative.



Sean MacKay
Features Editor, 2010-2011



The Varsity All Arts Magazine production team

AMAZING!

ALEX ROSS
dives into
the *exciting*
world of
pulp fiction
magazines
in this *thrilling*
full-length
article!



portrait of the writer by
SAM BOWMAN!

PULP CULTURE!

The pulp fiction magazine.

Chances are that if you were walking by a newsstand in the first half of the twentieth century, you would have been looking for a dime to purchase one. Their covers were dynamic. Their stories were bold. And from 1896 until just after World War II, they constituted one of the most successful and powerful forms of reading entertainment in North America.

I didn't become fully aware of the pulps until my later teen years and I eventually found out that some of my favourite writers, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, and Richard Matheson wrote primarily for the pulps. Now I can't get enough. I recently spoke to three pulp fiction enthusiasts about the history and aesthetics of pulp fiction magazines.

Jamie Fraser is the owner and operator of Jamie Fraser Books in Toronto, which specializes in pulp magazines and also sells used and rare books in the science fiction, mystery, and horror genres. Neil Mechem runs Girasol Collectables in Mississauga, which also specializes in pulp magazines and related materials, even reprinting editions of various pulps. Don Hutchison is a Toronto-based writer who has written extensively about the pulps and whose book, *The Great Pulp Heroes*, is an exciting study of the hero characters from the pulp magazines.

"They were essentially the first form of affordable fiction for the masses. [...] Books were relatively expensive at that point. It was the first way the average person had access to a cheap read."

I. Misconceptions Defeated!

Derived in spirit from the story papers and dime novels of the mid-nineteenth century, the pulp magazine was born when an enterprising publisher, Frank Munsey, decided to use pulpwood paper, thus lowering his printing costs and increasing the amount of printed fiction for his adventure story magazine, *The Argosy* in 1896.

"If you wanted to read something, you had a choice of reading either a hardcover book or magazine like the slicks, let's say *Colliers* or the *Strand* or *National Geographic*, which were printed on high quality paper. And then there were pulps," explains Jamie Fraser.

The term "pulp fiction" is easily misunderstood. Many people think of the paperbacks of the '50s, but these would come much later and are dissimilar to pulp fiction magazines, though they were certainly spiritual successors. One book I read, *True Crime, True North*, mistakenly identified the cheap true crime magazines that flourished in Canada during the '40s as pulp fiction.

"They were a different size," says Don Hutchinson, "[They] weren't printed on pulp paper and were, in theory, all true stories, whereas pulp fiction is for pulp fiction magazines printed on pulp paper. A different animal, really."

There was no such thing as a typical pulp magazine — almost every possible taste was catered to. There were detective stories, western stories, sci-fi, horror, weird menace, aviation stories, army stories, adventure stories, and even adult-flavoured "spicies." Companies like Street & Smith and Popular Publications became legendary fiction factories, feeding the hungry imaginations of millions of loyal readers.

There were also the hero pulps, magazines dedicated to crime-fighting supermen who predated their later incarnations in the comic books. The Shadow, who started life as the narrator for Street & Smith's radio series *Detective Story Hour*, was given his own magazine in 1931. Walter Brown Gibson, a magician and journalist, would pen the majority of the Shadow's more than three hundred and twenty-five adventures. The Shadow would later get his own radio show, with Orson Welles the first to take the role of gangland's doom.

II. Thrills and Chills Galore!

Since they were printed on cheap pulpwood paper, publishers were able to keep costs down and sell a one hundred and twenty-eight to one hundred and sixty page magazine of fiction for as little as ten cents. During and immediately following the Great Depression, that was a great bargain, especially for working-class readers. "They were essentially the first form of affordable fiction for the masses," Mechem explains. "Books were relatively expensive at that point. It was the first way the average person had access to a cheap read."

At one time there were over one hundred and fifty different well-established pulp fiction magazine titles publishing, and all of them were actively competing with the other for newsstand sales. This resulted in bold cover designs.

"I think the first thing that strikes a lot of people is that it is a very bold style," says Mechem. "With the better quality stuff, it's a very dramatic approach to selling a magazine. The cover had to compete on the newsstands and so you get a lot of impact for it. It's also relatively early in colour printing, so the colours tend to be a little more basic, not so subtle, they tend to go for more primary colours, a lot of strong reds and strong yellows."

The best pulp cover illustrators brought a certain artistry and audacity to their work. For example, Frank R. Paul would define early sci-fi with his optimistic and thoroughly modernist covers for *Amazing Stories*, the first sci-fi pulp magazine. The November, 1928 issue of *Amazing* is one of his best covers, featuring several people exiting a rocket ship on one of Jupiter's moons and gazing in awe at the gas giant as it hangs in a bright blue sky.

The Canadian artist, Hubert Rogers, would also stand among the American greats, making his name doing covers for *Astounding Science-Fiction*, which ushered in the "golden age" of sci-fi. Hailing from Alberton, P.E.I., Rogers would do fifty-nine covers for *Astounding* between 1938 and 1952. Featuring everything from strange time paradoxes to alien observatories and giant, rusting space ships, his covers had a more somber and muted colour palette, and were evocative of the new maturity that *Astounding*'s Editor John W. Campbell brought to the science fiction field.

Most pulp artists used simple oil on canvas. One of the few female pulp cover artists, Margaret Brundage, used oil with pastels for her very sensual covers for the horror magazine *Weird Tales*. Much of her work featured vulnerable, scantily-clad, or, in some cases, nude women being menaced by a leering villain.

Innovative covers certainly helped sales, but what kept people coming back for more was the thrilling writing. "People thought the pulps were for the average Joe or Jane, basically," says Fraser. "But really, an awful lot of well-known writers today, such as Earl Stanley Gardiner; Perry Mason; Edgar Rice Burroughs; Walter Gibson, who created The Shadow; Lester Dent, who did Doc Savage; got their start writing for pulp magazines. And if it weren't for the pulps, a lot of these authors would have never been published."

While looked down upon by the intelligentsia in communities across North America, younger readers got in on the fiction revolution reading now-classic stories by writers like Dashiell Hammet, Raymond Chandler, Ray Bradbury, and Robert E. Howard.

III. Canadian Content!

Although a definitively American medium, there were numerous Canadian contributions to the pulps in various forms. The passage of the War Exchange Conservation Act by the government of William Lyon Mackenzie King in 1940 actually created a domestic pulp fiction industry during the Second World War. There were at least three pulp fiction publishing companies here in Toronto during that time.

"Adam Publishing was on Spadina Avenue and they published pulps like *Skyblazers*, *College Sports*, and even something called *Bill Wayne Western*," says Hutchison. "Not John Wayne Western, but *Bill Wayne Western* and *Uncanny Tales*. [...] There was another company called Daring Publication on Wellington Street and they published *Daredevil Detective Stories* and *Dynamic Western*. And there was a company called Duchess Printing and Publishing Company on Sherbourne Street. And they did something called *Private Detective* and *Real Western Stories*."

"There are very few strictly Canadian titles," says Fraser, "and they weren't very well distributed in Canada. Most of the pulps available during the war years were those in the US printed in Canada on Canadian paper."

"They're pretty much based on their [American] cousins," elaborates Mechem. "There wasn't really anything particularly innovative going on during that period here. It was strictly a protectionist attitude that put them out there. The unfortunate part about it is that what really distinguishes them is that they are terrible. I guess the idea was that they would hire strictly local talent. They were probably doing it on the cheap."

During that period, Hutchison says that *Uncanny Tales* was really the best out of the strictly Canadian pulps with many of the first few issues being wholly written by a Toronto-based writer named Thomas P. Kelley.

However, there was a subtle contribution by one Canadian writer during the pulp era. His name was Frank L. Packard, and he created a character named Jimmie Dale, also known as The Gray Seal.

"Packard was definitely Canadian and his influences on the hero pulps were immense. His books were pretty much used by Walter Gibson in doing The Shadow and also in The Spider. [...] Even the style he used was very, very similar to the Jimmie Dale books."

Much like The Shadow, the Gray Seal wore a cloak and slouch hat, was a master of disguise, an expert criminologist, and maintained the persona of a bored, wealthy bachelor. Comic book characters like Batman and the Green Hornet would also take their cue from the template provided by Packard for the hero pulps.

IV. High Impact, Bold Culture!

The Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation, and Fantasy houses over 23,000 pulps with titles like *Black Mask*, *Astounding*, *Weird Tales*, and the best Canadian pulp, *Uncanny Tales*, all available for study. The Merril Collection also hosts the annual Fantastic Pulps Show and Sale, which will be taking place on May 14.

"A number of people, myself, Don Hutchison, and the Mechems, and one or two other people approached the Merril Collection with the idea of creating such a show," says Fraser.

"A group of us thought, 'Well, we really should think of having a small event here, and get some excitement going,'" says Mechem. "At that time a couple of the people we were talking to were involved with the Merril Collection. So it seemed like a good tie-in to base it out there."

The Gray Seal wore a cloak and slouch hat, was a master of disguise, an expert criminologist, and maintained the persona of being nothing more than a bored, wealthy bachelor.

What of the impact on popular culture? "You can isolate certain things," says Hutchison. "Science fiction existed before the pulps in terms of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. It was very minor. It wasn't even seen as a genre. So when *Amazing Stories* started in the 1920s they really invented the whole idea of science fiction being a genre.

"The impetus of the magazines where the writers could, in a sense, be inspired by each other, and get together, and develop ideas — I think sci-fi could have ended up being only a minor literary form. The detective magazines were able to take writers like Dashiell Hammett and invent the American detective story, particularly the hard-boiled detective story."

Even Scientology, also known as "Dianetics," has pulp origins. "L. Ron Hubbard [...] got his start in the pulps," explains Fraser. "And in fact, he actually [tested] the whole idea of Dianetics in the pulps by putting the idea in some of his stories, as well as taking out advertisements in the pulps and asking for feedback."

The pulp fiction magazine was a revolutionary form of entertainment that ensured the average person could access a good read. The pulps fired millions of imaginations, created three whole genres — hard-boiled detective, horror, and sci-fi — and created an avenue for some of the twentieth century's best writers. Their creative visions remain with us today and we're all still living in the midst of a pulp culture.

A body of work

Exploring the artistry behind body modification



By **ALEX NURSALL**
Photo by the author

I'm lying on my stomach on a padded table. There's a horrible buzzing noise pervading the room. Everything smells like ink and latex and my left leg hurts like hell. Jen at Speakeasy is inking the stained glass pattern of a cardinal onto my calf and, oddly enough, my only worry is that I have no idea how I'm going to get into my skinny jeans after this.

***

"Tattoo" comes from the Tahitian word *tatau*, meaning "to strike." In nineteenth century North America, tattooing was the exclusive domain of sailors, circus freaks, and criminals. Of course, times and sensibilities changed, and what was once a symbol of rebellion and punk status is now accessible to even the most contrite of patrons, bringing about phenomena such as Ed Hardy clothing and the irritating phrase "tramp stamp." Tattoos are everywhere, and if done properly can be a thing of beauty. They require skill, patience, and dedication, on the part of both the artist and patron. They carry with them a storied history, deep meanings, and can subvert societal norms in a single image. One could go on about the traditions and the history of tattooing, but still, are they art? Can something seen as being so low-brow truly be an art form?

I hate this question. It brings back memories of being in particularly boring tutorials, and generally signals to me that it's time to put my head down on the desk and nap while the more pretentious and gregarious students duke it out. But as I sat there, allowing a complete stranger to shoot needles into my legs several thousand times, I pondered the question. Of course, this may have been because of the blood loss; but either way, it intrigues.

The past few decades have shown a marked growth in the tattoo industry, especially in Toronto. While the city has generally had a solid base of tattoo parlours, the mainstreaming of the practice has allowed for many new shops to open across the city. One example is Speakeasy on Harbord, and the owner, Lizzie, sits in front of me in a bright sunflower-yellow room filled with sketches and books on tattooing. She's wearing a T-shirt that shows off her heavily tattooed arms. Wilma, her Pomeranian, prowls around my feet, coming to the conclusion that my bootlaces are the most delicious thing in the room, and spends a fair amount of time trying to remove them from my shoes. Lizzie began tattooing around 2003, and while still relatively new to the scene, she is steadfast in her opinion that tattoos are art.

"I see it as a trade," she says. Wilma starts to edge towards my left boot. "I see it as an opportunity to execute art every day, but I'm not necessarily being an artist every day. Some days I'm just being a tradesperson who's carrying out a commissioned job for a person." The dog chomps down on my shoelace and starts to tug. "There is an art [to replicating a drawing] but tattooing is this very fine, lowbrow line that you're crossing that sometimes breaches into stuff that blows your mind, and sometimes it's just repeating images, which is the tradition of the whole thing."

I reach down and try to nudge the dog away. She barks and runs over to Lizzie. Thank God these boots came with a spare set of laces.

The Toronto scene is unique and widely varied. While Speakeasy still has an air of the bygone days of the traditional tattoo parlour, other shops like Black Line present a different front. Located in the swanky heart of King Street West, the shop is large, slick, and filled with trendy bits of clothing and jewellery. As I wait for one of the artists, two middle-aged women come in to browse. They appear to be in their mid-forties, but are wearing Uggs and zip-up hoodies, as though they plan to hit up Robarts after looking for new belly-button rings. As they gingerly peek through a small stack of T-shirts studded with black rhinestones, I think of Lizzie's words: "I don't think you'll get the soccer moms coming in anymore with studded Ed Hardy purses wanting something [trendy]. It will be slower, there will be fewers tattooers, and I think it will wane." A tall guy in a black baseball cap comes over to the counter, and I leave the two women to peruse the glass cases of studs and ornate rings.

Moses is relatively unadorned for a tattoo artist. His most standout tattoo is the word "Tyson" which is located on his neck. He started tattooing around six years ago, and I lean up against what looks to be a dentist's chair to pose my same question: "Are tattoos art?"

"I see it as an opportunity to execute art every day, but I'm not necessarily being an artist every day. Some days I'm just being a tradesperson who's carrying out a commissioned job for a person."

"It's a couple of art forms," says Moses. "The first part would be the drawing, and just having a natural eye for visuals and creativity, and the other would be the actual tattoo gun, as far as knowing how to use it [...] and going from there."

The two ladies are quietly looking through a portfolio. Moses looks over toward the chair and makes his case, stating, "Everyone has their own idea of art and what art is and that's [the beauty of it]. It's a pretty wide range of one's personal thoughts of what things should be and what they gravitate toward."

***

It's 2 a.m. on the same day and I'm watching an episode of *Jersey Shore* in my underwear. Once I get past the feeling that I've hit rock bottom, I notice that Pauly D is covered in tattoos, including a giant Cadillac logo that snakes its way up his chest. I'm surprised I didn't notice this already, yet before I can investigate further, someone starts drunkenly yelling and the camera shifts away from the hot tub. Uncomfortable, I turn off my computer and sit there in the darkness. My tattoos haven't healed yet, and they itch unceasingly.

When exploring the idea of art, most people tend to ignore the media on the outskirts — performance, body-based, and abstract art. While it can be argued that a flash image of a heart with MOM written across it on someone's bicep may not be "art" in the strictest sense, but what about contemporary performance artists like Orlan, who uses her body as the canvas? If she can carve her face to look more like the Mona Lisa and call it art, what is stopping us from saying that scarification or tattooing isn't art?

"That's why I like to refer to tattooing as more of a trade," says Lizzie. "In art there's really no rules and in tattooing, whether people like it or not, there's a lot of rules and if you can't take the time to learn them and execute them properly, then you're kind of bastardizing what it is."

Milo has only been tattooing for two years at Lucky 13. When you first meet him, you don't notice too many tattoos, but when he takes off his shirt, you can see that he has a large wing unfurling across his right shoulder blade. He takes a similar stance to Lizzie: "Tattooing in the sense of a trade is almost imperative because each artist is essentially a soloist, regardless of if they work in a shop or not, because their art represents themselves even before it represents the shop, and to survive, an artist has to understand the monetary value of their work. [...] The concept of artist versus prostitute (in the sense of selling out one's skills for money) is not a foreign concept to all artists who are trying to find a moral balance, and so it should be little surprise that it translates into the tattooing subculture as well."

***

My first tattoo was of an interrobang on the inside of my left arm. Right after I got it, I called my dad to tell him the news.

"Dad! I got a tattoo!"

There was a pause on his end. "...Okay, uh... what of?"

I hesitated. "Well, I got a naked chick. On my neck."

"... Actually?"

The fact that he took this seriously worried me.

***

Of all the mainstream tattoo fads, I'll admit here that I hate the show *LA Ink*, and it pleases me to hear that Kat von D, one of the shop owners on the show, isn't the bastion of tattoo artistry that she tends to be made out to be. "I can't tell you how frustrating it is to always hear her name repeated when really, I think it was Hanky Panky who said that as far as technique goes, Kat von D can't kick her way out of a wet paper bag," says Lizzie, frowning.

"I feel as though the rising popularity of tattoo culture is a double-edged sword. Over-saturation means that the artistic value loses some sincerity and originality and becomes passé," says Milo. Still, he remains optimistic. "I think that even though the over-saturation has brought in people who are interested in a trendy tattoo to the shops, it also has brought a staggering amount of people who really want an original and well executed piece of art as well. I think that even after all the hype is over the art will still remain steadfast."

Back at Speakeasy, Wilma has given up on my shoes and is now sniffing Lizzie's tattooed hands. She looks down at the dog and notes, "It's one of the last trades that has a lot of mystery and a sort of roughness about it and not everyone should be allowed to do it; it should be a special thing," says Lizzie. "Just because it's a cool job doesn't mean it's for everybody." Spoken like a true artist.

Art:
The exclusive medium of the wealthy?



Art as a Commodity

By JAKOB TANNER
ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX NURSALL

It was a long and exhausting day at the Art Gallery of Ontario. What had initially seemed like a chance to broaden my mind and become "culturally literate" had devolved into a laborious exercise in trying to figure out what, exactly, any of the paintings meant. "I think it's trying to evoke the meaninglessness of our society, or something," I said to my friends — a statement I would eventually say many, many times.

But within the gallery's spacious hallways, amidst the paintings of Jesus and the samples from Picasso's blue period, was a giant portrait of two frightened little girls: the daughters of basketball star Steve Nash. Nash, it turns out, had commissioned American artist Julian Schnabel to paint the portrait. At first I was filled with self-satisfaction for knowing who Steve Nash was, redeeming myself for my ignorance of the identity of Pope Gregory XV. But then I was struck with a dismal thought: will basketball stars' daughters continue to hang alongside portraits of kings, aristocrats, and popes? Growing up, I saw only the beauty of art. It was a magical creation, a pure act of self-expression. Most importantly, I only saw art for the sake of art — I never thought, "How much is this painting worth?" But in this instant, I realized that my idyllic childhood view of art was missing key perspectives: the role of the market, the dealers, the collectors — in other words, the rich and the powerful. These are the true players in the art world.

If you stroll into the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, the AGO, or any major public gallery, you'll see rooms named after gallery donors; names such as Lehman, Rockefeller, or Ken Thomson. These are not the names of artists, but rather the rich people who can afford such expensive pieces of art. These men and women are subsequently rewarded for their generous contributions with gold-letter plaques across gallery walls. With Ken Thomson's name hovering above great works of the Group of Seven, it would seem that power, art, and wealth are never completely separate. As the street artist Banksy famously remarked, "When you go to an art gallery you are simply a tourist looking at the trophy cabinet of a few millionaires."

But the connection goes beyond rich people looking to show off their wealth. At the beginning of the twentieth century, a handful of men made it rich through railway building and oil mining. In the United States, at least, taxes caught up with these business magnates, and by cutting a deal with the government and galleries, they received tax reductions by donating their art collections.

University of Toronto fine art Professor Jens Wollesen points out that, though there is an integral connection between art and wealth, it is not necessarily a bad thing. Wollesen cites operas in which the production costs would exceed the potential amount of money earned back through ticket sales. Thus, a wealthy businessman would fund a show, receive tax benefits, and both the artists and the wealthy would benefit. "So wealth and art, in a way, must not necessarily be affected by a negative label," says Wollesen.

Art and wealth appear intertwined, and while there are positive aspects to their relationship, there are also many negatives. Wealth and power often lead to corruption. One famous example is Jacques-Louis David's painting of Napoleon's coronation. Present in the painting is Napoleon's mother who, in reality, never attended her son's opulent display of emperorship. It was Napoleon, the commissioner, who forced David to paint her into his work. What can be seen from this is an example of the powerful manipulating art, but while this seems upsetting and detrimental to the popular idealized perspective of art — as a form of pure self-expression, inner discovery, enlightenment, and beauty — these kinds of manipulations are commonplace. It is modern times that beget the notion of the artist as a figure superior to the patrons with the purse strings. Historically, most artists had to submit to the whims of their patrons because, without funding, creating art would simply have been impossible.

Buying art is considered, by some, a good investment. But when a piece of art is bought for the sake of investment, it usually gets put away in a dark storage room and doesn't see the light of day until it increases in value.

The Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn is one example of the modern notion of the artist. The painter had been commissioned to paint a Dutch town hall, and for various reasons — he might not have emphasized what the government wanted, or he overtly sexualized the women — the government did not like it. Unlike most artists of Rembrandt's time, the painter refused to make a new, more satisfactory piece. "Rembrandt had the [same] kind of view of an artist as we do today: that they are greater than the world outside," explains Matt Kavaler, an art history professor at U of T. "That they have a say over their commissioners."

It is this view of the art and the artist that makes the business side of the art world seem so unappealing, yet the connection between art and the wealthy is an integral one. "Now and always, the wealthy and powerful have driven production and innovation in art," says Kavaler. "Artists need to be supported. They need people to pay for them to run their lives, and most normal people don't have the income to support another person."

In the last thirty years, art prices have soared. Damien Hirst created a stuffed shark and then sold it for twelve million dollars. This stuffed fish, along with other "abstract" pieces, debuted at world-famous millionaire and art collector Charles Saatchi's art exhibit, Sensation. The show toured the world, but was criticized for its blatant connection to those wealthy enough to support the art market.

Toronto artist Judy Singer believes that the Saatchi collection, along with other international collections, represents a general loss of standards within the art world. "People who buy luxury goods are associated with people who are wealthy. That is why there are all these designer clothes that people desire. It's all ego," argues Singer. "It's the same in the art market. If somebody like Charles Saatchi buys it, people believe that he must know what good art is."

From Picasso to Pollock to Hirst, propagandizing "good art" is something done by art collectors and critics. The art world has turned into something very similar to real estate: buying art is considered, by some, a good investment. But when a piece of art is bought for the sake of investment, it usually gets put away in a dark storage room, and doesn't see the light of day until it increases in value. "I'm totally divorced from the art market when I'm creating something," explains Singer. "I can't say that about all artists. But I couldn't create work if I thought about who was going to buy it and where it was going to go."

Singer goes on to describe what she sees as the hierarchy of the art world. "At the top are the collectors. In the middle are the dealers, and at the bottom are the artists. That's how I see it. Very few artists become art stars. It's a very small population of artists. The general artist, like me, has no power." Singer sees many of these new art stars as great creative art marketers. Hirst, she explains, has a factory where he has people helping him create things, like his giant sharks. Singer points to an exhibit Hirst did of his own drawings, and "the reviews were scathing… but here he is, one of the highest paid artists."

Somehow, out of this world of investment politics, a new art form emerged. "Street art is the most visible branch of a kind of art that is trying to resist all of that," says English Professor Nick Mount. "That is street art's incredible power — that it's able to give itself away." Notable street artists like Banksy and Shepard Fairey have gained international recognition, but as Mount points out, "Artists need to live. I don't begrudge them that living. Street art's relationship with commerce has, by and large, been very compliant. Once a street artist hits a tipping point, they are happy to sell merchandise, T-shirts, and wrist bands."

Mount also points out that a lot of street artists have begun making prints and selling them for the relatively low art market price of one thousand dollars each. "The art world smells money in street art. It has started to step into the fray," he explains. "I don't think Banksy is terribly unhappy that there are a bunch of wealthy people that want to buy his stuff. Street art does try to circumvent the market — its whole impetus is to give itself away. That said, in the world of capitalism, it is impossible to escape capitalism. It can't be done. So either the artists themselves embrace it, or, even if they don't want to, the capital will embrace the artist.

"The wealthy are one of our arbiters of taste. They are paying attention," Mount continues. "Attention seems to follow money. A lot of people weren't paying attention to who Banksy was until someone bought a painting of his for two-hundred thousand pounds at Sotheby's. The tipping point was that large amount of money began changing hands. It brings art to wider public attention — that is one function the wealthy can serve."

While the majority of the world will never be able to afford a Rembrandt or a Monet, it doesn't mean that art isn't part of our lives. "Art is very important to normal people," argues Professor Kavaler. "That is why U of T teaches courses in art history but also teaches courses in the making of art. Visual studies allow students to appreciate the self-expression art brings, and that is not dependent on wealth."

On my way out of the AGO, I checked out the gift shop and I saw a poster that I liked. The little bourgeois boy inside me contemplated whether I should buy it. It would look nice on my wall, and if I took an hour of my time, I could probably read the painting's entire Wikipedia page and become really knowledgeable when people ask me about my poster. This delightful pretentious daydream came to an end when I saw the price tag. "Let's get out of here," I said. "Twenty bucks? Like I have that kind of money to throw around!"

Revealing the **secret history** of four world famous fonts

Someone has made a conscious decision about the font used for every single piece of writing you have ever read. Those choices, minuscule though they might seem, have had an effect on you. You've seen them used countless times, but you're probably largely unaware of how they were developed and became so popular.

by **Tom Cardoso**
illustrations by **Alex Nursall**

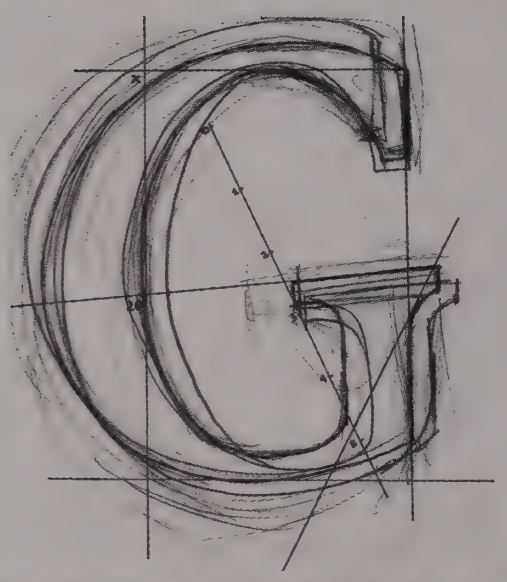


Times New Roman

The standard for essays, Times New Roman is possibly the world's best-known font. Impersonal and unassuming yet clear and consistent, Times has the dubious honour of having been designed on a dare. The story goes that in the late 1920s, the advertising manager of London newspaper the *Times* approached Stanley Morison, a typographic consultant for the Monotype Corporation. Looking to sell some ad space, the *Times* offered to have the ad typeset by the paper's compositors. Morison, deeply insulted, shot back that he would sooner pay them not to typeset the ad, going on to comment on the sad state of *the Times*' typography in a very public article, essentially accusing the paper of being a typographic dinosaur.

Morison's story made its way to upper management, and the *Times* eventually dared Morison to produce a better font. And that he did. By 1932 the *Times* had officially retired their old font, Times Old Roman, and introduced Times New Roman as the new standard for the newspaper. Designed specifically for readability on newsprint, Times New Roman had no sharp angles or thick sections, ensuring that ink wouldn't get "trapped" during printing, effectively preventing smudging. It was also neutral and businesslike: Morison once mentioned it had "the merit of not looking as if it had been designed by somebody in particular."

Times New Roman continued to be the standard for the *Times* for almost forty years, and enjoyed lasting popularity until Microsoft ultimately bundled it with Windows 3.1 in 1992. Every version of Windows since then has carried Times New Roman as one of the defaults for word processors, solidifying its status as one of the world's most famous fonts.

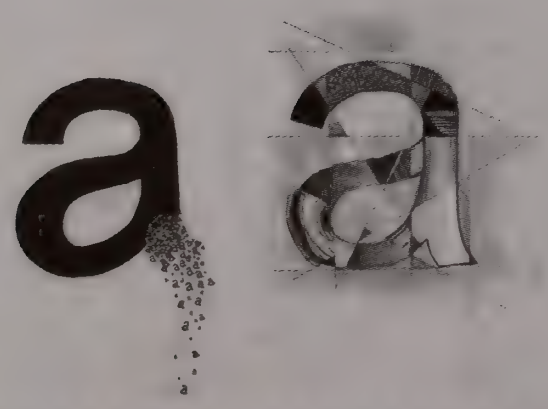


Garamond

Garamond has the distinction of being one of the great-grandfathers of modern typefaces, shaping the way fonts have developed for centuries. Designed by the Parisian publisher Claude Garamond over four-and-a-half centuries ago, Garamond is still widely regarded as one of the most legible typefaces ever designed, a true testament to its creator's prowess. It enjoys success even today; you might recognize it as the font used by Apple in the 1990s, or the font used to set Dr. Seuss books. It is amusing to note that for almost a full century, what designers thought was Garamond turned out to be a completely different font.

In 1825, over two-and-a-half centuries after Garamond's designs first began to circulate around Europe, the National Printing Office of France made an exciting announcement: they had discovered a previously unknown set of designs by Garamond. Over the next century, fonts and the art of typography saw a strong revival, and with it came new versions of Garamond, many based on the National Printing Office's unearthed designs. The twist didn't come until almost a century later, when type enthusiast Paul Beaujon happened upon the designs of a relatively unknown French printer named Jean Jannon at the American Type Founders' library. Beaujon came to realize that the Garamond the National Printing Office had discovered over a century ago wasn't a Garamond at all: it was a somewhat similar, yet completely unrelated font designed by Jannon. With this discovery came the realization that most of the Garamond revivals of the late nineteenth century were based upon a completely different font, designed by a completely different Frenchman. In 1927, Beaujon published his research in the *Fleuron*, a scholarly publication on type, and took a job soon afterwards at Stanley Morison's Monotype.

Today, this is the stuff of typographic legend, but the story doesn't end there. Beaujon wasn't a man with a "long grey beard, four grandchildren, a great interest in antique furniture, and a rather vague address in Montparnasse," as he had been described by his peers. In fact, he wasn't a man at all. Paul Beaujon was the pen-name of one Beatrice Warde, who would go on to become the "First Lady of Typography," the first woman to penetrate the otherwise male-dominated profession.

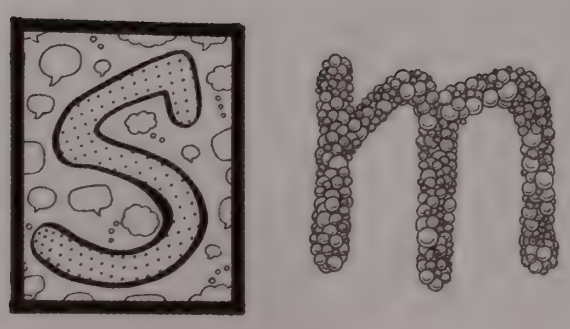


Helvetica (and Arial)

Helvetica has always been considered a typographic giant. Designed by type salesman Max Miedinger in the 1950s (in his spare time, and at the behest of his boss), "The Swiss" — the English translation of the Latin word "helvetica" — was a response to Akzidenz Grotesk, an advertising font from the 1890s that still dominated the industry. Helvetica borrowed the sleekness of Akzidenz (and in fact the two looked deceptively similar) yet managed to be far more neutral, allowing for great versatility. As typographer Simon Loxley once put it, "Helvetica has been called the typeface with no distinguishing features. It can go anywhere, do anything; it's everything — and nothing."

The results of Helvetica's legendary flexibility are a who's who of brand giants: American Apparel, Fendi, Jeep, American Airlines, GM, Nestlé — the list goes on. It's no surprise then, that "when in doubt, Helvetica" has become a maxim for designers the world over. Helvetica is also polarizing, with designers being grouped into two categories: those who love it, and those who hate it.

As much as some designers might hate Helvetica, it's nothing compared to how most feel about its bizarro brother, Arial. Deemed a bastardization of a theoretically "perfect" typeface, Arial was commissioned by Microsoft for use in Windows 3.1. The result was a font nearly identical to Helvetica (in fact, both fonts look so alike that most people will never notice the difference), but without the accompanying royalties. Over the next two decades, Arial went on to become the world-famous font that it is today, while Helvetica remains significantly less popular. A great irony, considering that Microsoft's own logo is set in Helvetica.



Comic Sans

The font everyone loves to hate, Comic Sans is a designer's worst nightmare: its childish, unsophisticated letterforms and uneven letterspacing have made it the butt of jokes for years. As (in)famous as Comic Sans might be today, its beginnings were nothing if not modest. Designed by Microsoft employee Vincent Connare, Comic Sans was originally intended as a companion to the "Microsoft Bob" application — Windows 95's "helper program," and Clippy's (the Microsoft Word animated paperclip) predecessor. Using the lettering in graphic novels such as *Watchmen* and *The Dark Knight Returns* as reference, Comic Sans was designed in little over a week. Eventually, a product manager for Windows 95 took a liking to the font and chose to include it as a standard on Windows' operating system.

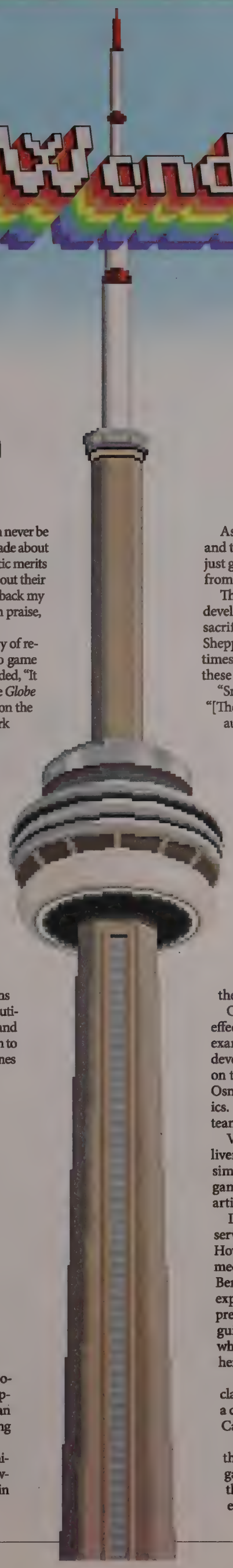
Though it enjoys relative success even today, being featured on T-shirts, restaurant menus, and advertisements, Comic Sans' goofiness has earned it disdain. "Ban Comic Sans," a movement to eliminate the use of the font, has used stickers to educate about the inappropriateness of Comic Sans' use in everyday life. And how about the font's Dr. Frankenstein, Vincent Connare? He's definitely aware of his creation: "If you love it, you don't know much about typography." V

8-Bit Wonderland

A new generation of artists are using pixels in place of paint

by Betina Alonso

art by Anamarija Korolj



Last April, Roger Ebert stirred controversy by declaring, "Video games can never be art." In his journal entry, Ebert went on to slam claims of artistic merit made about games such as *Braid* and *Flower* as uncompelling, and mocked the artistic merits of *Braid*'s time-reversal feature, heralded as a mechanism for players to think about their own lives. "[I am not persuaded] that I can learn about my own past by taking back my mistakes in a video game." The game's storyline, which was the subject of much praise, "exhibits prose on the level of a wordy fortune cookie."

This post, as well as Ebert's previous writings on the subject, inspired a flurry of responses from game designers, players, and journalists. Kellee Santiago, a video game producer and designer, whose TED presentation inspired Ebert's article, responded, "It doesn't seem that Ebert has played many, if any, video games." Chad Sapieha, the *Globe and Mail*'s technology columnist, had similar criticisms. "For him to weigh in on the artistic value of interactive entertainment is like someone who believes the work of Jackson Pollock has no merit or meaning talking about the lack of artistry in splatter painting."

"I'll be honest, to me, this debate is long over," says Benjamin Rivers, a Toronto-based comic illustrator and video game developer, known for graphic novels such as *Snow* and *Empty Words*. "Increasingly, we communicate, learn, and grow through games, just as previous generations did through books, film, and poetry. They are a constant part of our lives, and whether we admit it or not, we're all affected. I've been as emotionally affected by games as I have by film or books. How can we not consider that art?"

The video game development scene is being overtaken by indie developers, many of whom, like Rivers, are also artists in other media. There is a booming scene in Toronto, one that has played a pioneering role in the creation of cutting-edge, avant-garde games. "Toronto was creating art games long before it was cool," says Jim McGinley, a developer and co-founder of the Hand Eye Society, a local organization supporting the gaming scene.

There is an ongoing surge in creativity in game development, and the reasons for it are numerous. It has never been easier or cheaper to develop games — beautiful, complex games can be developed by anybody with time and dedication, and with hardware as simple as a home computer. The Internet has made distribution to a mass audience very easy. The shift to less-powerful platforms, such as cellphones and iPads, has also evened out the playing field.

> It has never been easier or cheaper to develop games — beautiful, complex games can be developed by anybody with time and dedication, and with hardware as simple as a home computer.

The gaming community in Toronto is strikingly enthusiastic about contemporary video game development. Mare Sheppard, one half of the local indie developer Metanet, explains, "It's a fantastic time to be a game developer and Toronto is an inspiring city to work in." Rivers agrees. "I feel like I'm part of the bedroom-coding gold rush of the seventies and eighties."

Toronto gamers now count on several organizations to support the community. In addition to the Hand Eye Society, there is the Start Show, a week-long showcase of local indie video games at OCAD, and TOjam, an annual game event in which developers have to create a game, based on a theme, in three days.

As a result of cheaper, easier development, the creative process has evolved, and the possibilities have blossomed. "In the past, the bulk of development was just getting the game to work," says McGinley. "If you could emulate something from the real world, you had a game."

The emergence of independent development in the field allows for a different development process altogether. "Working at a larger company would require sacrificing creative control, which would be difficult for us [at Metanet]," says Sheppard. "At Metanet, game development is all about transforming our (sometimes crazy) ideas into reality, and tweaking them until they finally resemble these games we've imagined and want to play."

"Small developers are the creative lifeblood of this industry," asserts Rivers. "[They] have the flexibility and nimbleness to iterate, create, and keep games' audiences on their toes; and while pricing and exposure means it can be difficult to find a hit, smaller developers are better able to deal with risk."

"Mark my words — tomorrow's big budget games will feature heavy inspiration from today's indie titles."

The argument for the artistic merits of video games is multifaceted among developers and gamers. Some refer to the creative process of developing interfaces and game-play, even if for the value of entertainment. "Coming up with a great game idea and design is often incredibly challenging, and is an art in itself," says Sheppard. "Devising and refining each aspect of a prospective game to start, and then being able to fluidly adapt as the project evolves, are skills that every game developer is constantly working on."

N, Metanet's award-winning platformer, is known for requiring frustrating levels of attentiveness and meticulousness from the player. The game's website warns "We've had reports of people throwing their keyboards, smashing their gamepads, busting their laptops, yet ending up with a satisfied, proud feeling of accomplishment when they've beaten the game."

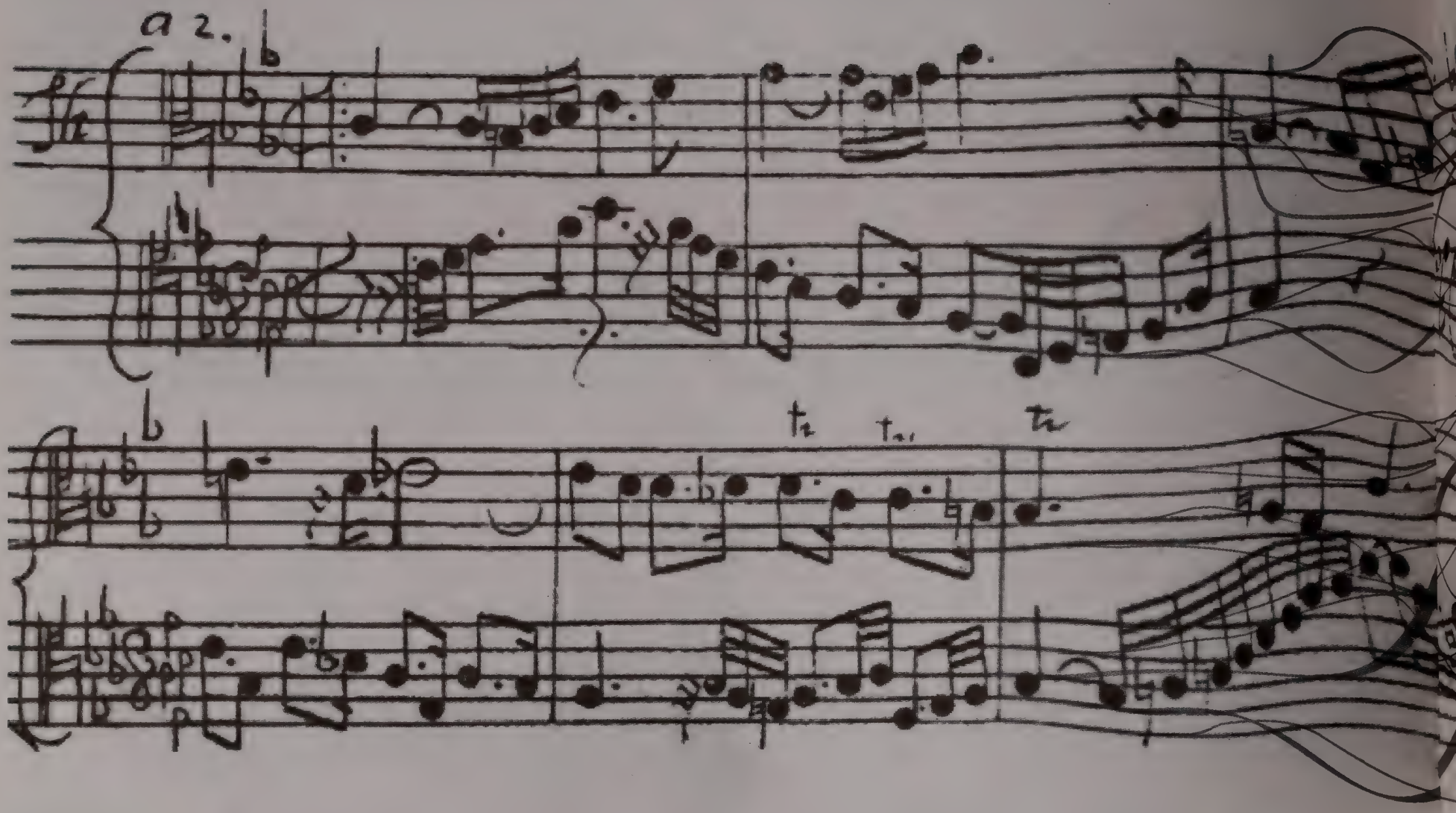
Other gamers will point to the value of game aesthetics in graphics, sound effects, and background music as examples of artistic merit in the field. An example in the Toronto indie community that stands out is Osmos, whose developing team had a member from Toronto. In the arcade, the player takes on the role of a luminous life form seeking to annex others and thus expand. Osmos is known for minimalist electronic music and serene, colourful graphics. These qualities make for hypnotic, absorbing gameplay and earned the team universal praise.

Video games are also beginning to be appreciated for their ability to deliver a particular message, to convey an experience, and to do more than simply entertain. Most developers these days, according to McGinley, "view games as art, and accept that not all games have to be fun. Sounds like an artistic scene to me!"

Initially, the overlap of video game development with other artistic scenes served only aesthetic purposes — it is a medium that invites collaboration. However, artists have begun to embark on game development as a different medium to expand on their work, and to develop artistic visions and intent. Benjamin Rivers calls his game *Snow* — based on his graphic novel — "an experiment in empathy." Rivers sought to provide players with a more comprehensive view of the day-to-day life of his comic's main character, the anguished Queen West dweller Dana. "If they went to read the graphic novel on which the game is based, they would feel like they have this secret insight into her character."

"Games can have an effect on the player far more than any other medium," claims McGinley. "Can a painting communicate the complexities of running a city? Can a movie make the viewer question his/her complicity in viewing? Can a story change every time you read it, and use that as a plot device?"

The possibilities for developers seem boundless, and the enthusiasm in the people involved is palpable. Art or not, the creative surge in video games means that there are exciting things to come for the medium, and that increasingly, there will be more to expect from gameplay than just entertainment. V



All the right noise

SIMON FRANK chronicles the emergence of sound art in Toronto

ILLUSTRATION BY ROGELIO BRISEÑO

On Sunday, January 16, the Toronto non-profit organization New Adventures in Sound Art was preparing inside of the Wychwood Barns art complex, just off St. Clair West, for a celebration of Art's Birthday (an event first held in 1963 by French artist Robert Filliou). NAISA founder Darren Copeland played back recordings of seminal sound art pieces, and eight antique turntables were being prepped for an interactive performance by artist Mike Hansen. Hansen occasionally popped on records to test the system, scratching and manipulating them to create weird, warbling tones. Meanwhile, a bus drew to a halt outside on the frozen street. It let out a high-pitched squeal, akin to the noise a whale might make. The sound was slightly shocking and certainly strange, but to open ears, oddly beautiful.

Toronto is a city filled with intriguing sounds, whether produced by artists and performers, or machines and the environment. Altogether, this audio activity constitutes the field of sound art. Local performer Andrew Zukerman may identify sound art as "music that's too embarrassed, or for some other reason is not able to consider itself music," but more broadly speaking, sound art is poised somewhere in between experimental music and conceptual art. Everything from field recordings and sound installations, to visual art made about music, and music made by visual artists, can be included.

Due to these very broad parameters, sound art can often be dismissed with pure bewilderment or claims of excessive pretension. However, perhaps thanks to the growth of new media art, sound art has been on the rise, with works now being recognized for their genuine emotional and creative expression.

To understand the small but steady presence of sound art in Toronto, some general background is required. Consensus points to the beginning of sound being seized upon as a medium for artists early in the twentieth century. In 1922, Dada artist Kurt Schwitters unveiled the "Ursonate," a performed poem devoid of language and structure. Concurrently, Italian Futurist artist Luigi Russolo wrote the manifesto *Art of Noises* and constructed intonarumari — noise-making machine-acoustic instruments designed to approximate the sounds of explosions, crashes, and creaks.

In the 1950s and '60s, sound art and related forms would begin to coalesce. Radio transmitters and audio oscillators fueled startling works of electronic music by composers such as France's Pierre Schaeffer and Edgar Varèse, and Germany's Karlheinz Stockhausen. Although the sounds these composers produced would be highly influential for sound art, they were classically trained musicians working in a classical context.

It was the playful Fluxus art movement that brought sound to a more informal realm, through pieces by Nam June Paik (who had cellist Charlotte Moorman play nude with strategically placed televisions) and George Maciunas (who once covered an entire piano in felt). Related to the Fluxus group was the influential composer John Cage, whose silent piece "4'33," and other works utilizing radios and contact microphones, can be seen as a catalyst for a great deal of sound art. American artists such as La Monte Young, Tony Conrad, and Terry Riley, whose long-form electronic drone music took inspiration from classical Indian forms, all helped shape concepts of continuous listening and sound installations.

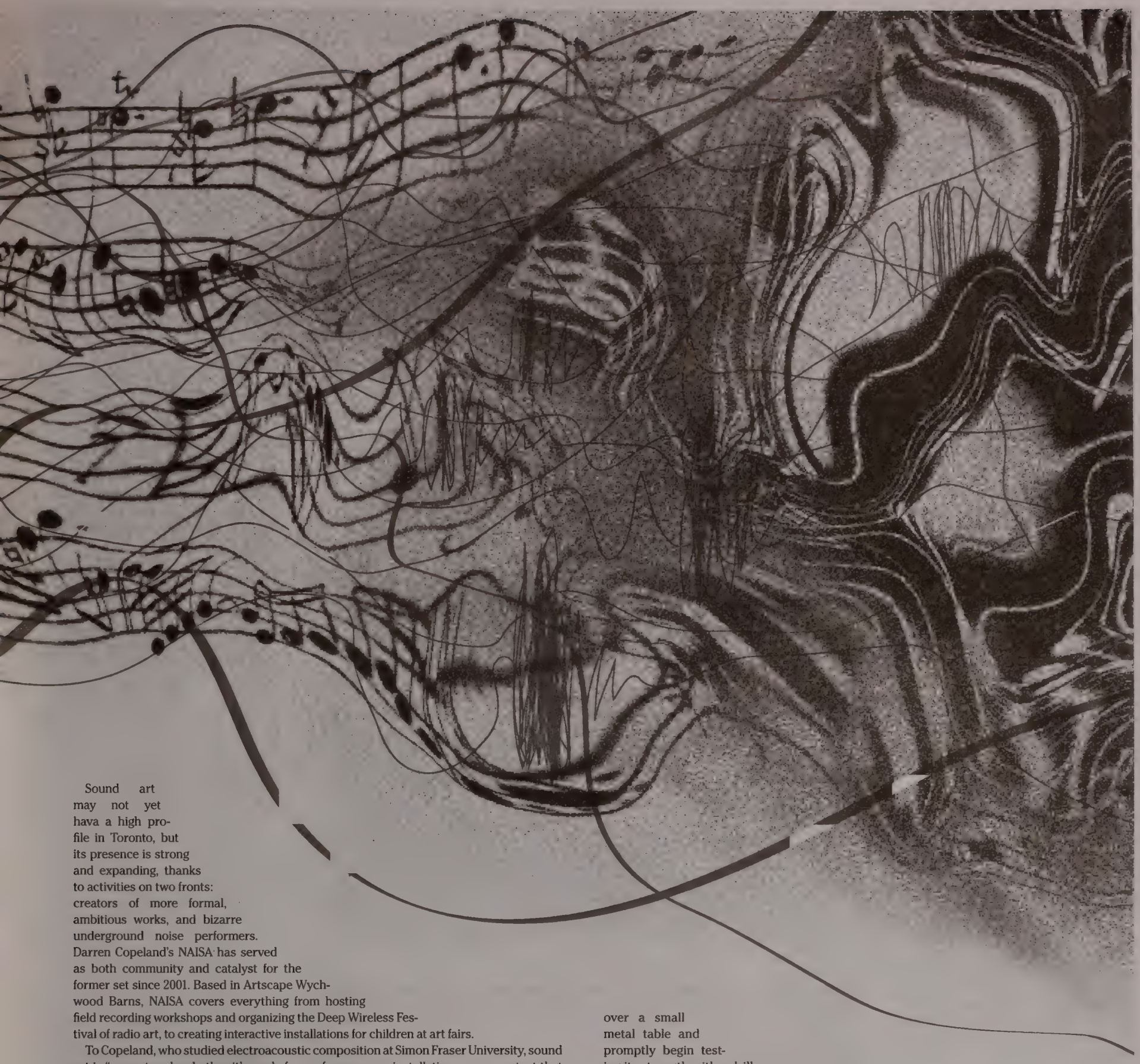
Pushed along by countless innovators, sound art moved through stages of installations, field recordings, and noisy, discombobulated rock bands playing at gallery openings. One pioneer along the way was Toronto's John Oswald, who in the late 1980's invented the genre of "plunderphonics," where he used clearly identifiable samples to create overwhelming sound collages.

However, sound art did not really explode until the advent of faster, cheaper, and better computer technology in the 1990s. With laptops, artists could record, process, and perform with one tool, a convenient change from the precise and time-consuming tape edits of yore. Improved digital technology also allowed for more precise sound systems, opening up greater possibilities for intricate installations.

Digital technology does not automatically guarantee high-quality pieces, but it has remarkably opened up the field, allowing those without the previously required resources to jump in. For example, since the mid-2000s, there have been fast growing sound art scenes.in South Korea and China, hosting artists who do everything from recording the sonic scenery of Shanghai junkyards to amplifying the noises of half-dead computer hard drives.

More sedate pieces have also brought sound artists high esteem, including exhibitions in prestigious museums. Canadian artist Janet Cardiff gained widespread acclaim with her 2001 piece "Forty Part Motet," in which forty speakers broadcast the voice of a different singer from a choral recording of Thomas Tallis' 1573 piece "Spem in Alium." In addition to being performed around the world (including New York's MoMA), the piece has been on display almost continously at the National Gallery in Ottawa.

At the end of 2010, sound art reached a major milestone when Scottish artist Susan Philipsz won the Turner Prize for her piece "Lowlands," a recording of her singing the traditional Scottish folk ballad "Lowlands Away." It was originally installed underneath a series of bridges in Glasgow. The Turner Prize has fed controversy in the past, but the success of the first sound art piece to be shortlisted speaks highly to both the merit of Philipsz's melancholic piece and the increased acceptance of the form.



Sound art may not yet hava a high profile in Toronto, but its presence is strong and expanding, thanks to activities on two fronts: creators of more formal, ambitious works, and bizarre underground noise performers. Darren Copeland's NAISA has served as both community and catalyst for the former set since 2001. Based in Artscape Wychwood Barns, NAISA covers everything from hosting field recording workshops and organizing the Deep Wireless Festival of radio art, to creating interactive installations for children at art fairs.

To Copeland, who studied electroacoustic composition at Simon Fraser University, sound art is "any artwork, whether it's made for performance or installation or any context that centers on sound and considers all of the entire universe of sound as a possibility." He sees the term as useful in "treating the expectations of audience members. If I said, 'This is my latest symphony. It's made out of car horns,' an element of skepticism went along with that." Whereas self-identifying as sound art, "sets it in another place. You don't need to think of Beethoven, you can think of what sound means to you as a person."

Accordingly, the works that Copeland creates himself or selects as a curator boldly explore sound. "I was interested in the process of spatialization, or moving sounds around multiple loudspeakers for an audience, and I was looking at ways for making that more recreateable and practical." This led to NAISA's original set-up of eight speakers, synchronized through an automated spatialization program, but the arrangement seemed to alienate listeners accustomed to visual stimulation. Copeland resolved to design a new system that was more performance-driven, and the result was a program that translates the movements of a performer, via a sensor, into the changing positions of sound in speakers. Plans are afoot to expand the technology to allow for an ensemble of performers. Copeland is also currently working with collaborator Andres Kahre on an installation for an outdoor pool lobby in Edmonton, where "hyper-directional speakers" will transmit the audio environment of the pool as people queue to purchase tickets.

Sound art is growing in Toronto, explains Copeland. "In our call for submissions Toronto was one of the major areas we received submissions from. Traditionally it had been Montreal or the UK." He points to Debashis Sinha's Known World sound and video exhibit at the Toronto Free Gallery last fall as a fine example of increased activity.

An ongoing concern is the preservation of the city's sound resources. Potential for detailed field recordings is "compromised a bit by the fact that the natural areas of Toronto have big highways running through them"; even Toronto Island is affected by airplane noise. Copeland admits, though, that the urban side of the city can also yield some interesting sounds, such as those produced by streetcars. "Sometimes there's a really interesting squeak at the Dundas West subway station; it happened to me at the escalators."

Zukerman shares Copeland's fascination with sound but has an entirely different working method. A performance last spring at Kensington Market art space The White House by Cuddles, the duo Zukerman and veteran performer Brian Ruryk, saw Zukerman flip over a small metal table and promptly begin testing its strength with a drill, whilst Ruryk smashed an acoustic guitar, and sporadically turned on a heavy metal cassette. So it's not entirely shocking that Zukerman describes his music as "air being let out of a bag at ten thousand feet while a dog has a coughing fit watching a cartoon toaster perform seppuku."

A solo performer and member of group Gastric Female Reflex, in addition to creating truly psychedelic art for cassette and vinyl micro-label Beniffer Editions, Zukerman is an example of the type of prolifically productive artist creating noisy, irreverent sound. Zukerman generally works through processing, looping, and layering tapes of previously recorded sound, sometimes slowing everything down, playing it backwards, or feeding it through a synthesizer for good measure. When he first started, "the possibilities of making music with no instruments became very interesting. So I recorded myself playing the hairdryer, opened up the cassette and fed it through a tape player inch by inch while pushing the exposed tape up into the play head with a Q-tip. Very primitive beginnings."

When asked about the state of local sound art and experimental music, Zukerman deadpans, "Things are pretty desperate all around, I think. I just got word that the last venue in Toronto shut down." An exaggeration, but the fact remains that much of this art remains marginal.

Fortunately, things aren't going too badly for Zukerman. Gastric Female Reflex has an album due on German label Pan-Act, and he's preparing a solo release for Toronto label Pleasance. Copeland was shocked upon visiting sound art events in Germany. "If they don't get a hundred people they're disappointed, when we get a hundred people we're flabbergasted." He has noticed that NAISA events are attracting a more diverse crowd than before.

Today, surrounded by masses of information, it's easy to succumb to complete sensory overload. Perhaps therein lies the power of sound art: by focusing on a single sense, one can slow down and form a deeper connection with surroundings. Radiator hum, the drone of public transportation against tracks, and birds hidden in trees are all waiting to be heard. V

Picture imperfect

Is phone photography authentic enough to be art?

By LAURA KATHLEEN MAIZE
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

I am a film camera junkie. After years of being overwhelmed and unimpressed by the digital age of photography — I had digital cameras, but they were all cheap and took bad pictures — I finally turned to the technology of the past to find a creative outlet. Then, a couple of years ago, I unearthed a manual Pentax film camera from my basement and, unsure of what to do, I threw myself at the mercy of knowledgeable friends, family, and Google.

After learning all the little tricks and rules of film photography, I realized that my hobby had become an obsession, and I now have a collection of film cameras: a Holga, a "toy camera" made of plastic; a few point-and-shoots, like the kind at the back of every dad's closet; and a beautiful antique Rolleicord with an awesome light leak. I love taking pictures that come out grainy, blurry, or imperfect, and taking a chance on a picture not turning out at all.

I am not alone. "Lo-fi" photography has plenty of enthusiasts, from Flickr groups for each type of camera and film, to the Lomography store recently opened on Queen Street West that sells toy cameras and their accessories. There are, with increasing frequency, pictures with a film aesthetic posted on the web, and each time I see them my heart leaps. Our generation's obsession with film photography was even featured in *Now Magazine* last January, in an article entitled "Down on digital," and summed up in an article by Frank Yang in *Aggregation Magazine*. Yang states that "Just as younger generations are buying their music on vinyl, it's not only nostalgic aging photographers who refuse to give up their emulsions. It's anyone who can appreciate the distinctive and still undigitizable character of the medium."

At first, I thought I had found a community of kindred spirits online — but so many pictures were surfacing that I began to be suspicious. What I was seeing on Facebook and other sites was another progression in this lo-fi trend. The "undigitizable character" of film photography is now being digitized on the iPhone; an app called "Hipstamatic" simulates the aesthetic of film photography for a wider audience, through a mobile phone that is owned by over one hundred million people worldwide. While Hipstamatic is not the only lo-fi film app for mobile phones, it is the most popular. Over 1.4 million iPhone users have paid $1.99 for the app, either to try it out, or touse the digitized film as creative expression.

"We create software on mobile and social platforms that redefine the line between analog and digital photography," explains Mario Estrada, the community director of Hipstamatic, in an article on *pocket-lint.com*.

But what differentiates this app most from its more tactile predecessor is the ability to see pictures immediately after taking them, and the option to share them online. It's also much easier to carry, increasing your ability to capture an impromptu moment that can make a beautiful memory. "Nice cameras tend to be kind of heavy to carry [around] at all times," says Toronto-based photographer Rachel Cartwright. "The iPhone, on the other hand, is always on me. It's convenient."





Top: photo taken with the Hipstamatic app for iPhone. Bottom: same building with a Holga, a toy film camera.

I am a steadfast believer that any kind of camera can take beautiful pictures. Though an SLR that costs thousands of dollars will deliver a different kind of picture than a disposable camera, who is to say which picture is better? What does "better" even mean? Cartwright describes the app as the ultimate equalizer. "It's like every Hipstamatic shooter is on an even playing field, unlike the [more professional] world of photography. And I guess I'd say that's the biggest difference between Hipstamatic and other photography. [...] It is kind of nice to be working with certain constraints: [...] the level playing field in the way of tools of the trade, not only camera equipment and knowledge, but also post-production skills and software."

Chase Jarvis, a professional photographer who has taken on iPhone photography in order to develop a new look, has "ranted for years" on his blog about how "mobile phone photography changed [his] outlook on a bunch of things: creativity born from constraints, the immediacy of the moment, digital sharing, [and] the democratization of creativity." He argues that the iPhone is the best and smallest camera that you can carry around with you anywhere.

Steph Highfield, a Hipstamatic user, also spoke of the iPhone as an important tool, and helped shed light on the benefits of taking vintage-looking pictures with an iPhone. "I have an iPhone 3G, which takes terrible pictures most of the time. An app like Hipstamatic takes advantage of [my iPhone's] innate graininess and tendency toward weird lighting issues. It looks like you did it on purpose!"

"The reality is that we take a bad camera and make it worse in the most beautiful way," says Estrada, on *pocket-lint.com*.

Learning all of this endeared me to the Hipstamatic, an app that has a bad reputation for being a cheap imitation of a serious medium. However, my readings and interviews highlighted what the analog and digital ends of lo-fi photography have in common.

"Photography, and art [in general], does not depend solely on your equipment," says Highfield. "Art is composition, colour, and framing, yes. But it is also a mood and a feeling, and capturing a moment that will linger."

Estrada echoes this sentiment. "I guess you could say we are rooted in the belief that art should be accessible, and that most people are creative until they're told otherwise. We set out to bring the power of creativity back to people by changing the way people see and experience the world, capture memories, and share them with friends, family, and the world."

It is exactly this idea of accessibility — what Highfield calls the "democratization of lo-fi film" — that attracted me to photography in the first place. "If using an iPhone app allows me to express what I want to express in an easier way, why put up walls? Down the road, you'll be happy you created something; that you didn't shy away because you didn't feel like what you were doing was authentic enough to be art." V

IS THIS ART?



Yes, But Who Is Victor?
Emily Kellogg

By EMILY KELLOGG

'Features Editor Sean Mackay is holding a reusable black grocery bag. So far, it contains a couple of empty cigarette packages and an empty coffee cup. Associate Arts Editor, Ariel Lewis, picks up a crumpled newspaper that has been frozen into a snow pile and waves it at Sean. He declines the offering. The ice would melt, we muse, and we can pick it up on the way back to The Varsity office.

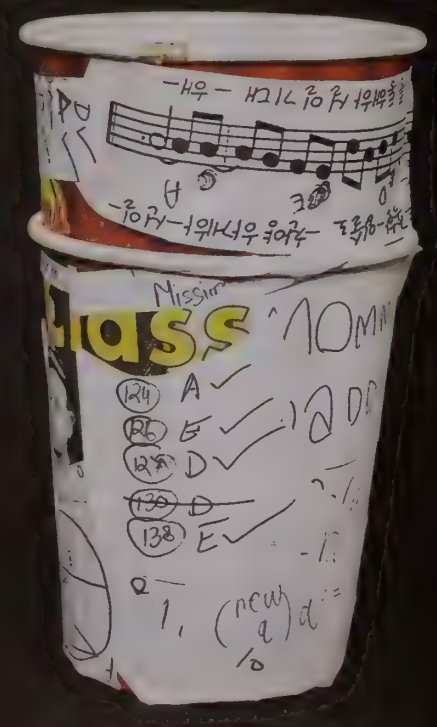
It's Sunday, January 23, one of the coldest days of the winter thus far. Bundled up, and unable to discuss anything beyond the weather for long, seven Varsity staff members and friends engage in an experiment. I've pulled everyone out of their hung-over stupor on this Sunday afternoon because I want to know if in an afternoon of prowling the streets for interesting bits of litter, we can become artists.

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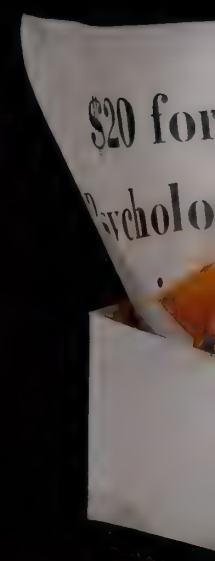
THE GREAT FOUND A



Tabla Mandala
Simon Frank
The faces of minor celebrities stare at us through tabloid newspapers. Who are they? What are they famous for? Who knows? Who cares? Through repetition the absurdity is heightened.



Class of 2011
Sean MacKay
The seemingly neverending cycle of cramming and caffeine represented through the circular shape of the coffee cup.



Found art is defined as an artifact that was originally produced without artistic intent, which has been proclaimed as art. These objects can be anything. The concept of 'found art' was introduced to the artistic canon in 1917 when Marcel Duchamp submitted the piece Fountain anonymously to a major exhibition. The piece was simply a urinal, turned ninety degrees and signed 'R. Mutt.' Unsurprisingly, the piece was rejected from the exhibition.
In 2004, five hundred British art professors named Fountain the most influential piece of the twentieth Century.

The concept of found art is absurd and seemingly arbitrary. Are the pieces of garbage we're grabbing from the streets art? The answer would seem to be yes — so long as we call it art. For proponents of the artistic form, the absurdity of it all is inherent to the art itself. The idea is that found art draws attention to the definition of art. When creating found art, mastery or skill is no longer important. Instead, the simple act of presenting these objects as art is enough to transform a discarded coffee cup into something worthy of being photographed and printed in the pages of The Varsity.

We continue down Bloor Street. We probably look like an odd cross between environmentalist city-cleaners and treasure hunters. I've instructed the rest of the group to pick up empty cigarette packages wherever they see them — I don't have an art piece in mind, but I can't help but notice that the empty packaging is everywhere. We all get strangely excited when we find a piece of interesting litter and crowd around it in impromptu moments of show-and-tell.

We stop in front of The Brunswick House and pick up a half-empty box of cake, an empty can of RedBull and a McDonald's cup with a cigarette butt frozen into left-over Coca-Cola. It all goes into Sean's black bag.

It's easy to make fun of found art. It epitomizes of one of the most frustrating aspects of contemporary art, which I like to call the "But, I could do that!!!" phenomenon. It's that moment when you see a canvas with one black dot hanging on the wall of the AGO, give it a bewildered and derisive look, and murmur to yourself that you could have created that piece. If you had, you could have sold it at an auction for hundreds of thousands of dollars, and maybe then you wouldn't be in so much debt from student loans.

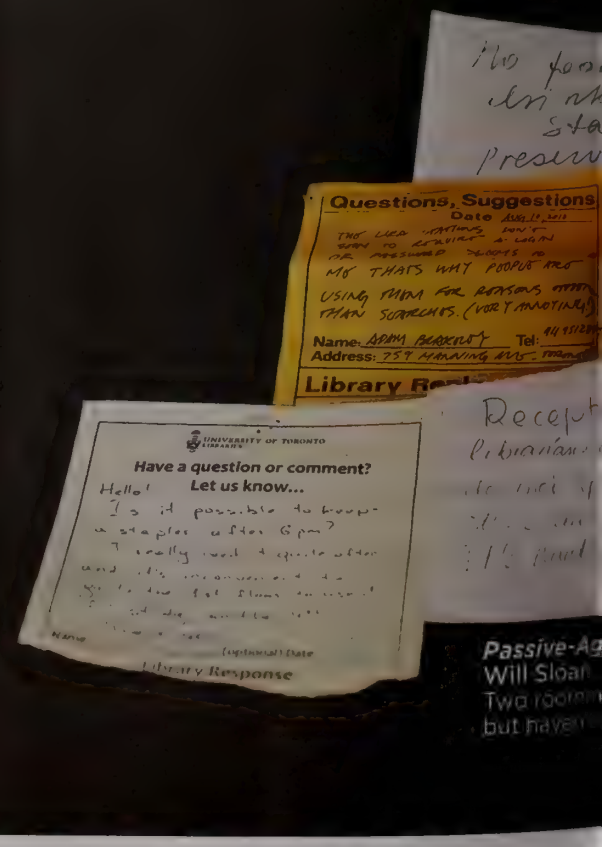
So does that mean that all of us are artists and that everything is art? Worse still — does it mean that everything considered 'high' art is an arbitrarily valued commodity that ultimately means nothing more than the random assortment of objects you interact with on a daily basis?

We head back to the office with a bag full of flyers, old coffee cups, free magazines, a brick, a pine cone, a headband, bits of paper, a tray, an empty bottle of tea, knives, out-dated posters, frozen sodas, sugar packages, a piece of plywood, and religious pamphlets. It all used to be garbage. Now, it's art.

When you are forced to go into a non-artistic space, using non-artful objects and create art — you start looking at things a little bit differently. Trash is still trash. (Trash will always be trash.) But the trash you put into that black bag is going to have to turn into art in one way or another. So yes, trash is still trash — but it's also a kind of potential. You start looking at everything just a little bit differently, and while it might just be a matter of noticing these little discarded objects on the street for the first time, I think it just might be more than that. I think the seven of us might have had a kind of collective artistic experience.

So no, I'm not going to make the claim that any one of us created great art on Sunday afternoon. But still, I'm going to say that we did make art, and that makes all seven of us artists. And somehow, I don't predict that a bunch of learned British old guys are going to name me the most influential artist of our age for my pyramid of empty cigarette packages.

That saying floating around, "In the future, everyone will be an artist", well, I think it's true. I just think that an appendix should be added. "And in that future, not everyone will be a good artist." V



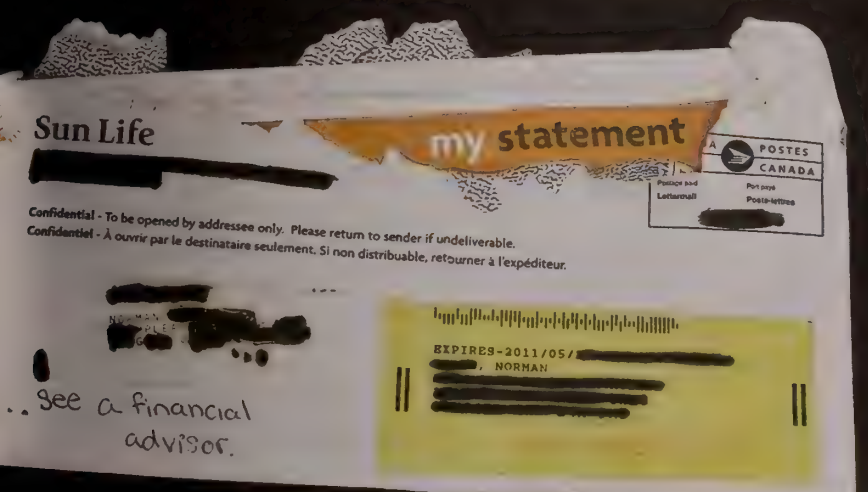
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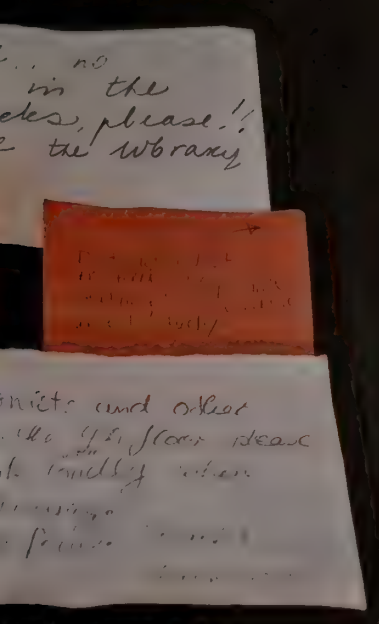
Things Found In Front of The Brunswick House
Sophia Costomiris
Taxi. 3am. January. Three guys drunk, shit man. Must they beat the cold of the past until a cocktail whispers: Gee, sex can have feeling. She was pushed from hope. Sex each other. Chest out. Skirt him. Melted me. Spilled being.



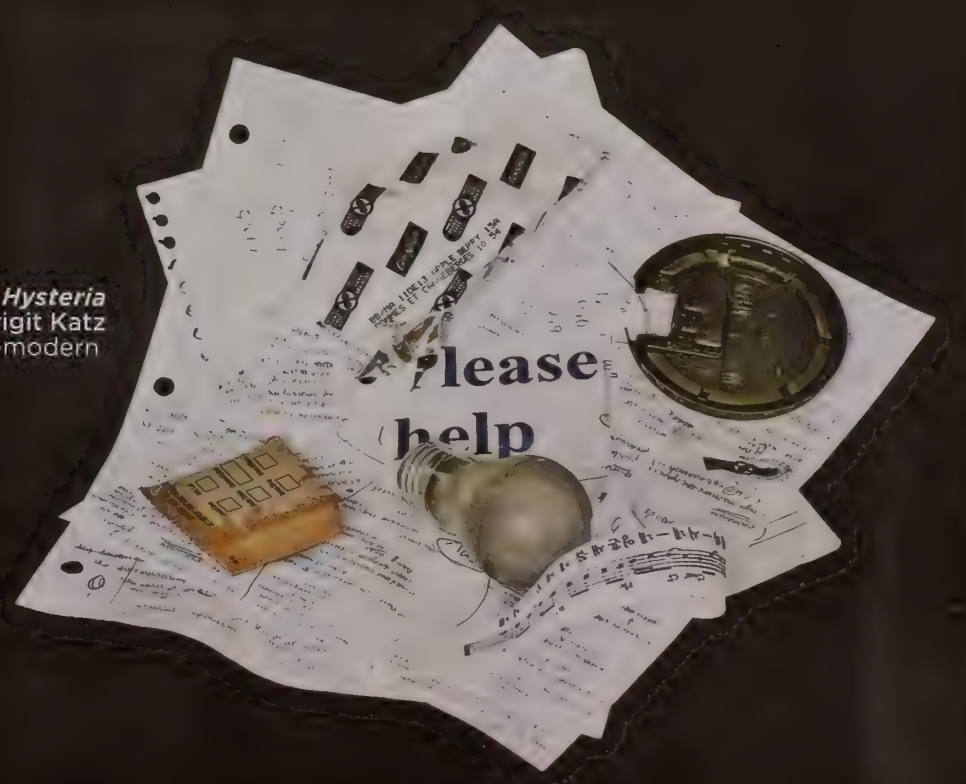
Keep "Christ" in Christmas
Collaborative
A comment on the absurdity of the 'Christmas' purists.



Dear Norman
Ariel Lewis
In the future, Norman, shred your financial documents. Don't leave them in the Robarts recycling bins.



ressive Roommates
es who slept together once six months ago, oken about it.



Intelligista Hysteria
Brigit Katz
It's post-modern



SELF-PORTRAIT BY KEN WHEATON

By **NATALIE COOPER**



PORTRAIT OF JAMES COOPER BY MINHEE BAE

When I tell people that I'm into comic books, they look at me funny. They seem to think I sit alone in a dank, dusty basement, clutching a copy of *Superman: Doomsday* in one virginal hand while I stroke my pocket protector with the other. I can personally attest to the fact that I have never been in such a situation. I'm terribly allergic to dust and my pocket protector has been missing for some time. In all seriousness, I usually respond to those who would lambaste my chosen form of entertainment by saying that I consider the comic book to be a modern form of art.

This usually gets me another look. The comic book is a form of art that not only grows with society, but reflects its values. Looking back on the history of mainstream comics, you can see the issues of each day and age being tackled just as society begins to tackle the issues itself. In 1971, DC Comics, the home of superheroes such as Batman and Superman, published a Green Arrow comic book story arc that addressed the issues of youth and drugs called "Snowbirds Don't Fly." In the arc, it is revealed that Green Arrow's sidekick, Speedy, is actually a heroin addict. This sparked an era of socially relevant comic stories that opened the DC world — and arguably the world of fellow heavy-hitter Marvel — to many other "issues" concerning marginalized groups, such as homosexual characters. It could be argued that this age climaxed in 2004 when Mia Dearden, the second Speedy, revealed herself to be HIV-positive and was subsequently accepted by her friends, the Teen Titans, who treated her no differently.

Nowadays, most comic book fans can easily name multiple homosexual characters: Batwoman, Northstar, The Pied Piper. There are sixty-five gay characters in DC Comics, several in Marvel, and one is set to be introduced into Archie Comics. This is because the comic book is not just a form of entertainment for the nerds many people suppose its fans to be, but because it is a reflection of society. The comic book is a depiction of what we want to read with plots that are relevant and microcosmic to the world at large.

I can claim that comic books are relevant, but how does that make them works of art? For this question, I had to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ▶▶▶



SELF-PORTRAIT BY TY TEMPLETON

Knot your grandmother's knitting

In the burgeoning movement of knit graffiti, the medium is very much a part of the message

by Meghan Lawson

Under the cover of darkness, they move quickly and covertly around the city. Donning hoodies and other stealthy garb, they pass from lamppost to park bench to chain-link fence, tagging as they go. In the morning, neighbourhoods awaken to fresh graffiti in their parks and around their storefronts.

But if you catch them in the act, you won't hear the rattle of a spray paint can. Instead, it's the clicking of knitting needles that gives these street artists away.

That's right, an activity once relegated to your grandmother's rocking chair has moved onto the streets. "Yarn bombing" has grown into a global movement of woolly intervention in the urban landscape, in which self-proclaimed "craftivisits" graffiti everything from parking meters to bridges with knitted legwarmers and crocheted cozies.

From Sydney to Stockholm, Paris to St. Petersburg, nowhere is safe from these crafty crews who leave their knit graffiti mark on everything from the Great Wall of China to the Golden Gate Bridge.

According to Leanne Prain, a Vancouver-based author and designer, the idea behind yarn bombing is simple: "It's street art that's made with yarn."

Prain, who blogs about the renegade art form at *yarnbombing.com*, recently co-authored a book on the subject with fellow knitter Mandy Moore. *Yarn Bombing: The Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti*, published in 2009 by Arsenal Pulp Press, is both a history of the bourgeoning movement and a do-it-yourself handbook for prospective practitioners, complete with patterns for knitting your own balaclava or picture frame.

"A lot of things come down within fifteen minutes, and you might have spent forty hours knitting it. That's just part of it — you make it and you give it away."

The authors, who first met at a "Stitch n' Bitch" gathering, trace the origins of yarn bombing to Houston, Texas, where a knitting collective known as "Knitta Please" first tagged a stop-sign pole in 2005. With an arsenal of unfinished knitting projects on hand, the small group led by Texan knitter Magda Sayeg — codenamed PolyCotN — began "bombing" drab and derelict public spaces all over the city with brightly-coloured textiles. The juxtaposition of whimsical wool against sterile steel and concrete was soon mimicked in urban centres across the United States and in Europe, all the while being documented in the blogosphere.



In fact, the spread of technology and knit graffiti go hand in hand, according to Prain. "It was around the time when people were first starting blogs," she says of the movement's infancy. "There were a lot of early craft blogs that started talking about knit graffiti."

Adopting monikers like Knit Happens, Micro-Fiber Militia, and WhoDunnKnit, tech-savvy knitting collectives made up primarily of twenty and thirty-something women — although Prain pegs male involvement at around five per cent — have since set up websites to share their temporary installations with the vast online D.I.Y. community.

"A lot of things come down within fifteen minutes, and you might have spent forty hours knitting it. That's just part of it — you make it and you give it away. But there's that need to document it," Prain explains.

While the movement aims to be clandestine, the goal of knit graffiti does not necessarily have the same anarchic bent as its spray paint predecessor. Many yarn bombers are simply trying to purl and stitch their way towards urban beautification. According to Prain, "The main commonality is joy. There's a whole bunch of different motivations for doing yarn bombing, but everybody does it because, I think, it makes them happy and they hope that it makes other people happy."

But not everyone sees the knotty appendages as positive additions to the metropolitan backdrop. "It's so painfully trendy," railed one blogger in Australia in the run-up to a government-sponsored "bombing" in Sydney, calling it "a massive waste of time and human energy."

For her part, Prain has heard critics complain that yarn bombers' efforts would be better spent on charity efforts like knitting for the homeless. "Yarn graffiti serves the same important purpose as any other form of artistic self-expression," Prain responded on her website, pointing out that other pastimes like sports and television are rarely critiqued as self-indulgent.

One yarn bombing installation in front of the Textile Museum of Canada in downtown Toronto last May came as a welcome surprise to museum staff. More than thirty submissions from crafters as far-flung as Oregon and the United Kingdom were donated for the event in the form of crocheted corsages, rainbow swatches, and even a knitted bike lock. The pieces were then assembled guerrilla-style in an effort to doll up the museum's entrance on Centre Avenue.

"Some staff and volunteers had not heard of yarn bombing, but were very interested to find out about it and found it quite amusing," says TMC Spokeswoman Alexandra Lopes. "Those of us who did know about it were, in a way, excited to be bombed."

Although it was not involved in the event, Lopes says the museum shares a similar belief in celebrating textiles that are seen as authentic rather than mass-produced. "In some ways people look at the museum as a haven for genuine pieces," Lopes says.

While she has not seen a huge increase in numbers amongst Toronto's subversive knitting community, Lopes has noticed a growing zeal amongst its members. "In the past few years, certainly, the intensity and potency of the movement has increased," she says.

In Canada, however, the West Coast remains the battleground for decidedly more political yarn bombing. In the run-up to the Vancouver Olympics, one artist known as KnitGirl displayed an altered version of the Olympics logo during a public art crawl in the city. Modifying the iconic rings to resemble knuckles, KnitGirl then stitched a middle finger in the centre of her piece.

"Now I anxiously await a $10,000 fine and/or months in prison," KnitGirl posted on her blog after hanging the piece.

Whether intentional or not, knit graffiti falls neatly into the category of "Indie Craft," a subversive and often politically-charged take on traditional handicraft. Here, handmade wares — be they ironic needlework, kitschy plush, or recycled jewelry — are as much a statement against hyper-consumerism and corporate culture as they are an expression of artistic individuality.

"You can't reproduce handmade things because they're always unique," says Prain, who sees subversive crafts as an extension of a more sustainable way of living. "We're at a point where everybody knows we can't live on the planet the way we've been living, so we need to start doing alternate things. A lot of those are making things on your own."

A generation of women — and a growing contingent of men — are taking up their knitting needles, sewing pins, and paintbrushes as an act that is both feminist and countercultural.

Prain points out that much of the current generation is flummoxed by seemingly simple skills; she herself didn't pick up a pair of knitting needles until her mid-twenties. "So many of my peers don't even know how to sew on a button."

But forced to tighten their purse strings, many are returning to D.I.Y. as a classic way of saving money. Prain credits the popularity of yarn bombing in part to the recent economic downturn.

"People are really looking to do something that's low-cost, that's unique, that's creative, and that's fun because there have been a lot of bleak things happening in the world in the past couple of years," she says. "Street art is accessible to everyone of every income level because it's out there, anyone can do it."

In fact, Comedian Amy Sedaris — best known for her cult hit television series, *Strangers with Candy* — has showcased the appeal of handicraft in hard times with her just-released book, *Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People*. Part actual craft book, part tongue-in-cheek take on the Martha Stewarts of the world, Sedaris' offering comes complete with chapters such as "Crafting for Jesus," "Unreturnable Gift Giving," and "The Joy of Poverty."

In the book's opening pages, Sedaris tells readers "virtually anyone without a job and access to pipe cleaners can join the elite society of crafters." Although *Simple Times* is littered with irony — "fornicrafting" is just one case in point — Sedaris does seem to genuinely appreciate the arts and crafts movement, and declares that her book is "not here to judge, it is about the joy of crafting!"

If nothing else, *Simple Times*, like yarn bombing, speaks to an effort to recast traditionally docile and domestic activities as modern and empowering. A generation of women — and a growing contingent of men — are taking up their knitting needles, sewing pins, and paintbrushes as an act that is both feminist and countercultural. With twenty-first century arts and crafts, the medium is very much part of the message.

"We've come back to a place where we've reclaimed [it], where we're knitting because we want to," says Prain, who describes her own mother as a hardcore feminist who refused to knit in the 1970s.

"Handicrafts can be shunned and put down by people who don't do them and haven't experienced them," she muses. "But I think there's a lot of people — not just yarn bombers, but people using other materials — that are realizing that public art can be a really positive thing."

PHOTO BY DAVID PIKE

(ART)IFICIAL

Thanks to scientists in artificial intelligence, computer programs can now create viable and valuable art. Not only are these artificial artists changing how we define the creative process, they're also changing our definition of the human.

by **Erene Stergiopoulos**

"Usually, when people think of an artist as an important creator, what they're saying is that he is capable of continuously surprising us with new, good work," explains Pablo Gervás.

Does that same expectation hold when the artist is a series of algorithms? Gervás is a researcher at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where he takes a rather unconventional approach to studying short stories and poetry: he programs computers to write them.

Computational creativity is an area of artificial intelligence based on developing creative machines. These systems can produce paintings, compose music, make scientific discoveries, and write short stories and poetry. In fact, they're actually pretty good at it.

But developing software to create art raises a good deal of questions. Are programmers modelling the same kind of creativity that humans demonstrate? Should we consider the products of these machine creators art? If that's the case, who is the artist — programmer, or programmed?

Berys Gaut, a professor of philosophy and aesthetics at the University of St. Andrews, proposes that artificial intelligence is simply a new step in the evolution of artistic practice. "I think that computers are some of the newest tools that artists invented to make art. They're the next step beyond the paintbrush, in many cases. But you wouldn't want to say a paintbrush is creative. Rather, it's the person who is creative, who uses the paintbrush."

Enrica Piccardo, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, echoes these thoughts. "The technical part is bigger, but the mind behind them is still human."

Yet as technology continues to progress, the line between programmer and programmed is becoming increasingly blurred. One approach to creative systems is a technique called genetic algorithms. Inspired by biological processes, these programs are allowed to "mutate" on their own, in order to evolve toward better solutions to a problem.

James Moor, a philosopher of artificial intelligence at Dartmouth College and editor of the journal *Minds and Machines*, explains the process. "You have something you're trying to create: you have a standard about what it would be like to have that. Then you have a bunch of programs that try to figure out how to do it. Some of them do it well, and some don't do it so well. And then you have a process of natural selection, and you may allow the programs to mutate, to change slightly, and then you pick out the best programs and let them do it some more.

"Eventually in some cases, through this natural selection among programs, you end up with something that's quite novel and non-obvious — and valuable."

I think that computers are some of the newest tools that artists invented to make art. They're the next step beyond the paintbrush.

The issue of value is critical to defining both creativity and art. In computational literature, the most common way of evaluating whether a system is creative is to look at what it produces: is the product original and worthwhile?

However, acknowledging the products of machine creators as valuable leads us into trickier territory; it brings us to the heart of how we actually define art.

David Moos, the curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, provides some context to the question of what constitutes art and how it relates to the growing field of computational creativity. The definition of art has undergone a steep evolution over the past century. According to Moos, Marcel Duchamp first began the discourse of breaking down traditional definitions in the 1910s with works that he called "assisted readymades." These were ordinary objects which he found and raised to the status of artwork simply by branding them as art.

With these initial barriers broken at the beginning of the twentieth century, artists have had the space to use an increasing range of tools and technology to produce their artwork. In 1990, German contemporary artist Rosemary Trockel created a painting machine — a mechanical device with fifty-six brushes that make different kinds of marks on a roll of paper.

Technology in art is even more obvious in the digital realm. According to Moos, Andreas Gursky is the current master of digital large-format photography. However, Gursky's massive photographs of landscapes and architecture would not always have passed for art. "By a 1960s definition of art, that could not be art," says Moos. "That would be Madison Avenue advertising. But it's definitely art today."

Nowadays, the machines at an artist's disposal are becoming more and more complex — at times, even lifelike. It seems the next plausible step in the evolution of art might involve technology that is increasingly independent of the humans who use it. There's something inherently thrilling in using a system that seems to have a mind of its own. However, once we cross that threshold, it becomes difficult to distinguish where the human begins and where the machine takes over.

This is the issue of creative agency, explains Jon McCormack, who doubles as an electronic media artist and researcher in computational creativity at Monash University in Australia. "Lots of people can use computers to make art, but there's no doubt that the creative agency behind the task is a person," says McCormack. "But in some cases, people have tried to shift that agency more and more to the computer. So the creative responsibility is more to the computer than to the person. That's where I think it starts to get quite complex, quite ambiguous as to where the art is actually coming from, and who is actually responsible for producing the artwork."

Some feel uncomfortable attributing creativity to something that isn't human. Calling what a machine does "creative" doesn't seem to do justice to the mystery of the human creative mind. "It takes the alchemy out of it," says Toronto-based musician Emilie Mover. "I grew up with bebop jazz. To me, the idea is that people get together in a room, and strum or blow into an instrument in their hands, close their eyes, and they don't have to think about it anymore.



CREATIVITY

Whatever comes out of their spirit goes into the atmosphere."

Subrata Dasgupta, a cognitive scientist at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, suggests, "I think people are uncomfortable [with computational art] for the various reasons that, over history, people have been uncomfortable when the uniqueness of the human being has been challenged."

The fact is, we still see art as something that's fundamentally human. Moos explains, "Our understanding of that word, that idea, that concept, goes back to the beginning of the history of visual art — which is, of course, in caves. The markings on the caves in Europe indicate humans using images to narrate a certain essence of their lives. And so deep down, fundamentally, that's what art is."

Once you start giving the human a smaller role in the art-creating equation, our definitions once again begin to break down. One thing to consider, however, is that technology is not only changing our definition of art; it is now also changing what it means to be human. As machines have become increasingly lifelike, humans in turn are incorporating more and more machinery into our biology. Cyborg culture is no longer a sphere reserved for science fiction. As Moos explains, even medical advances such as artificial organs and prosthetics challenge the idea that humans are autonomous. If our own bodies are no longer purely human, why, then, should we require art to be so? "We're slowly getting to a point where the programs can compete with humans," says Gervás.

"The trouble with the creative process is that we know so little about how we do it. So it's very difficult to evaluate it. It's all kind of a mystery."

But while machines might be able to create the same kind of product as a human, their brand of creativity is still very much distinct from ours. McCormack suggests, "I think that certainly what's currently possible is a long way from the kind of creative ability that you see in humans. There's no computer program currently that can display even a modicum of the kind of creativity that we see in human beings."

Part of that problem lies in scientists' inability to hone in on what human creativity actually means. Moos explains, "The trouble with the creative process is that we know so little about how we do it. So it's very difficult to evaluate it. It's all kind of a mystery."

Dasgupta suggests that a large part of creativity relies on processes at work in the unconscious state. Original ideas don't come out of nowhere: we are influenced by past events, seemingly insignificant information, and things we aren't even aware of. "My own work has been mostly on doing historical and field studies of creativity — that is, studying people in the real world, as they're actually being creative. It's astounding to see what kinds of situations arise that lead to creativity: their past histories, their cultural background, chance remarks passed by someone, chance observations of things. These kinds of issues, to my knowledge, are hardly ever replicated in laboratory studies."

In fact, the notion of creativity itself is a relatively recent one. According to Gervás, "Creativity, as a word, as a concept, exists only from the nineteenth century or so. It's not one of those things that you can trace back to the Greeks or Romans, because it's quite a complex abstraction. There's this idea that there is something in common between the process that people apply to reach goals in the arts, in music, in literature, in scientific discovery, in engineering, in design — which is what we call 'creativity.'"

It seems that many of the roadblocks faced in creativity research come from attempting to define creativity itself. "You have to just recognise that all creative processes and creative products have characteristics that make them creative — but not necessarily always the same characteristics," explains computer scientist Tony Veale. "It's about trying to model something on a computer that people will agree is creative, without having to agree on what the definition of creativity is."

Gervás continues, "At one stage, people realized that it's not so important what creativity is — which is what had happened with artificial intelligence a long time ago. It's not that common anymore to have people trying to define what intelligence is: nobody really knows. But people do build programs that everybody agrees are artificial intelligence.

"Computational creativity is reaching that stage now. Let's not bother so much about what creativity is. Let's just go and do it. Let's get programs that can do things that, if people did them, we would consider them to be creative."

According to Veale, computer science is the perfect discipline for studying creativity. "Because if you don't have a definition, in most disciplines, you don't know what you're studying. But in computer science, you have the ability to build things. I mean, we still argue about definitions and concepts. But the main thrust these days is in building systems, and trying to agree or disagree why they show some form of creativity, or the seeds of creativity at the current stage at least."

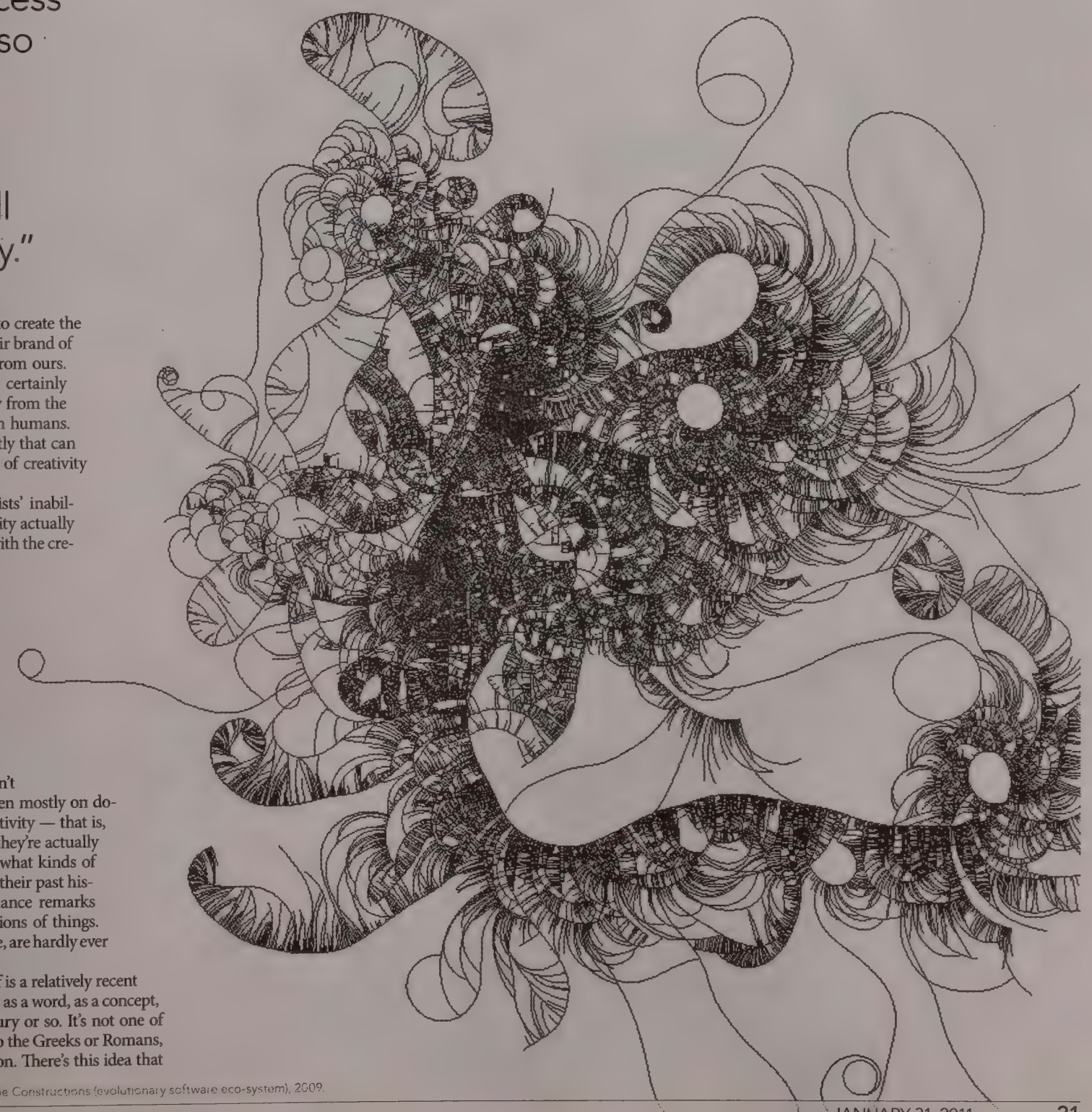
It's unrealistic to think that machines will ever replace human artists, and that's not what computational creativity is aiming for anyway. "I don't think that a computer of any sort will ever be able to sing like Al Green," says Mover. "And I think that still, no matter what happens in society, if you play a robot-record and an Al Green record, I think the majority of people statistically would choose to listen to the Al Green record for the rest of their life, if they had to choose."

Instead, the value of creative machines will come from what they can do that humans can't do on their own. We hope to go beyond the human.

"Let's build something that can help a human artist do work," proposes Gervás. "You need some kind of augmentation to be happening. You need the human artist to be able to produce something he wouldn't have produced without it."

Veale concludes, "Of course, that shows why computers will be useful. [...] We want them to help us think in novel ways, and not just reinforce our thought patterns — we can do that for ourselves — but show us the possibilities that we didn't recognise.

"What we really want is computers that will surprise us." V



Illustrations courtesy of Jon McCormack: Niche Constructions (evolutionary software eco-system), 2009.



Left: **Corrie**, dress by AnotherWordforPink $150

Right: **Jasmine**, dress by Breeyn McCarney $650

Social Fabric

Fashion as Art in the 21st Century

By **ELIZABETH HAQ**
PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE

Kurt Vonnegut called artists the "canaries of society's coal mine," sensitive enough to detect toxicity before it reaches levels harmful to humans. If the canaries start falling off their perches, you know it's time to hightail them to safer ground.

Toronto-based fashion designer Breeyn McCarney has been on high-alert for much of the past few years, particularly after the election of our city's latest mayor. In her snug breakfast nook, adjacent to a modest studio space, she explains why fashion, as a form of artistic expression, is the direct result of its social context.

"As much as I hate to attribute anything good to Rob Ford," she says, "I think Toronto's artistic time is coming, because the more he tries to stamp it out, the more pronounced it will be. The anger that's resulting in a lot of talented artists in Toronto will fuel some of the best work coming out of this city. I believe art comes from authenticity, not originality." For this artist, her work is a sincere expression of the social fabric from which it is born.

Considering its reputation as the art world's snotty little cousin — hot and flashy but mostly devoid of genuine emotion or relevance — fashion fits in quite well with the hallmarks of a 2011 existence. It is trendy by virtue, bored easily, concerned with the now while looking constantly to the next. It is highly responsive to the elements surrounding it, and its skill for disorienting its audience with quick turnarounds is reflective of its transient, temporal environment.

Toronto fashion in particular is coloured by this cultural environment. What we wear and what is designed for us is a direct result of the influences that went into creating it. Marcus Kan, fashion director of Ukamaku, an online fashion community featuring Canadian designers, concedes that diversity is the most sensational aspect of a Toronto-based designer's aesthetic: "[On our website] we have designers from Romania, France, and Korea who are now based in Toronto to create fashion pieces which are influenced by their cultural background."

While utilitarian in nature,

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what we choose to put on our bodies is the most steadfast indicator of our emotional state and economic condition as well as the emotional state and economic condition of the designer. It is a constantly self-regulating reflection of our existence — the culmination of a community's reaction to the state of society. It is art imitating life to the highest degree, rarely presuming to be original, but striving to be authentic. For example, the HBO drama Boardwalk Empire can be credited with the influx of bow hats, stoles, and vintage-inspired draped gowns in every relevant catalogue and LOOKBOOK of the past few seasons. The creepy delicacy of feathered headpieces and bodices in an array of muted blush-tones seen on the spring 2011 runways has Black Swan written all over it. Viktor & Rolf's spring 2010 ready-to-wear collection featured tulle ball gowns quite literally sliced and cut: a wearable display of "cutting back" in the harsh economic climate. Fashion may be the most relevant form of immediately accessible artistic expression available in modern times, simply due to its malleability and capricious sensitivity to its social environment.

From internationally renowned to locally produced, this intense sensitivity dominates the medium. "I set out to create a collection inspired by beaches and sun, called 'Deep Sea Creatures,'" McCarney explains. "It turned out to be a lot darker than originally intended because around the time I was designing it, the [BP] oil spill was all you'd see on TV. The images made me weep."

Because of McCarney's lone experience crying in response to the largest accidental marine oil spill on record, your trip to the beach may be more cynical and outraged than you realize.

So if fashion really is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we must alter it every six months, it's because our entire twenty-first century existence is just as ever-changing — a dizzying mess of uncertainty and danger, inundated with incomprehensible large-scale disasters, intrusive airport screenings, and the threat of the rug being pulled right from under you every time you're summoned to your boss' office. If it's not a car it'll be cancer that hits you, your education won't satisfy your creative ambitions, and your chequing account simultaneously, and the only consistent thing about your relationships is that they end. Daily life is at once simplified and complicated by any number of twenty-first century conveniences at the average person's disposal. It's an exercise in navigating the grey spaces in between. And it's not cynicism, it's reality. There's no such thing as planning anymore. Fashion is currently responding to this reality. The tragedies and triumphs of modern existence are reflected, if not necessarily anticipated, in the visions of self-expressive designers with more than bare-bone functionality on their minds. V

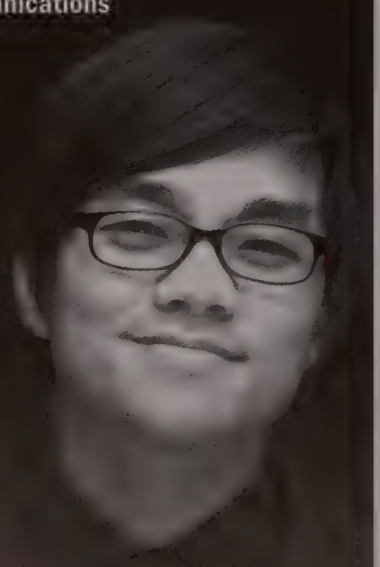
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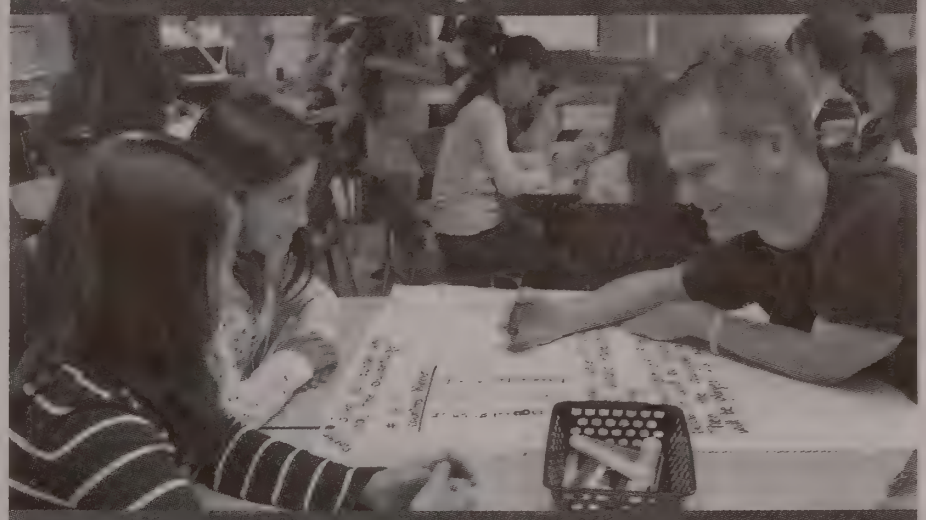
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CONCERTS:

Ode to Joy
U of T presents this celebratory concert to welcome the new Dean of the Faculty of Music, Dr. Don McLean. The concert includes an array of wind and jazz ensembles, operatic and orchestral music, culminating in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

February 5 at 7:30 p.m.
MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building (80 Queen's Park)
$15 ($10 seniors/students)
Call 416-978-3744

Run Stop Run
Juno-nominated trombonist William Carn leads a quartet featuring four of Canada's top jazz artists performing their own brand of eclectic and modern jazz music. Run Stop Run was born out of a love for modern jazz and rock music. Its sound and aesthetic reflects the colourful repertoire of the band.

February 4 at 9 p.m.
Arbor Room, Hart House (7 Hart House Circle)
Free!

FESTIVALS:

Performing Back: A Conference Devoted to Post-Colonial Theatre
The Graduate Centre for Study of Drama invites you to join them at the 19th Annual Festival of Original Theatre. FOOT 2011 intends to explore the implications of contemporary trends within the field of Post-Colonial performance studies as they relate to contentious issues within various cultural/multi-racial communities.

February 4-6 at various times (see foot2001.com for full schedule)
Robert Gill Theatre, Graduate Centre for Study of Drama (214 College St.)
Free!

FILMS:

Precious Life
At once a plea to end human suffering and a ray of hope for Israeli-Palestinian harmony, journalist Shlomi Eldar's documentary *Precious Life* chronicles the plight of Mohammad Abu Mustafa, a four-year-old Palestinian boy born without an immune system. The screening will be followed by a Q and A with Dr. Raz Somech.

February 7 at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Medical Sciences Building, Room 3154 (1 King's College Circle)
Free!

LECTURES:

Lecture-Presentation by Mychael Danna with Special Guest Atom Egoyan
Acclaimed film composer Mychael Danna will be in residence at the Faculty of Music this week, coaching composition students and presenting a public lecture with award-winning film director Atom Egoyan. Danna will share his experience and insight of working in the film industry with students.

February 1 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building (80 Queen's Park)
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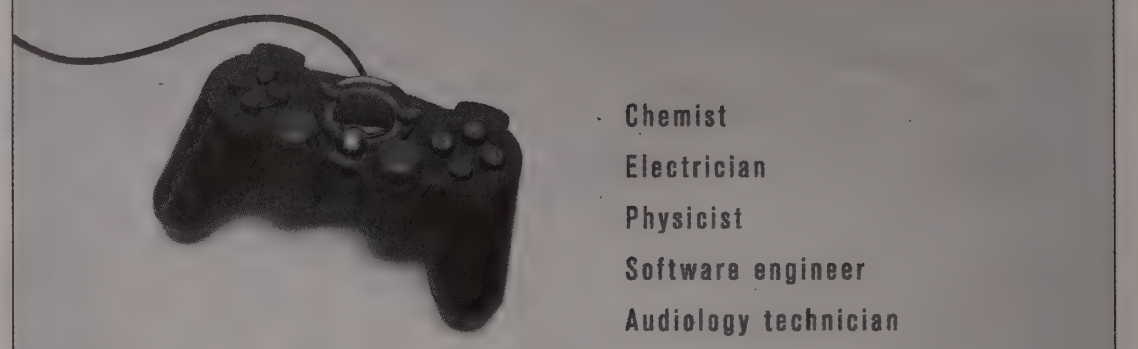
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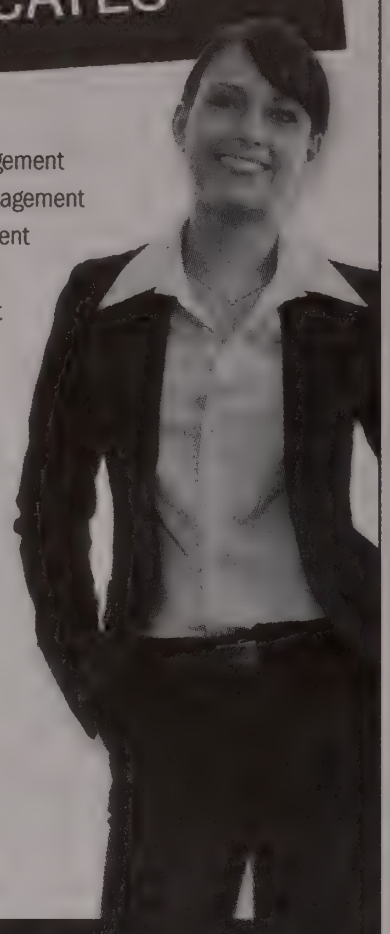
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▶▶▶ CONTINUED FROM "CONSIDER THE COMIC BOOK", PAGE 18



SELF-PORTRAIT BY TY TEMPLETON

consult with some people who truly know what they're talking about: Toronto-based writer and founder of Rise Comics, James Cooper; *The Simpsons* and *Popeye* comic book artist Ken Wheaton; and *Batman Adventures*, *The Simpsons* and *Stig's Inferno* writer and artist Ty Templeton.

Comics are "the most basic human art form on the planet," according to Templeton, citing ancient cave paintings as evidence. Fifteen thousand years ago, people painted stick figures fashioning weapons on one side of a cave, and as you walked along the cave, you could see the whole story of hunting and cooking an animal play out. These are, as Templeton puts it, the first comics. He also believes comics to be a universal language. For instance, when you go to an international airport, all the directions are done in the style of pictures.

"People say music is the international language," he says. "But a comic book can tell you how to put a model airplane together." He also notes that ancient languages such as cuneiform and hieroglyphs are all thoughts in the form of images. The pictures became words, which became language. Our own English language is based on images: the letter "A," for example, is an upside-down ox's head. The idea of picture following picture is the basis of the way our brains created language, so how can a comic book be seen as anything less than art?

When asked if "art" was too pretentious a word to relate to comics, Wheaton explains "We can't just think about art as drawing a picture or putting paint on a canvas. Art needs to be seen as an expression of creativity, and comics doubly so, since it's a collaborative marriage of story and sequential pictures."

Indeed, when so many people today consider art to be something that is hung in a gallery, the idea of the comic as an art form can seem ridiculous. But as Templeton argues, "There's art to be found in a well-made chair. Art is whatever people do to express themselves."

Cooper dismisses the idea of pretension entirely. "What's pretentious is a few splotches of paint on a canvas being considered art." Cooper explains that most mainstream comics are not considered art on the grounds that they feature well-known superheroes. It is by no means negative, in my mind, to associate comic books with superheroes, but it is a shame that people don't see how many beautifully illustrated comics there are.

The evolution of comics, in Templeton's eyes, is the evolution of society. In the '70s, there were comics about cocaine; in the '90s, indulgence was a common theme. Currently, a popular theme is freedom for the people.

"Like any art form, it goes through trends depending on the zeitgeist of society around it," says Templeton, who cites the Internet revolution as making it possible for everyone to release a comic. Following September 11, the comic book industry created "The 9/11 Project," which sought to put out 9/11 related comic books. The heroes became policemen and soldiers and it became "crass" to write for Spider-Man as people wondered whether he was the true hero.

Wheaton highlights another important use of comics throughout history: propaganda. Many comics produced during World War II were pure propaganda for the war effort. What better form of escapism to influence the youth than watching Captain America pummel Nazis?

"I think mainstream comics came into their own in the late '60s, when they presented flawed, less idealised protagonists, used challenging vocabulary, and addressed social mores of the time," says Wheaton. "All of a sudden, comics were being read at colleges and universities. They started to deal with issues like politics, race relations, and drug use, and didn't talk down to the readership."

As Cooper argues, "Just as any medium, comics need to evolve with the audience. This means dealing with tough subject matter in a way that doesn't alienate the audience."

There is a lot of concern that the comic book as we know it will soon be dead, as kids are picking up comic books less than they used to and new readerships are not being engaged. Cooper agrees that if kids stopped picking up comics, soon there would be no one left to support the industry, but he doesn't think that will ever happen. "Cartoons, TV shows, and blockbuster films featuring comic characters come out en masse," says Cooper. The popularity these characters are seeing in other mediums makes it more likely for new audiences to seek out the source material."

I agree completely. Nothing makes me want to buy Green Lantern comics more than the thought of Ryan Reynold's rippling abs in the upcoming film.

Templeton reacts to the notion of the comic book dying with gales of laughter. "Movies didn't go away because of TV; TV didn't go away because of Youtube. Entertainment is recession-proof. The idea that no one is buying comics is ridiculous," says Templeton.

All three of the interviewees agree that comic books are a modern art form. Templeton says that "We are the universal art form… grown with every generation," while Wheaton calls comics "legitimate literature" and cites their mainstream acceptance as forms of expression. Cooper notes that "if comics hadn't grown with society, the industry would be dead."

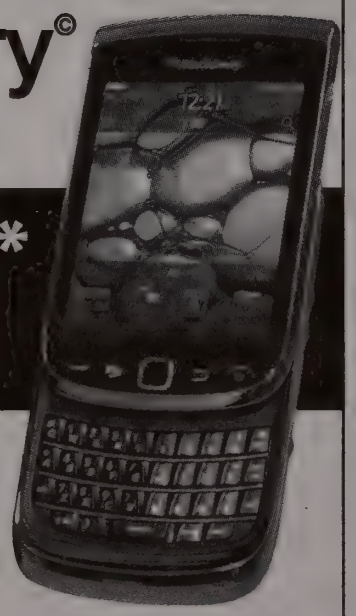
It's true: any thriving social organism must be able to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. The marriage of words and pictures is as old and timeless as the cave images Templeton described. The comic will always exist, in one form or another.

When asked what they would say to someone who dismisses comics as nerdy or childish, Templeton puts it best: "You're missing out, you poor bastard." V

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February 2 at 6 p.m.
Textile Museum (55 Centre Ave.)
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CONCERTS:

Blame Not My Lute
John Edwards (no, not THAT John Edwards), one half of the Musicians in Ordinary, takes the spotlight in this solo lute concert. Edwards will be playing lute solos from Elizabethan and Jacobean England. The program includes works by John Dowland and Alfonso Ferrabosco, two musicians who both had sideline careers as spies.

February 5 at 8 p.m.
The Heliconian Hall (35 Hazelton Avenue)
$20 with student ID

Heaven and Hell: A Year of Liszt
Polish-Canadian pianist Daniel Wnukowski is performing a homecoming recital with repertoire featuring the demonic and blissful works of Franz Liszt as well as the lyrical and dramatic works of Polish composers Chopin and Szymanowski. Come for the Ballade No. 2 in F Major, stay for Sancta Dorothea.

February 4 at 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Building (250 Front St. West)
$15 with student ID

FESTIVALS:

Kuumba Festival
Harbourfront Centre celebrates Black History Month with a (mostly) free festival focusing on the idea of witnessing black history through music, comedy, dance, film screenings, art installations and more. The festival explores the black diaspora's past, present and future and the fusion of art and history in Caribbean culture.

February 5-6 & 12-13 (see harbourfrontcentre.com for full schedule)
Harbourfront Centre (235 Queens Quay West)
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FILMS:

Ciné-Jeudi: Avenue Zéro
Human trafficking is a reality today. *Avenue Zéro* weaves a spellbinding portrait of a dark and sinister trade flourishing in the shadows of the law. Directed by Hélène Choquette, it will be screened in French with English subtitles and runs 52 minutes.

February 3 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
National Film Board Mediatheque (150 John St.)
$4 with student ID

Free Favourites at Four: Nollywood Babylon
Nigeria's film industry, Nollywood, is the third largest in the world — an unstoppable force that is now bursting beyond the borders of Africa. *Nollywood Babylon* delivers a revealing look at the powerhouse that is Nigerian cinema. Directed by Ben Addelman and Samir Mallal.

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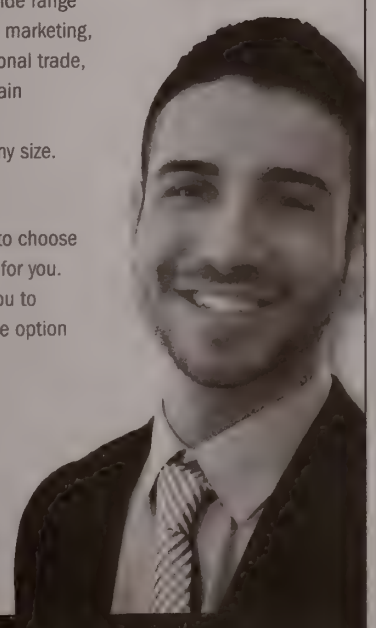
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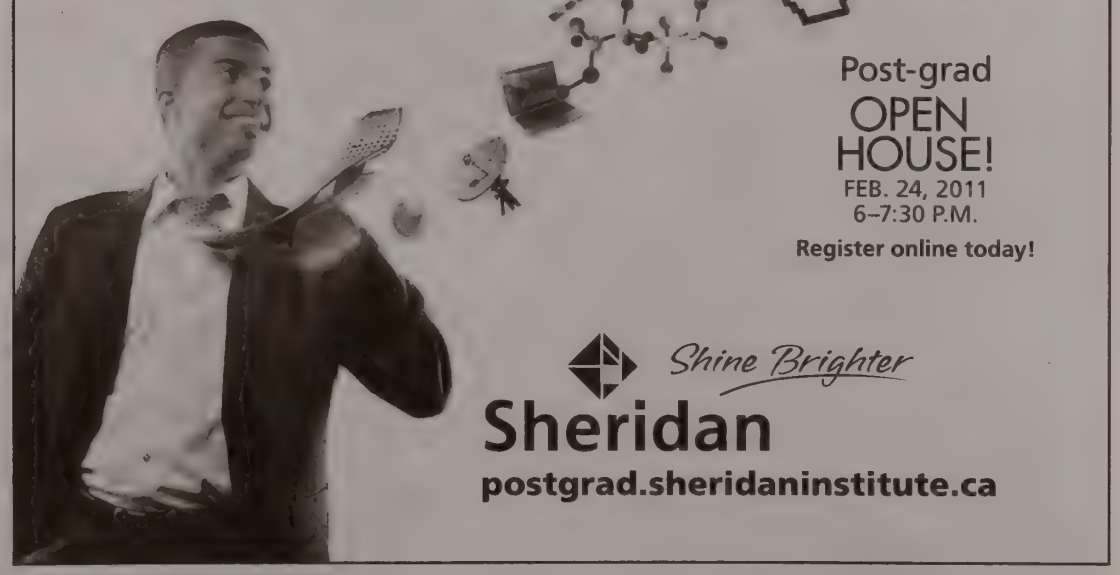
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photos by David Pike

From puppets to paintings, **ARIEL LEWIS** describes her experience growing up in the Lakeshore Village Artists Co-op

"Living in an artist co-op, depending on the co-op you're in, can be really great, innovative, and interesting. Or, it can be really horrible because the people are all…" My father hesitates to find the appropriate words, "Artistically freaked out. […] You're going to find passion, so you're either going to have amazing innovation or pots flying at your head."

In August of 1993, my parents and I moved from a house on Perth Avenue, in the heart of the High Park neighbourhood, to the industrial district of South Etobicoke. In the month the Lakeshore Village Artists Co-op first opened, we moved into one of its three bedroom, open concept (meaning no doors, save for the bathroom), studio apartments. I was nearly three years old. We have moved twice since, within the co-op, to slightly more private apartments.

The Lakeshore Village Artists Co-op comprises four buildings that line the south side of Birmingham Street. It was the first artist co-op to have legal live/work studios, allowing artists to work and sell out of their homes. Though seemingly generic from the exterior, each building houses four floors of studio apartments that are equipped to make the environment work-suitable, such as extra exhaust fans for odours and extra plumbing for slop sinks. The co-op has two workshops and a gallery that can be booked for art exhibits or to hold birthday parties that will blow your friends' minds.

"One of the studios downstairs was designed so that in the event of an explosion the walls will blow out, leaving the structure standing," my mother explains to me. "That will prevent the rest of the building from being blown up."

"There's more of a support system. For instance, I was working on a play and wanted to hear what the first draft sounded like. So I called up two neighbours, both of whom are actors, and got them to read it. Where else would you get that?"

Larry Miller has lived here for nearly six years. A photographer since the age of nineteen, he sifts through words and memories, trying to articulate his experience in the co-op: "I think living here in this community has given me an opportunity to sequester myself in day-to-day life, with people of a similar geist."

Shirley Kleber, another pioneer resident of the co-op, has lived here for almost fifteen years. "I was living in the neighbourhood and I heard this place was going to be an artist co-op. So I snuck in to take a look around," she chuckles. "I was surprised that there were that many artists in the area and that they were going to subsidize us. I thought, 'For an artist? Really?'"

Aside from the layout of the apartments, what makes LVAC particularly appealing is that a high percentage of the units are subsidized, accommodating the many artists who have unreliable and meagre financial resources. Because of this feature, hopeful

applicants to the co-op must undergo an interview process and display that they are indeed working artists, before they're allowed to move in.

Roxanne Joseph, who practices in both the literary and performing arts, has lived here for the past eleven years with her daughter, Maia. She currently serves on the Admittance Committee. "They look at your résumé, reference letters, education, and whether you're an active artist now," she explains, while showing me the applicant questionnaire sheet. The evaluation process examines all facets of the applicant's career, such as peer recognition, or whether they make most of their income from their work.

My mother, Pat Lewis, got her start in puppetry in 1978, apprenticing with Frog Prince Theatre. She builds and creates her own puppet shows, primarily performing and teaching in schools and libraries. In 1987, my father, Bob Howard, joined her. "Pat introduced herself, said she was a puppeteer. I didn't think it was weird but I thought it was a joke. I thought, 'No one's a puppeteer — yeah, right.' Then I actually went to see one of her shows, and at the time kids were kind of different, because you didn't have the Internet back then. You'd get kids all the way up to age twelve. So I was at a library, it was a full crowd, she did *The Frog Who Wasn't* with a bag stage, and I was totally amazed at how good it was."

For as long as I can remember, I've slept a room away from an overwhelming heap of puppet-hoarded madness. Try as they might, the ceiling-high shelves, packed with supplies and curios, have never been able to contain their contents to my mother's work room. Puppets and puppet materials have always found their way into the rest of our apartment, claiming more space than we do.

When Shirley Kleber first applied to the co-op, she recalls that they refused to look at her portfolio, in order to judge her artistic experience objectively. "I liked that, too, because you may improve while living here. Having the workshop is excellent. My plaster piece," she points to a long, life-size plaster woman hanging horizontally from her ceiling, "you can't do that in an ordinary place. Now, I'm doing wax or small stuff so that I can work in my apartment, but I used that workshop a lot."

Roxanne Joseph describes with certainty the direct influence living in the co-op has had on her artistry. "There's more of a support system. For instance, I was working on a play and wanted to hear what the first draft sounded like. So I called up two neighbours, both of whom are actors, and got them to read it. Where else would you get that? It's so cool, so convenient, actually. There's a wealth of live resources."

An artist truly dedicated to her craft, my neighbour would never break character (squeaky voice included) if caught in her clown attire. Being yelled at by a clown to keep it down is a little startling, to say the least.

The tight-knit community that forms amongst the artists can often serve as a breeding ground for great creative innovation. For a number of years my mother and a fellow neighbour put together a family-friendly, non-alcoholic New Year's Eve gathering in true, bohemian, hippy, artist fashion. As she recounts the story, I imagine a parade of people singing and dancing through the streets, an image that I suspect is not far off the mark. "We made puppets and did a little parade around the area. Then from the factory next door we got one of the big metal bins and cut fancy shapes out of the side of it and put a fire in it, so we had a fire to bring in the New Year."

As my father describes it, creativity is never without its quirks — or flying pots. When I was twelve, my neighbour was a birthday clown and would frequent the hallways in her full makeup and costume, a feature that enhanced the excitement of leaving the apartment. An artist truly dedicated to her craft, my neighbour would never break character (squeaky voice included) if caught in her clown attire. Being yelled at by a clown to keep it down is a little startling, to say the least.

"There are a few people who've said, 'Oh you guys, you're just living off the avails of us honest people,'" Larry says, rolling his eyes. A prejudice familiar to many people living in the co-op, the mindset that Larry describes has dispirited more than one artist struggling to make a living.

Though still a performing puppeteer, my father recently made the decision to go back to school and shift away from the arts. "You see people in here who are really talented. There are a few people who have paintings in the National Gallery of Canada, yet they live in an artist co-op and they have to in order to survive. There are a few who have shows in New York all the time."

He explains that it was ultimately the shift away from supporting local arts and culture in Canada that lead to his change of direction. "In the '80s Canada was different. There was a lot of funding. […] It was an amazing time for the arts, not a struggle at all. You could get tours all the time."

If I've learned one thing living with artists it's that, should I wake up one morning realizing my vocation is corporate tax law, I should consider myself a very lucky person.

Maia, Roxanne's fourteen-year-old daughter, has lived here since she was two. "I really want to be an artist, but living in the artist realm is hard," she explains to me with practicality and reason. "So I think I want to be an industrial design engineer. I'd also like to write, but as an engineer. I'd also want to dance on the side as an artistic outlet, and if my writing took off I would move to Australia and run with that."

I find it reassuring to discover that Maia has shared a similarly confusing upbringing. Though skeptical of the romanticized image of the starving artist, there are some quirks that always seem to nip that cynicism in the bud. "We always have a lot of parties, but with the same people," she contemplates. "It's funny because they're already crazy, but when they drink they're even crazier. But then, if you're not crazy, what are you?"

Indeed, apartment parties where you, the juvenile youngster, are the least drunk of the bunch; discovering an array of free cheeses and wine offered at a gallery opening downstairs; and coming home at four in the afternoon after a long, nagging day of school to find your mother still in her pyjamas, fiddling with a fuzzy mouse puppet, all make it difficult to completely reject the idea of a career in the fine arts.

"I see how hard it is to live as an artist," Maia concludes, "and I'm not sure if I necessarily want to live like that. But it certainly is an interesting lifestyle."

Roxanne recounts the time she came across movers carrying four tables out of one of the industrial spaces on the bottom floor of her building. After tactfully inquiring about where these items were headed, she soon discovered that they, along with an assortment of treasures, were being laid to rest by the waste bin outside the building. "There were coats [and] cowboy hats. We gave a lot of it away, there was so much," she relays to me with a wide grin. After three hours, a small party of five had joined her, with one person climbing into the bin to sift through the goods inside.

"And that's what artists do, right? We reclaim stuff. I guess we have no second thoughts when it comes to stuff like that."







A revolution on the streets of Cairo **p8**
Comment

Dummy products and misinformation **p14**
Science

A very special anniversary for women's hockey **p18**
Sports

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"If you're judging a person's value or worth based on what disease they've encountered or on a birth defect, these are not descriptions of character." — David Onley **p10**

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CAMPUS MEDIA

Harassment strikes CUP journalism conference

Anonymous tweets abuse French-language journalists



CUP President Erin Cauchi calls actions "totally inexcusable." *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Josée Boileau did not expect to receive abusive tweets during her keynote at the Canadian University Press' January national conference. As the editor-in-chief of *Le Devoir* was presenting on the paper's history and adjustment to new media, a Twitter account named @le_devoir appeared, which featured a background picture of Boileau.

The account, which also referenced her long speech and deemed her remarks arrogant, sparked comments from other delegates. One attendee tweeted that Boileau was "not just tooting the *Le Devoir* horn [but] leaning on it with all her weight," while another lamented "sitting through an hour-long *Le Devoir* hand job."

> **"Saying a keynote is equivalent to a hand job or that the speaker is ugly is not positive criticism."**
> *— Mai Anh Tran-Ho*

CUP is a non-profit media co-operative, with membership from campus papers at most Canadian universities. CUP President Erin Cauchi said she heard of the tweets shortly after the speech.

"They were in poor taste and they were rude and I was horrified. I saw some people laughing about it, but I thought it was horrible."

Cauchi said the "totally inexcusable" remarks prompted a phone call from Boileau and a response from conference heads.

"We made it clear very quickly that we do not condone that behavior as an organization."

Cauchi admitted that Boileau spoke for twice her allocated time. "She went for a long time. [...] Print journalists aren't as used to performing."

Amid responses that the comments were only said in jest, Mai Anh Tran-Ho, editor-in-chief of *Le Délit*, the francophone paper at McGill University, shot back that "saying a keynote is equivalent to a hand job or that the speaker is ugly is not positive criticism."

"It's outrageous that there were students who want to be journalists who would post something so disrespectful," Tran-Ho told The Varsity in a French-language interview.

At the plenary session on the last day of the conference, a motion passed by a two-thirds vote, compelling CUP staff to "refrain from following the fake Twitter account," requiring a "notice of respectful social media use" in the next conference's code of conduct, and a letter of apology to Boileau and *Le Devoir*.

Tran-Ho, whose paper proposed the motion, said she was happy it passed but wished CUP executives would have been more vocally supportive in condemning the "denigrating" remarks.

A motion on respectful use of social media also passed. The motion, which Cauchi says was drafted weeks before the conference, compels CUP staff to "abide by the CUP code of conduct online when discussing CUP-related business, articles, or using a CUP-related social media account."

One attendee described the motion as "trying to limit people's right to free speech," adding that it was unenforceable.

Cauchi said most people supported the

SEE **'CUP'** – PG 2

FACULTY

Philosophy chair joins UC as principal

Donald Ainslie will replace Sylvia Bashevkin on July 1

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Donald Ainslie has filled all and sundry roles in his 15-odd years at U of T. He jokes that he started out teaching and researching, and then all of a sudden, had to administer. As he was getting the hang of that, it was "okay, now decorate—'which carpet do you want? Which accent colours?'"

Ainslie will be embarking on a new role this summer, as Principal of University College.

"This will be a new set of challenges," said Ainslie, who has been chair of the Department of Philosophy for the past eight years. "UC has about 4,000 students, about 800 residence students, there are four academic programs—Health Studies, Canadian Studies, Sexual Diversity Studies, and Drama Studies, there is the University of Toronto art collection at UC, there is the library, so the principal's role is to manage all of that, to set a strategic direction, and work on ensuring we have the resources necessary to fulfill that direction."



Ainslie focuses on the philosophy of David Hume and bioethics. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Ainslie brings a very diverse range of experiences to the position. He grew up in Toronto and attended the University of Toronto Schools for high school and Queens for undergrad. "I went to Queens and I was amazed how uninterested in learning the vast majority of the students were—they wanted to dye themselves purple and have a good time, and I'm not against having a good time but I liked ideas, so Queens wasn't really my kind of scene."

Ainslie initially studied mathematics, which he still loves: "the way you get to use your mind in such a highly focused way [...] in mathematics, you think about a very narrowly constrained domain with incredible intensity, and it's amazing, it really is amazing. But I'm interested in lots of thing and in philosophy you get to think about lots of things in a highly disciplined way."

Ainslie went to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, where he "just got interested in lots of stuff," ultimately writing his dissertation on David Hume.

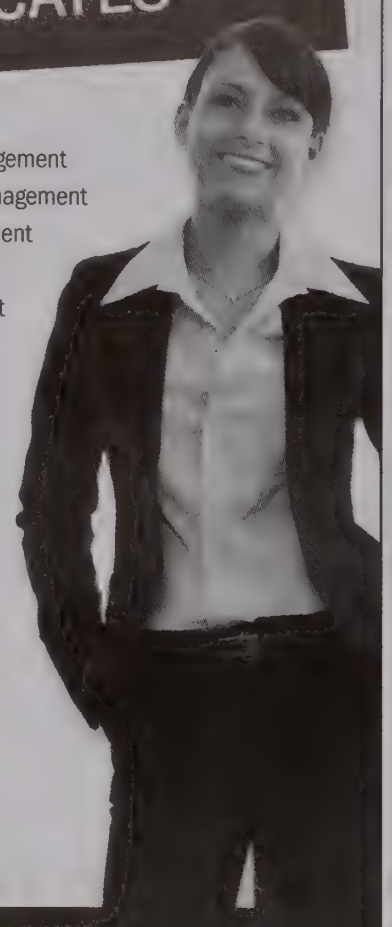
He sees significant overlap between the

SEE **'AINSLIE'** – PG 5

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STUDENTS UNITED ON CAMPUS



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

As part of the Tzedaka-Sadaqah Project, Jewish and Muslim students work side by side to prepare meals for the homeless.

'CUP' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

motion, though some "didn't understand that it's a big deal.

"They're not understanding the repercussions of their actions, which is a scary thing in journalism because we're supposed to understand that sort of thing."

CUP conferences are known for a fair amount of hijinx, including fake Twitter accounts. Though the @le_devoir account closed some time during the Sunday plenary session, some tweets can still be viewed through a Google cache. Tran-Ho tweeted that CUP could have been sued over the account, but Cauchi disagrees.

"I don't think it's defamatory," said Cauchi. "I just thought it was really rude."

Bilingualism was the other main subject of discussion at the plenary. A motion on francophone inclusion was passed, compelling CUP to have a bilingual registered name and website, and requiring that "a bilingual conference shall occur as often as finances and personnel will allow, but at minimum every four years." It also amended CUP's incremental fee structure, designating a slower schedule of rising dues for French-language papers, as services develop.

"It's a bit unrealistic for us to pay the same for services given the current situation," Tran-Ho told The Varsity.

In an editorial criticizing the treatment of francophones within CUP, she pointed out that CUP's lawyer, offered as a service to all members, "knows neither Quebec law, nor the Civil Code [of Quebec] and, moreover, does not speak French."

Cauchi responded that in recent years CUP has had access to a French lawyer who was never used, likely because French papers weren't made aware.

"It just reminds me that we're not making ourselves clear enough. I have to accept full blame for that, for any tension there," said Cauchi. "They're just missing the message."

Tran-Ho said that while many papers made an effort to welcome francophones, she found some papers, especially from western Canada, "less open to a bilingual delegation." Cauchi admitted that bilingualism remains a sensitive issue within CUP.

"A bunch of the French papers said 'we're just gonna abstain from all motions and walk out,'" said Cauchi. "They were basically effectively threatening the end of bilingualism in CUP. They were [...] actively campaigning to go to other French papers, saying 'you gotta leave, don't be a part of this.'"

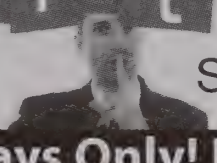
"There's a lot of tension and animosity that I hear coming from some French papers; I just honestly don't know why. Because we're trying to do a good thing."

Cauchi says that in past years, CUP was "trying to form this inorganically with these outside ideas of what French papers want" but noted CUP executives will meet with francophone papers in March to plan a francophone policy.

"It's something that we've really been working on. I think we've made a lot of headway this year."

Editor's Note: The Varsity is a former member of CUP.

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ANIMAL HOUSE?

Sororities and fraternities targeted by Vaughan

"Rooming house" legislation can close co-ops from too much noise

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Members of U of T's fraternity and sorority houses are crying foul after receiving a financial hit.

As of late January, the houses are subject to a zoning bylaw that classifies most as "rooming houses," requiring them to obtain a licence and close if too many noise complaints are issued.

Adam Vaughan, Councillor of Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina, spearheaded the changes last June, citing noise complaints about frat houses lining Prince Arthur Avenue, a street otherwise filled with private condos and townhouses.

Vaughan is also moving to prohibit the houses from renting out their property for lucrative movie shoots. He alleges the profits, which can amount to $7,000 per day, are used to fund parties that prompt noise complaints. Options for the ban will be discussed this month.

"The idea isn't to chase them out of the neighbourhood, the idea isn't to close them, the idea isn't to stop them from providing cheap, affordable housing," Vaughan told the *National Post*. "The idea is simply to find a way to say to the ones that are holding parties at four o'clock in the morning where they're peeing on people's cars and doing all kinds of bizarre stuff in the parks, could you just please get on with your neighbours?"

Fraternities and sororities at U of T aren't affiliated with the university, and most are located off-campus.

"I can't speak to the relative legitimacy of complaints that Councillor Vaughan may or may not have received," said Adam Carson, speaking to the *Toronto Sun* on behalf of local frat houses.



Vaughan is looking to restrict renting sororities from housing movie shoots. DAVID PIKE/VARSITY ARCHIVES

"I can say though that we don't feel that licensing and regulation is a necessary step that's required by the city Any of the issues that the councillor has brought up [...] are addressed and covered by the existing municipal code."

Councillor Karen Stintz has moved to re-evaluate the zoning changes, and study if sufficient consultation took place beforehand.

With files from the Globe and Mail.

INVESTMENTS

Ethical investing on campus

Committee aims to change U of T investment practices

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

The investment decisions of the University of Toronto are being opened up to a small forum of students, staff, and faculty. The Responsible Investment Committee was formed in 2009 by the Governing Council and aims to better incorporate environmental and social issues into the university's investment plan.

"Though it may not sound as sexy as other activist activities," said John Maiorano, master's student and member of the RIC, "I can assure you, it is one of the most important ways to evoke change for a more environmentally and socially rational world."

The committee has struggled to create widespread student interest. In November the RIC hosted People, Planet, or Profit, a town hall that was poorly attended. Maiorano stresses that working to change the investment decisions made by U of T is arguably a more meaningful method of creating change than protesting.

"There is no sense in complaining about the state of the world, either environmentally or socially, if you invest in, or own, those very agendas you are fighting against," said Maiorano.



John Maiorano is a graduate student and member of the RIC *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

While the RIC has yet to make any recommendations to the university regarding its investing strategies, Maiorano cites U of T's decision in 2006 to divest from tobacco companies as an example of students' ability to pressure for change. Moiorano suggests that despite small victories, the importance of investment decisions is still poorly understood.

"All investors, from the University of Toronto, to your corporate pension plan, to the mutual funds you invest in, have business impacts, locally, nationally, and internationally. With every dollar we invest, there is an effect somewhere," said Maiorano. "We, as investors, need to better understand the decisions other people are making with our money, the business practices that are being engaged in, the natural resources that are being used, and whether the environmental impacts are sustainable or non sustainable."

CAMPUS EQUITY

UTSU hosts Churchill and Davis

Speakers draw controversy from some students

Semra Eyul Sevi
VARSITY STAFF

On Wednesday, February 2 keynote speakers Ward Churchill and Angela Davis spoke at Convocation Hall to an audience of 350 people as part of the University of Toronto Student Union's eXpression Against Oppression week.

Ward Churchill is an American scholar and activist who focuses on the historic treatment of Native Americans and political dissenters in the United States. He gained media notoriety in 2005 for an essay he published in 2001. "On the Justice of Roosting Chickens" alleged that the September 11, 2001 attacks were a natural and unavoidable consequence of US policy. Angela Davis is an activist, author, and retired professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is the former director of the university's Feminist Studies department.

The talk was part of a series of campus discussions, performances, and movie screenings organized by UTSU's Equity Commission to raise awareness of equity issues at home and abroad. Both speakers spoke to a number of issues, including their experiences with organizing against oppression, the conditions of Aboriginals in Canada, and emerging issues at the University of Toronto.

The talk began with a speech by OISE faculty member and Assistant Professor Roland Sintos Coloma, who started the evening talking about what it means to apologize. He made reference to the infamous *Maclean's* "Too Asian" article.

"If the media offends us we have the right to talk back," said Coloma. He urged the audience to voice their concerns and send postcards to the minister of culture to cut public funding from *Maclean's*.

Churchill then began to speak, focusing on what he characterized as the detrimental role of corporatization on campus. "Power is not listening. [...] You do not speak truth to power, you speak truth to people. [...] Private financing of post-secondary education leads to crushing of academic freedom."

Churchill continued to discuss alleged oppressions of speech due to political beliefs in academic settings. He used the example of Norman Finkelstein, who wrote *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*, who was allegedly denied tenure because of his political views.

Davis began her speech discussing access to education and corporatization on campus. "The University of Toronto is not a public institution. It is a publicly-assisted not-for-profit corporation."

She went on to speak about the "American prison-industrial complex," alleging that Stephen Harper is taking a similar approach. "It's a shame he is prioritizing prisons not education."

At the end of the speech both speakers were invited by Danielle Sandhu, vice president equity, to sign the stop flat fees petititon in support of free higher education.

The talk received opposition from some students. After the keynote

SEE 'XAO' – PG 5

FACULTY

Out with the old

U of T launches new early retirement program

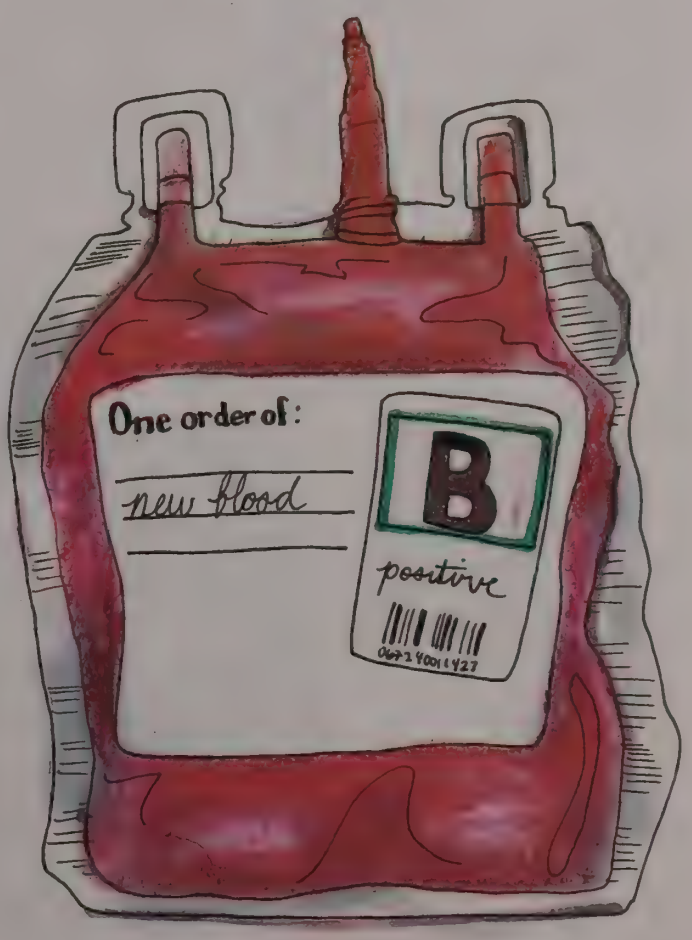
Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY STAFF

U of T has instituted a new retirement program in order to encourage what it calls renewal in faculty ranks. The new package offers a year's salary to members age 60 or older with 10 years of service and supplements an existing program giving faculty members 75 per cent of their salary after 3 years, in addition to the regular retirement program.

"While our existing faculty are, of course, renowned for their research and scholarship, we always need to be recruiting new researchers and scholars to renew our disciplines," wrote U of T Vice-President and Professor Angela Hildyard in an email. "We are able to engage in some renewal through replacement of faculty retiring under our existing programs. However, following consultation with the deans, it was felt that this was a good time to engage in some more concentrated renewal."

Altogether, about 500 faculty members are eligible to apply for the new program and the university has committed to begin searches for vacancies within five years. Applications are due at the end of April.

Hildyard denied that the program was intended as a cost-saving measure and also dismissed any suggestion that the university was seeking to downgrade certain departments or units by transferring faculty positions to certain areas. She conceded that there would be some savings in terms of salary differentials between older and younger members but said these would be "marginal." Older professors generally earn more than newer hires.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

"This program is meant to encourage people that are really thinking about retiring, to encourage them to make that decision now," said George Luste, president of the faculty association. The university initiated talks for the proposed new program with the faculty association in mid-November. Luste said the main point for UTFA's consent was that the program provides for a kind of universal entitlement as opposed to being distributed on a more discretionary basis.

He also noted that the new program left open the possibility that those who accepted could come back right away as a per-course stipendiary teacher. "I think that's the administration's way of ensuring that it will minimize any impact on existing undergraduate and graduate programs."

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'AINSLIE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

two disciplines: "in both of them, you sit at your desk and you think really hard about how things have to be," he said.

His graduate experience, however, was different than most. In the midst of graduate school, Ainslie took a year off and returned to Toronto, where he worked at a housing program for people with HIV/AIDS and special needs.

He describes the experience as eye-opening: "Being with these people as they were struggling with life-and-death issues, it was tragic, and it was a huge learning experience for me. One guy who died as I was there, he was coping with his death and trying to make sense of his death with his community. He was a First Nations person and he was very connected with the First Nations community, and learning from them about how they approach the kind of spirituality involved in living and dying...I don't want it to sound voyeuristic; I benefited from being with these people, and I hope I offered them something."

Doing this work, Ainslie became "interested in what philosophers were saying about the AIDS epidemic," which led to an interest in bioethics, "philosophical and theoretical reflection on the moral problems posed by healthcare, and our susceptibility to disease and illness." He ultimately did a second master's degree in the field, and now teaches a course on it.

His work calls attention to what he calls "the bioethics of everyday life...the questions that we face, as human beings subject to disease and illness," arguing that much of bioethics focuses on questions of what the health professional or the state should do in certain situations, as opposed to "taking seriously what I believe to be the complimentary questions of what each of us should do."

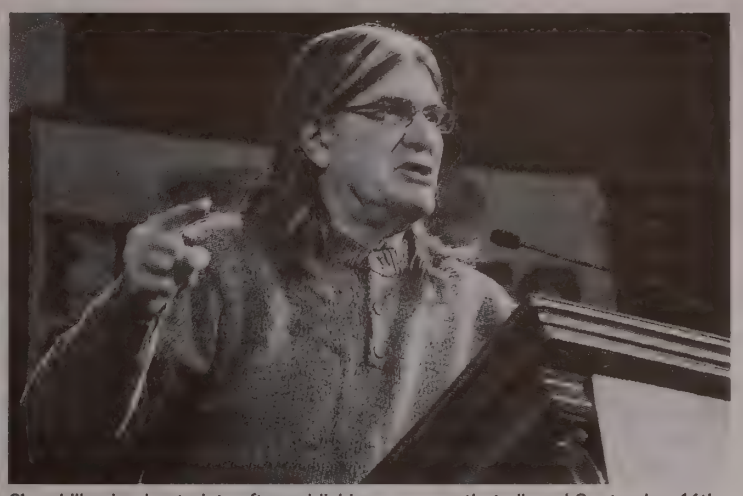
This area of scholarship ties Ainslie doubly to UC, both to its Health Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies programs.

In his work as chair, one of Ainslie's goals was to maximize opportunity for smaller group discussion. "So much of philosophy involves actually interacting with one another, challenging one another's ideas ... You want someone to moderate the conversation who's a bit more informed, so it's productive but it really is a central part of philosophical learning and we just hadn't been doing enough of that when I started as chair."

Given finite resources, Ainslie shifted class sizes and tutorial components across years such that there were smaller third-year classes, so that students could get to know their professors, and adding tutorials in the larger first and second year courses.

The Socrates Project was vital to this plan. The thing that Ainslie is "most proud of," the program hires senior undergrads as T.A.s for Introductory Philosophy, allowing the department to expand its tutorial offerings in second year and maintaining a discussion element while increasing class size, which in turn made possible smaller third-year courses.

Ainslie will continue to champion small group discussions in his work at UC. He will be picking up on the current UC principal Sylvia Bashevkin's work on the UC One program, which begins next year. As UC was historically the non-denominational college within the increasingly diverse Toronto, Ainslie says the program will "focus on justice, and being the college at U of T that was for the whole city."



Churchill gained notoriety after publishing an essay that alleged September 11th was a natural and unavoidable consequence of US policy. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

'XAO' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

the Student Political Action committee condemned what they alleged to be the use of student fees to promote "radical politics" on campus.

"Both speakers said some pretty outrageous things," said Student PAC representative, Robert Boissonneault, in an email to The Varsity. "They have a right to say those things, though. That does not mean they should be hosted, promoted, and paid for by our student union with our money."

"U.T.S.U collects nearly $2 million from students every year and that money should be spent on things that matter to ordinary students, not on promoting a radical political agenda."

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Candidates may be nominated by F/T St. George campus A&S students only. Nominations must include a typed letter outlining the merits of the instructor and why you feel they deserve to win the teaching award. Letters of support may also be included. Nomination forms are available ASSU - SS 1068 or by visiting **www.assu.ca**

Nominations must reach ASSU, Sidney Smith Hall, Rm 1068, by Friday, March 4, 2011, 5 p.m.

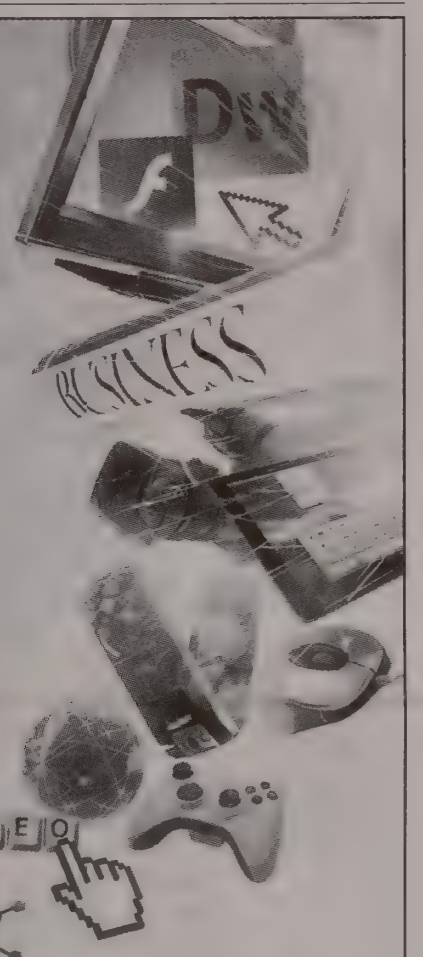
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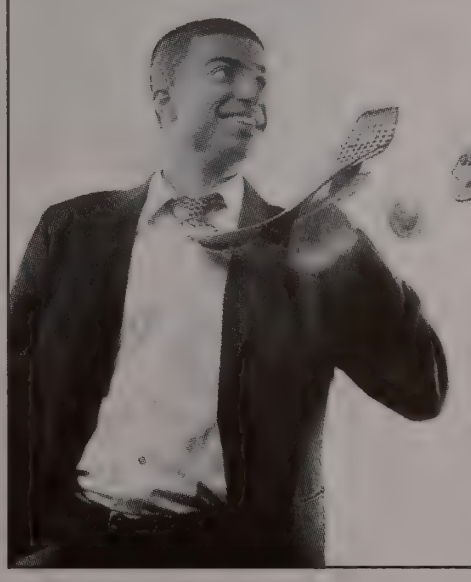
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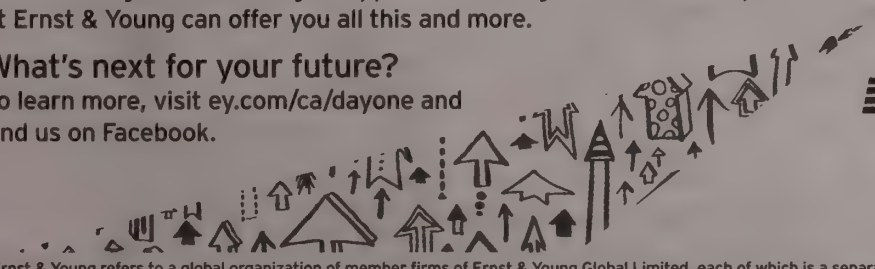
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AFTER UNIVERSITY

How he got here: Mark Kingwell

The Varsity asks Mark Kingwell how he went from U of T undergraduate to famed philosopher

Robin Buller
VARSITY STAFF

"Public intellectual" doesn't do Dr. Mark Kingwell justice. The award-winning author of *A Civil Tongue*, editor at *Harper's*, and *The Walrus*, with a B.A, M.Litt, M.Phil, PhD, D.F.A., he also regularly teaches PHL100.

Kingwell began as an undergraduate student at St. Mike's in the early 80s. He skipped Frosh Week in favour of a Queen concert, studied philosophy and political science, and bunked with a group of friends in Kensington Market.

Kingwell describes his most valuable undergraduate experience as one that happened outside the classroom. "I think, actually, the most important thing I did was edit The Varsity," he said. He got involved with the paper in his first year, and went on to be editor-in-chief in his upper years.

Due to his extracurricular involvement, Kingwell made the decision to get his BA in 5 years – a move that was not common at the time. "If you wanted to get more involved, you either had to have no life, or you had to stretch out your degree."

When asked what he thinks about taking more than four years to finish an undergraduate degree, Kingwell was supportive, but with one condition. "It's great if it means you get involved," he said, "I'm glad I made that decision."

Kingwell was never sure what lay ahead of him after school. "On the contrary," he said, "even through my PhD I didn't have any plan on being an academic. It didn't seem like a proper occupation."

Kingwell's current research area of political theory and philosophy of art were interests from his time as an undergraduate. "U of T philosophy was really good for me because then, and now, it has a strong historical orientation that helps you situate whatever your interests are in a wider narrative of philosophy."

At the same time, his interests shifted over the years. "I took a philosophy of art class as an undergraduate that I really hated," he admitted, adding that it wasn't until he was a TA at Yale that he became interested in the field.

Before deciding on philosophy as a career, Kingwell was shooting to be a journalist. He worked as a reporter for the *Globe and Mail* every summer after his undergrad, and was even offered a full-time job at the *Globe* after his MA at the University of Edinburgh. He turned it down, though, in favour of a doctorate at Yale. "I just thought, 'Oh, I really like it…I don't want to stop doing philosophy yet.'"

Apart from the summer that he landed an internship with his future employer, the *Globe and Mail*, Kingwell worked a variety of summer jobs between his years at U of T. Once, he worked in a video store, which he said was fun in a Quentin Tarantino-esque way. Another time, he had a gig handing out flyers for a record store on Yonge Street sporting a clown suit.



Mark Kingwell didn't enjoy philosophy of art in his undergrad. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

His decisions ultimately led him to success, but he wasn't always so sure of himself. "I remember those terrible moments that I would wake up and realize that I had no idea what I was going to do when I graduated," he recalled.

Sometimes he left things to the last minute. "I had a lot of dumb luck in terms of things working out," he said. He went on to recount asking a professor to write a reference letter for a graduate school application that was due the following day. "He just said, 'You're crazy.'"

Things certainly did come together in the end for Kingwell and, to the outsider, it appears that his path to success was very focused on journalism and academia. "It didn't feel like that at the time," he noted. In fact, in his opinion, specializing too early can be a mistake. "Generalists are always more adaptable than specialists."

From Kingwell's experience, U of T gives excellent preparation for graduate school. "It was expansive and open minded, but rigorous," he said. The fact that his fellow students shared his passion for learning made it all the more enjoyable. "All the people I knew as undergrads were genuine humanists," he said. "We'd have conversations about the meaning of life and what we were going to do and the contributions we'd make."

According to Kingwell, graduating now isn't too different from when he wore a cap and gown. "I don't think it's any worse or better now than it was last year or the year before or 20 years ago," he said. Ultimately, the most difficult tasks that students face is figuring out which direction they'd like to take their lives. "The economy is maybe slightly worse than it was," he continued, "but you still have to face those hard choices."

To Kingwell, the value of an undergraduate degree is the same now as it has always been. "It's about training your mind and yourself," he argued, "It means that you are going to be able to do all kinds of things."

Kingwell is well aware of the fact that most students in his introductory level course may not take another philosophy course in their lives. But to him, there is great power in the notion of learning for learning's sake. "The point is to expose them to the most interesting arguments that have been made about what [we're] doing here," he said.

It truly irks Kingwell when people question the validity of an undergraduate degree, especially one in philosophy. "Are you trying to tell me that the time I spent thinking about the world and my place in it wasn't worthwhile?" he retorted, "That doesn't make sense to me."

And for those who think that philosophy is impractical, Kingwell is not one to reckon with: "It makes you think more clearly about yourself and the world. It makes you a better citizen, ultimately, and maybe even a better person," he countered, "And there is nothing of practical value that you could rate higher than those things, in my opinion."

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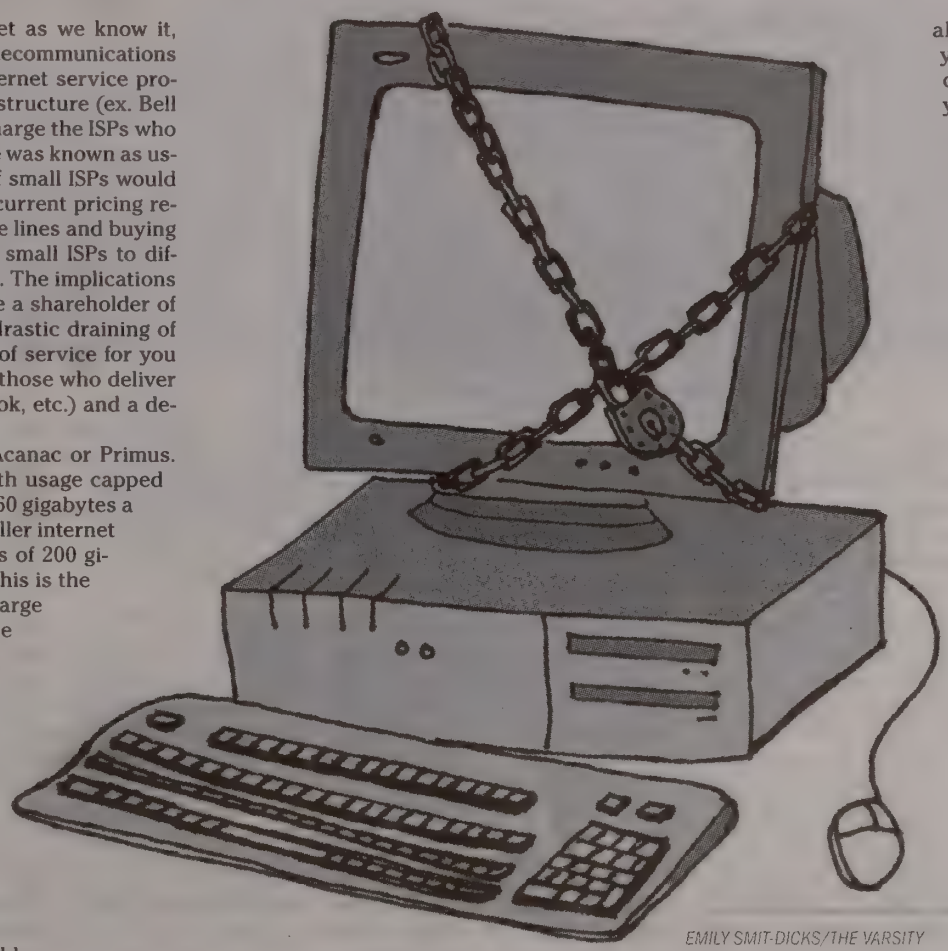
Playing duopoly

MORGAN LY *explores the motivations behind Rogers and Bell's attempt to gouge consumers with UBB*

In a devastating blow to the Internet as we know it, the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission tried to rule that Internet service providers who own telecommunications infrastructure (ex. Bell Canada, Rogers Communications) could charge the ISPs who rent it for every byte they use. This scheme was known as usage based billing. In essence, the prices of small ISPs would be the same as the large. In contrast, the current pricing regime has the smaller companies renting the lines and buying bandwidth at a flat rate and allowing the small ISPs to differentiate their prices from the larger ones. The implications of such a move were dire, unless you were a shareholder of Bell, Rogers, or Shaw. They included the drastic draining of your bank account, a decrease in quality of service for you as a consumer, a decrease in quality from those who deliver content via the internet (YouTube, Facebook, etc.) and a decrease in quality of television service.

You may not have heard of Teksavvy, Acanac or Primus. Where you might have had your bandwidth usage capped at a paltry 25 gigabytes a month by Bell or 60 gigabytes a month by Rogers, subscribers of these smaller internet service providers have been enjoying caps of 200 gigabytes per month since their inception. This is the main difference between the small and large ISPs in Canada. It is the reason why anyone would sign up for service from a small ISP. The removal of this difference would turn these small ISPs into subsidiaries with the result being a duopoly. In Ontario, this duopoly would consist of Rogers and Bell. Those of you who have paid your own cell phone bills for years know that choice is never a bad thing. Prior to the birth of Wind Mobile, being gouged by Telus, Bell or Rogers was practically a requirement for being a Canadian citizen. This duopoly would not be restricted to your ISP service.

The soft cap to be imposed on wholesale buyers of bandwidth by Bell stands at 25 gigabytes. This amounts to less than half an hour of high quality (1080p to be specific) video per day. Beyond that, a charge of $2 a gigabyte would be incurred. Compare to this your television service where you can leave it on 24/7 with the only extra cost being that of the electricity used to power it. With Bell, Rogers and Shaw owning television networks in Canada, this is a conflict of interest. By making it artificially cheaper to watch TV on your television than on your computer, many viewers will opt for the couch. This translates into in an increase in TV subscriptions and an increase in revenue for Bell. If allowed to stay, UBB will mean the end of TV on your computer. But, what if live television or syndicated programs were never your thing. What if you preferred Hollywood instead?



EMILY SMIT-DICKS/THE VARSITY

Prior to the birth of Wind Mobile, being gouged by Telus, Bell, or Rogers was practically a requirement for being a Canadian citizen.

Netflix is a company which offers movies streamed through your computer or gaming console. For $7.99 a month one receives unlimited viewing privileges. A single movie from Bell's Premium Movies subscription costs $5.99. These movies take up bandwidth with your one and a half hour movie at high definition taking up 3 gigabytes. If this bandwidth is free, Bell's business model is obviously untenable. That is, until you add the $6 Bell wants you to pay for the bandwidth consumed. With a movie taking up 3 gigabytes and Bell's pricing of each gigabyte at $2, a movie from Netflix costs $6 plus the $7.99 a month. Bell is attempting to make itself relevant not by offering better products or services, but by abusing its position as the owner of the infrastructure. However, this does raise the question of the right of ownership. After all, Bell owns all the phone lines our bandwidth travels through and took upon itself the risk in building them. It should be able to do whatever it wants with them, right?

Connecting a country is never easy. For a country as large as Canada, it is even harder than most. In order to deliver internet and phone services, a company needs to build the physical network of wires used to deliver the service. The upshot is an extremely high barrier to entry into the telecommunications industry. In Canada, this barrier is so high that no company ever surmounted it alone. This includes Bell Canada, as it was (and still is) heavily subsidized for the very purpose of setting up and maintenance of this network. Bell Canada would never be in the position it is in today without the help of the Canadian people. The cables which run across our country are just not Bell's, but our (as well as Bell's) network. To see them attempt to cheat their partners in such a manner is not only disgusting but damaging.

Fortunately, the government has decided to overturn the CRTC's ruling on usage-based billing due to the huge public outcry. However, the CRTC's recent efforts to institute UBB should be a reminder of how vigilant we need to be when confronted by the duopoly of Rogers and Bell.

An election in our midst?

As Parliament resumes, all three political parties jostle for position.

Marco Adamovic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Parliament resumed on January 31. They were talking about you, your family, and our future, and the chance that we will be given an election. While the current government claims it will not call nor provoke an election — as of the newest parliamentary session — we've probably all learned to interpret most political promises with jaded reluctance and a now-calloused tongue-in-cheek reaction. With the Liberals already indicating they will vote against the government's budget upon its tabling in March, Harper will have to woo either the Bloc Quebecois or New Democrats to survive a confidence vote. Perhaps this is news to you — if the budget doesn't pass, we will be heading to the ballot box. This is the time of year where parties will jostle positions and stances for inclusion on the budget and then vote on said elbow-rubbing. If an election was called today, the following is probably what we could expect each party to include in their respective campaigns. I'm no expert, but a little research and a desire to understand the "powers that be" has led me to the following (in no particular order):

We can expect the Conservatives to focus their energies on year two of their five-year economic action plan, which has been branded rather effectively (you know those signs?). This trickle-down model should create jobs, they say. They might not be good jobs, per se, but a job is a job. We can also expect significant defence expenditures on those American-made fighter planes, as well as a renewed commitment to a police-state: new prisons, revamped crime prevention, and renovating the backlogged justice system.

The Liberals will likely focus their rhetoric on ending corporate tax cuts — which they supported in the 2007 budget. In terms of the economy, Ignatieff likes to talk about creating jobs through investments in education and training. Free education? Don't hold your breath. They've also been known to support long-term health care. I do love Medicare.

During the 2008 leaders debates, Gilles Duceppe accurately stated that no one really expects the Bloc Québecois to form a government. They really serve the purpose of representing Québec's interests in Ottawa. To this end, they've effectively stated that they will accept a $ five-billion bribe, in order to support the government's upcoming budget. Go Nordiques.

The New Democrats, for their part, will heckle the corporate tax cuts, as well as focus on Senate reform. It won't happen tomorrow, but small steps, working families, and good jobs — that's the NDP.

Elizabeth May and the Greens are off the map, unfortunately, especially under the electoral system we currently employ. She did peep up on the subject of political morality with respect to the Conservative attack ads that ran in December. Release the hounds.

Amidst all of that, where do Canadians stand? Ipsos-Reid recently published that the top priority of Canadians was health-care. While polls can be dubiously-framed and interpreted, here is the point: take a minute to identify your priorities. Really, take a minute and think "Gee, what do I value and what is important to me?" How much do the issues of our parties matter to you? Where do you stand? Wait. Do you even stand at all? Even the possibility of an election should serve as a call to understand our role — as citizens, and not merely "taxpayers" — in the democratic process in Canada; not merely an "X" every whenever-the-prime-minister decides, but a consistent and engaged involvement.

Don't be surprised if you feel out of touch with the political system. In fact, it hasn't gone unnoticed. Elections Canada has recently endeavoured to understand what's up with the low youth voter turnout. They said it just like that, I'm sure.

Don't complain if you're not contributing. Perhaps that was harsh. It can be daunting to get involved. There isn't a handbook, though Local Motion: The Art of Civic Engagement in Toronto provides evidence that even the smallest steps create the largest change. Sign a petition; search for political information; attend a public meeting; boycott/choose a product for ethical reasons; contact a newspaper or politician; participate in a demonstration or march; or volunteer for a political party.

Get involved. For you. For your family. For our future.

The frozen North

If Canadians rank Northern issues as a priority, why can't the Conservative government?

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



The Harper government has yet to demonstrate a sufficient commitment to Arctic sovereignty.

According to a recent poll conducted for the Munk School of Global Affairs, Canadians rank defending Arctic sovereignty as a top foreign policy priority. Moreover, they support backing up Canada's commitment to protecting the North by shifting military resources to the region from overseas deployments. Compared to people polled in other countries that border the Arctic Ocean, including Russia and the United States, Canadians were more likely to emphasize the importance of increasing military capacity in the Arctic. What is remarkable about these results is not the findings themselves, but rather how closely they mirror the Harper government's Arctic policies.

Unfortunately, this apparent vindication of the Conservatives' defence-heavy approach to the Arctic will help keep us from evaluating how successful their approach has been. The Harper government has done far too little to deliver on the ambitious Arctic defence plans that it laid out during the 2006 election campaign. Among these plans were a major new port on Baffin Island and several ice-breakers to allow the Canadian navy to operate further into the Arctic and for a longer part of the year. The government has delivered on neither, and instead turned its attention towards costly plans to purchase F-35 stealth fighter jets.

If the prime minister were serious about improving Canada's military capacity in the Arctic, he would initiate a major review of Canada's defensive capabilities, resulting in a white paper (an authoritative government report or guide) explaining the government's plans. Such a review would likely renew plans for expanded hard infrastructure, including longer airfields and deeper harbours, which had originally been scrapped during budget cuts by the Mulroney government. It would also call for modernizing Canada's naval fleet, the vast majority of which is unprepared for Arctic operations, especially compared to the aging — but enormous — Russian northern fleet.

Unfortunately, due to the budgetary pressures and fears that the opposition will paint him as a warmonger, Harper has turned his attention toward renewing stalled talks with Denmark and the United States on Arctic territorial disputes. While these efforts are certainly admirable, they will do little to improve Canada's position in the North, unless they are complemented with wider diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing new disputes. This is particularly important in the area of security, which was explicitly avoided during past negotiations due to Cold War rivalries. Without a clear mechanism for resolving disputes, Arctic security will be left at the mercy of ad hoc relationships.

Arctic diplomatic efforts will be made easier once the current UN-sponsored process of seabed claims throughout the region is completed. Canada is set to make its final submission next year, as are Denmark and Russia; all three claim ownership over mineral-rich undersea mountain ranges near the North Pole. If the recent resolution of a seabed dispute between Norway and Russia is any indication, the settlement of seabed claims, particularly near the North Pole, will help lay the groundwork for the resumption of wider-ranging negotiations between Arctic countries. The need for such negotiations is especially clear when it comes to environmental issues.

Another consequence of the resolution of competing seabed claims and the rapid pace of climate change will be vastly expanded oil and gas exploration and undersea mining. Some see this inevitable development as a future source of conflict. However, the enormous opportunities for development will create new incentives for them to cooperate with their neighbours to ensure the stability which investors in Arctic oil and gas ventures will demand. This, too, will set the stage for broader negotiations aimed at providing long-term solutions to Arctic problems. Unfortunately, increased traffic and development in the Arctic will also create significant new environmental challenges.

Until then, there is little incentive for Arctic leaders like Harper to work to revitalize the Arctic Council, which was intended to help Arctic countries coordinate their responses to Northern issues. Unfortunately, this means that for all his talk about making Arctic diplomacy a top foreign policy priority, Harper is likely promising far more than he can deliver. Combined with his failure to design and deliver a clear plan for the future of Arctic defence, Harper's list of Arctic achievements is short. There is little indication that the opposition Liberals would do better were they in power, as they do little more than pay lip service to Canada's Northern interests.

It is clear that there is major diplomatic work to be done to secure the future of the Canadian Arctic. Moreover, it is crucial that Canada build and maintain the capacity to credibly operate throughout its Arctic lands and waters. While conditions today are not those which are likely to lead to a long-term solution to Arctic problems, unless Canada is prepared and able to participate in developing that solution when the time comes, it risks being left out. The Harper government is doing far too little to ensure that does not happen.

The start of a revolution?

With both Tunisia and Egypt experiencing political upheaval, the question can be asked: who's next?

Arash Azizi
VARSITY STAFF

"The age of revolutions is over," my grade nine teacher in Iran told me. He suggested I was wrong to say that the people of the Arab world would rise up to overthrow their dictators with their own power. He probably said so after having read some paraphrased version of Fukuyama's famous article "The End of History?," explaining to us how things like popular revolution were "so yesterday."

Looking at the early years of this century, one might have been forgiven for believing that. The only region of the world that saw massive revolutions in this period was Latin America, and these revolutions were far from normal, mostly revolving around socialist leaders being elected by the ballot box.

But if you didn't get the clue from the recent rise of revolutions in Iran, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan in the last couple of years, the rise of the magnificent revolutionary movement that began in Tunisia, and which is beginning to rampage across the Arab world, should be proof enough.

The importance of these events can't be overemphasized. Relying on their own power, Tunisian masses fought the cruel, Western-supported regime of Zine al Abidine Bin Ali and made him flee the country in less than two weeks. This was the first time ever that an Arab despot was overthrown by a popular revolution. Before, it was said that something like this couldn't be done. All the Western proponents of "democracy" were happy to back dictatorial regimes in the region and were confident that these regimes would remain in power. Right before Mr. Bin Ali had to pack his suitcase, The Economist, the most far-sighted paper of global capitalism, said: "Tunisia's troubles are unlikely to unseat the 74-year-old president or even to jolt his model of autocracy." After this was proven wrong, it was the turn of all "experts" to predict why this revolution would never spread to other Arab countries. Stephen M. Walt, one of many "distinguished" right-wing pundits for the journal Foreign Policy, wrote an article that could be judged by its title: "Why the Tunisian Revolution Won't Spread." There were specific articles saying why Egypt, especially, was "stable" and immune from all of this!

Next thing you know, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians fill Cairo's Liberation square demanding the immediate overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, another corrupt ally of Western imperialists. As I write these words, Mubarak still clings to power and has unleashed his goons on the revolution. As the battle over Egypt's fate goes on in the Liberation Square, even Barack Obama has had to ask the old American ally to let go and leave power immediately. Similar movements are going on in Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Morocco, and Algeria. One thing is clear: the Arab world will never be the same again. A revolution has engulfed the region.

But what now?

This is, of course, the easy part of the revolution. Dictators may flee, but the question remains on what will replace them, and what will become of people's quests for democracy, equality, dignity, and justice.

A few observations can be made.

One is the conspicuous absence of Islamic fundamentalists in these revolutions. A fairy tale that we were told by the Western governments was that the only alternative to the despotic Western-backed regimes in the region would be Islamist theocracies like Iran's. However, now that the actual revolutionary movement of the masses has started, how many calls do you hear for the establishment of Sharia Law? It is clear that the demands of the revolution are for revolutionary democracy and not Islamic theocracy.

And if you thought this revolution was about supporting Islamist forces against the more pro-Western forces, just consider this fact: when there were demonstrations in support of the Egyptian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza, they were both suppressed; respectively, by the Western-backed Palestinian Authority and Islamist Hamas government. This led Omar Barghouti, a well-known Palestinian activist, to say: "Fatah and Hamas agree on so little; at the core of that little common denominator lies repression of dissent and suppression of freedoms." The same could be said of the rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who have been dealing with their own revolution for the past two years, and are dead scared of the latest developments.

But if Islamists are not to fill the vacuum, who is?

Pundits — especially those who argued for stability — are now talking about "orderly transition." What they have in common with the dictators of the region is their call on the people to exercise "restraint." Basically, not overthrow the whole regime and hasten "stability." As I write these lines, Egyptian masses are learning a bitter lesson about what happens when you don't arm the revolution. Dozens of goons, many of them policemen who shed their uniforms, "spontaneously" (but are strangely well-armed, and riding horses and camels) attack people, killing dozens, and injuring hundreds.

Who is to take power in the midst of this chaos?

There is a lot of advice being bestowed on the Arab masses right now. Our very own Clifford Orwin, who teaches political science at U of T but is also a fellow at Stanford University's notorious Hoover Institution, mused in an op-ed in the Globe and Mail that, "It's hardly an accident that the only functioning Arab democracy, albeit a struggling one, is Iraq," and reminded us that "democratic self-government" in Tunisia and Egypt "may well require the same intensive international nurturing."

Thanks, but no thanks, Professor Orwin. Take your advice to your right-wing pals in the United States. If there is one thing that the Egyptian masses have learned it is that the only power they can trust is their own. They should storm the barracks, arm themselves, and set up neighbourhood councils all over the land that could convene a genuinely democratic assembly to decide the fate of their own country. The first decision of such an assembly would be to take over the unjustly acquired wealth of dictators and capitalists and start a society in which people truly run their own lives.

An Arab revolution has started with a quest for democracy. It will not stand still until it has established complete political and economic democracy, which might as well be called socialism.

Arash Azizi is co-chair of the Marxist Discussion Club

Regulation for the win

MEGHAN MCCABE *contrasts regulation and deregulation and argues some forms of regulation aren't so bad*

Regulation vs. Deregulation. This is a hotly contested topic that has been given intensive media play in the wake of the global economic crisis and the practices that are alleged to have led to it. The arguments for and against both positions are built on a lengthy history, and people are fundamentally divided. Of course, the issues pertaining to government regulation are vastly more complex. At the risk of presenting an over-simplified, Elle Woods-style case, the bottom line is that regulation is good and deregulation is bad, especially when it comes to the economic and financial sectors, as demonstrated in recent events in the U.S. and Canada during the global financial crisis. If only it could all be so simple. That valuation may be fine and dandy, but are all the Canadian regulations in place serving us well? What does it even mean, really?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines deregulation as, "the act or process of removing restrictions and regulations." In terms of economics, regulations are outlined and enforced by governments in order to exercise some degree of management over market forces. They are intended to protect institutions like banks, to insure healthy competition in markets in order to protect consumers, and generally prevent complete economic collapse. Deregulation does not mean killing laws against fraud, but easing government control of business operations that constitute a more laissez-faire, free market. It is not to be confused with liberalization, which involves introducing more entities into markets, because liberalization can maintain government regulations and protection of consumer rights whereas deregulation involves the removal or relaxing of such controls.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve from 1987 to 2006, has been attacked for the deregulatory policies he implemented. Many economists and politicians blame deregulation for the financial crisis, arguing that the whole debacle could have been prevented. The Fed is equivalent to the Bank of Canada, our nation's central bank, which operates under the mandate "to promote the economic and financial welfare of Canada." Both are responsible for monetary policy, federal currency, and overseeing the financial system.

The difference is that in Canada, our central bank has maintained a policy of regulation and has successfully avoided the level of economic hardship experienced in the U.S.. A report released at the end of January by a bipartisan U.S. investigative panel serves as a harsh criticism of the deregulation policies Greenspan advocated. The report quite clearly states that the government had the ability to avoid the 2007-09 financial crisis that has had global repercussions; it just decided not to. Illustrating the highly contentious nature of this issue, the report was only endorsed by the six Democratic members of the Commission. Three Republican members published a competing report that states: "U.S. monetary policy may have contributed to the credit bubble but did not cause it," and the fourth Republican member issued a report that finds the actual root of the crisis lay in U.S. housing policy adopted in the early 1990s. So the merits of regulation as opposed to deregulation are very much tied to ideology, yet clearly all sides agree that deregulation policies were a factor that contributed to the economic collapse. And there is no disputing as to the severity of the financial crisis. In 2009, current U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman and Great Depression expert Ben Bernanke said, "As a scholar of the Great Depression, I honestly believe that September and October of 2008 was the worst financial crisis in global history, including the Great Depression."

While Canada obviously suffered, we fared much better than our southern neighbour. In an interview with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2006, a Fox News host noted that Canada's strict banking regulations ensured that no Canadian banks needed a bailout — the only Western country that fared so well. He also asked if Harper was concerned that regulation was impeding the innovation and risk-taking that occurs in a more free market, the main argument of deregulation supporters. Harper's answer helps prove the point that regulation is best. As he stated, in reality Canada emerged from the financial crisis "probably with the only truly free market financial system in the world." Those of you who have signed the petition to prevent ISPs from switching to Usage Based Billing, paying for every byte you use, have regulations to thank for its expected success. Although the CRTC made the recommendation, if not for the policies of regulation in place in this country, ISPs would be able to make any changes they desire without limitation. Like grounding a misbehaving teenager when he or she disobeys the rules, regulations work to protect consumers from big corporations, and protect financial institutions from themselves.

U.T.S.U.

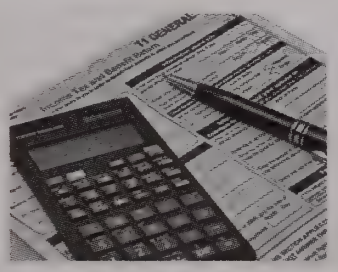
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The Varsity Interview / Lieutenant Governor David Onley

Having worked at City TV as the station's first senior broadcaster with a visible disability, The Honourable David C. Onley was the face of Toronto for 22 years. Now three and a half years into his position as Lieutenant Governor, the Queen's representative in Ontario, he shares the high and low points, his experience meeting the Queen, and his thoughts on bad things happening to good people.

Elizabeth Haq
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE





The Varsity: *I just wanted to start off by congratulating you on almost four years in this office.*

David Onley: Four years, yes. Well, three and a bit now. I don't like to use the "four years" just yet.

TV: *Why's that?*

DO: Well it's just hard to believe that so much time has gone by. It really has — even to say three years is amazing to me.

TV: *It must be all sort of a blur now, but what was it initially like to get that phone call from the Prime Minister?*

DO: It was an amazing moment. There is a process that you have to go through when you realize that you're on the short list and you're actually interviewed for the job. So the last Thursday of June of 2007, just prior to the Canada Day weekend, I was called by the Prime Minister's office, [and they said] that they wanted to interview me. [...] The interview was scheduled to go on for 45 minutes, but the way [the interviewer] was sitting, every once in a while I would catch a glimpse of his watch, and [the interview] was 10 minutes shy of 90 minutes. [...] [On] Wednesday, it was 20 minutes to 5 and this gentleman called. And the first thing he said was the Prime Minister needs to talk to you. [...] I was driving, at the top of the Don Valley Parkway. And I thought to myself, Lord don't let me hit anybody, just keep it straight in this lane.

TV: *The Governor General, in his installation speech, mentioned three pillars he wanted to address during his time in office: families and children, learning and innovation, and philanthropy and volunteerism. At the onset of this journey, what were the goals that you personally set for yourself?*

DO: The primary one is the whole concept of accessibility within our society. And it's an issue that I've been promoting through my whole term in office. It is something that is more than just for people with disabilities, who [constitute] 15.5 per cent of our population. When you take into account the immediate family members, the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children of those disabled people, it is now comfortably over 50 per cent of the population who are affected. And with the aging boomer population, who just by virtue of aging will be encountering more issues, accessibility is no longer an option, it's mandatory. [...] I've made a series of good allegiances and alliances and contacts with a range of communities, whether it's the Black History association or the Monarchist League or children's hospitals. [It's important to] reach out to many different ethnic communities who have come to Canada and to whom the monarchy is a new experience.

TV: *You mentioned your father's faith. What's been the role of spirituality at this stage in your life?*

DO: Well for me, as a Christian, it's been a fundamental part of my life. There are issues and there are problems in life that you just simply can't answer with traditional mathematics, chemistry, physics, languages. The issues of suffering, the randomness of bad events — as the title of that famous book many years ago said — bad things do happen to good people. And why is that? When I got polio at three and a half, I wasn't a bad person, but it happened. And why was the police officer killed a week and a half ago? And why was the congresswoman shot in the US? And ultimately the questions we all wrestle with are where do we come from, why are we here, and where are we going. And I think it's important in life to not ignore those questions.

TV: *Obviously being visibly disabled comes with its own burdens and pain, but I was wondering what advice you'd offer those who feel emotionally trapped or inadequate or discouraged?*

DO: I think somehow, within ourselves we have to realize that there's no one that's perfect. Society can airbrush all they want and present images of perfection. But even if you don't have any immediate imperfections, it doesn't mean you won't get cancer or be struck down by MS or get hit by a car. I saw a picture in the newspaper today and there was a gentleman in an electric wheelchair speaking at the TTC hearing about the changes to bus routes. When I saw the picture I thought, "well, good for him." He's out there, doing more than so many people. He's making his voice known and his opinions heard. I think that, regardless of your religion, we are made in the image of God, and some of us have issues or difficulties. If you're judging a person's value or worth based on what disease they've encountered or on a birth defect, these are not descriptions of character.

If there's any overall criticism of the way our society markets things, it's that we put a ridiculous overemphasis on the peripheral and on imagery. Far too little on the core values of what it is that makes a society unique, why we have the quality of life that we have, despite its imperfections, and its heartache, and its miscarriages of justice. In comparison to just about any other country in the world, we're doing very well. I like to tell the students in elementary school that these things didn't come about by accident, that slavery had to be done away with. We had slavery in the province of Ontario in 1791 until the first lieutenant governor took the steps to get rid of it and create the court system that we have. Such a fundamental concept of freedom happened in 1791; it didn't happen in the States until a war was fought over it. There's a quality of life and values that didn't happen by accident and those values are far more important than any transient image.

I know I'm combining two elements together in terms of motivation, and I don't expect that someone struggling will be motivated because of the experiences of John Grave Simcoe in 1792. But at the same time, it is possible. There are more opportunities here than anywhere else.

TV: *What's been a particularly poignant moment from the past three and a half years?*

DO: I have an enormous sensitivity to basically any time I've presented a memorial cross to the families of soldiers who have died in Afghanistan. That's been just really powerful. [...] [Furthermore] the three police funerals I've been to. One for the OPP officer in Ottawa, Officer Czapnik; Officer Hack, who died in a car crash in pursuit of a suspect; and most recently, Sergeant Ryan Russell. I was the only person not affiliated with the police who spoke. Those were deeply moving moments that I'll never forget. [...] On the positive side of things, [there have been] just amazing moments: meeting the Emperor and Empress of Japan and having them here in the suite [of the Lieutenant Governor]; having Queen Elizabeth visit there, the first monarch to visit since before the war; meeting Hu Jintao; meeting Prince Charles when he came; and people in the world of entertainment like Dolly Parton and Don Cherry. Probably the mot significant memory I have that I'll always take away with me would be at the Prime Minister's dinner for the Queen, held at the Royal York. [...] She made eye contact with me, came over and started to talk about what a wonderful evening she had, and how she'd be seeing me tomorrow and how she rather looked forward to it.

LIVING ARTS

Justin Bieber's Stratford

When was the last time you tried something new? Arts editor **WILL SLOAN** *went to Stratford for a Justin Bieber tour — and found that Bieber fever is malignant.*



CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

In 373 AD, St. Jerome went on a pilgrimage to Antioch, where he experienced a profound epiphany. Already a monastic student, Jerome felt the call of God to live a life of strict austerity, renouncing all worldly pleasure and devoting himself exclusively to studying the Holy Bible. After his spiritual awakening, Jerome moved to the Chalcis desert, stripping himself of all desire and surrendering himself wholeheartedly to the Lord. Jerome's greatest achievement would be his translation of the Bible into Latin, and he lived out his last days in Antioch, the holy site that brought about his great transformation.

More than 1,600 years later, on one of the coldest days in January, I'm making a pilgrimage of my own to Stratford, Ontario to visit Justin Bieber's childhood hangout spots, as listed in the "Justin's Stratford" guide at WelcomeToStratford.com.

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In January, Stratford hibernates. The theatres are closed. The streets are empty. The Avon River is frozen, and North Shore Park is buried. It snowed a few days ago, and now the snow banks are caked with brownish dirt and smoke. There are clumps of dark slush that splash and dry on the bottom of my pant legs.

Lunch at the Pour House (92 Downie), the sports bar where Justin played pool. The Pour House has changed its name since he was a regular (it was formerly Sid's Pub), and I wonder if these are the same pool tables as before, or if they were brought in after the redesign. I am confident, however, that the bathroom is the same, and I feel proud when relieving myself that I have shared a urinal with Justin Bieber.

Hours later, doubts arise. The Pour House had two urinals – what if Justin only ever used one? Is it possible that he only ever patronized the one on the left? It is, after all, the closest to the door, and if Justin was eager to return to his game of pool, he may have opted for the one the shortest distance from upstairs.

Or would I have had a more authentic Justin Bieber experience had I stopped outside the Avon Theatre (99 Downie), where he used to busk, before going across the street to the Pour House, where he presumably spent some of his busking money? Or would I have been wise to go to the Pizza Pizza next door instead? It's not in the guide, but surely Justin must have frequented it, and given its small size, I would have had a greater chance of sitting at a table he favoured. Wouldn't it be my luck if the Pizza Pizza actually turned out to be where the great heartbreak that inspired so many of his songs took place? And he was like "baby, baby, baby, noooo…"

I try to console myself by heading to the bathroom at William Allman Memorial Arena (25 Morenz Dr.), but am dismayed to find at least eight different urinals, side by side. I opt for the one third from the right, and pray.

***

It's a long walk to Stratford Northwest Public and Secondary Schools (428 Foreman), where Justin had his education and where many of his classmates can still be found. The cold is intense – the kind of cold that seeps through your pants and numbs your lower half. I walk a few kilometres on snow that has hardened into chunky little clumps from so much trampling. The tips of my ears begin to hurt, and I stop to cover them with my gloves. I wish the Stratford Tourism Committee would be courteous enough to move Justin's boyhood schools a little closer to the downtown.

These red-bricked, windowless buildings look so similar to Martingrove Collegiate, my own high school in Etobicoke. I used to know each and every house, field, apartment building, fast food restaurant, and grocery store within maybe a five-mile radius of that place. The Stratford guide cites Madelyn's Diner (377 Huron) as the Biebers' favourite family restaurant, but how often did they go to the Tim Horton's down the block, or the Mac's across the street, or even the funeral home next door? He must have seen them every day. It seems unreal that the most famous teenager in the world knew these crummy places so intimately.

I try to jump a snow bank to cross the street, but don't make it. The snow melts down my shoes.

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Sometimes during Catholic mass, the Priest goes down the aisle and sprinkles holy water on the audience. One time during my childhood I didn't feel any of the water hit me, and I started to hyperventilate. When, if ever, would I ever have another chance to make such a connection with God?

First Communion provoked similar feelings. The reason we weren't allowed the communion wafers until we were eight years old, said Father Reeves, is because only then would we be responsible enough to be entrusted with the Body of Christ. This bread was no metaphor – it was Jesus himself, brought to us through the miracle of transubstantiation. Given the extraordinary privilege of receiving Christ, we were to treat Communion with respect, placing the wafer on our tongues, not biting it, and letting it melt before swallowing. I was terrified of accidentally chewing a bit of the Body of Christ and, if I ever did, I would say a prayer for forgiveness.

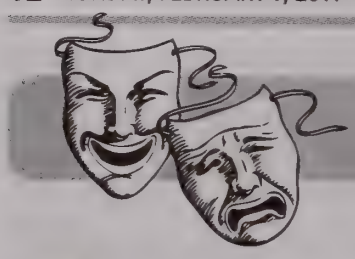
Also during my childhood, I was awed when one of my parents' friends told me that John Candy had filmed a movie at his office – and, moreover, pooed in the office toilet. I asked why he had not considered preserving the poo, perhaps to be bronzed or, at the very least, vacuum-sealed. I don't recall his answer.

After visiting the schools, I head to City Hall (1 Wellington), on whose steps "Justin performed his first-ever recorded song at a CD release concert for a locally-made CD […] to support the House of Blessing Food Bank." I spend about twenty minutes on the steps, and ask someone to take my picture. I pose like I'm singing.

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Dinner at King's Buffet (1010 Ontario), the site of Justin's first date. "All was not blissful as he spilled spaghetti and meatballs all over himself and the pair did not date again," says the guide. I am unable to find the alleged spaghetti and meatballs, so I settle on egg noodles with sweet and sour sauce. He used to eat here, I guess, but I don't quite believe it. How could that famous boy with the high-pitched voice and all those YouTube viewers who's always hanging around with Usher have had his first date at King's Buffet?

I've been to Stratford many times. Maybe I saw him once. He could have been any little boy. Somehow that doesn't seem possible. He's Justin Bieber™.



Campus Stage

The Threepenny Opera keeps itself alive

The UC Follies' production features fine performances, despite dragging on for an 'epic' three-hours.

Brendan Hobin
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Mack the Knife (Michael-David Blostein), left, and Tiger Brown (Will Hofstetter) rehearse for opening night. *LUKE SUTHERLAND*

Don't believe anyone who tells you that Man's obsession with sin and turmoil stems from morbid fascination; the real reason he loves atrocity is the very paradox of his own love of comfort. Man idealizes a life of ease and good feeling that is enduring and flawless, yet the comforts he devises for himself are ultimately and utterly limitations. If a man sits shivering and cold in the rain, his true desire is to be one with nature, to have leather skin, to sprout gills; lacking the ability to thus adapt, he builds himself a house and crafts windows through which to stare at the element he couldn't conquer. If he only wants to see, say, 127 Hours, he is really imagining a false reality in which he himself can be comfortable losing an arm, suspending the need to endure.

Bertolt Brecht, being a Marxist and possessing much of the ideology's revolutionary spirit, taps into Man's impulse unto villainy in the way of the common man: the song-and-dance show! *The Threepenny Opera*, penned by Brecht and Kurt Weill, and appearing at the Hart House Theatre thanks to the UC Follies, is a circus sideshow of life's idolated immoralities, of whores and killers and beggars, parading through the proscenium.

And how do the UC Follies players pull it off? Well, suffice it to say, this production runs amiss when it proves to be a little too comfortable. The Weimarian Soho they've constructed onstage is impressive, but so much so that it seems to dwarf its cast's attempts to inhabit it. Admittedly, *The Threepenny Opera* is driven almost entirely by its leading cast, and in many cases they excel. One must here extend honours to the tremendous performances of Polly Peachum (Nicole Stawikowski) and the infamous anti-hero of popular song, Mack the Knife (Michael-David Blostein).

Polly, Mackie's wife, and otherwise the Opera's ditzy, porny, blonde is no dunce in Stawikowski's hands. Polly has a second, conniving face to her princess-poise, one Stawikowski plays so well that one cannot help but laugh when the cracks show in the veneer. Mackie Messer is a complex villain, as despicable as he is charming, a man completely safe inside his own animalism, recognizing it as the necessary reaction to his own poverty. Since both hatefulness and charisma are qualities of the soul, they are nigh-impossible traits to play well as an actor, but Blostein succeeds tremendously. He is the funniest man on the stage, all the funnier because the comedy is just a mask for something authentically cruel. He stabs a man and pauses to change his gloves, at once so sinister and so comic that you can't help but hope he doesn't hang.

The remaining performances, however, lack lustre. The Peachums, the guards, the thieves; they are all funny, but in the scope of the play their performances come off as rather quaint. This poses as a problem when a play clocks in three hours in length. The players' performance is too loose to in the scope of *The Threepenny Opera*, and it doesn't help that a good portion of the play's action takes place inside a prison cell that completely obscures the sight lines. Meanwhile, the orchestra clambers through Weill's famous score ham-fistedly — too understated to revel in the sheer bombast of the play's mock-caberet.

Brecht and Weill's production, when performed to its potential is raving, wild and uninhibited, an indulgent foray into the insidious, the two-faced and the debauched. Yet no matter how high they hike up their skirts, the Follies seem to fall short of the necessary kind of depraved abandon. Still, the UC Follies' *The Threepenny Opera* makes for boisterous entertainment.

War, what is it good for? (Good filmmaking?)

Oliver Sherman director Ryan Redford talks to **ALAN JONES** *about war on film*

There is a new director in Canada. He is quiet, unassuming, and young. He graduated from York University and his name is Ryan Redford. (No, he is not related to Robert.) He just made his first film, *Oliver Sherman*, starring Canadian thespians Garrett Dillahunt and Molly Parker, along with Donal Logue, who I am told is semi-American, but he "had been born in Ottawa and lived there for a couple weeks, but that counts," says Redford, referring to the requirement of a Canadian film to have Canadian cast in order to get Canadian money.

The film itself is a meditative look at the life of a couple of war veterans seven years after their service is finished. Why would a young, unassuming Canadian director want to make a movie about the experience of North American war veterans? "I don't see it as a political movie. I can't help if people are going to see that within it," says Redford. "Throughout the making of it there was some call from various people to make it a definitive Canadian Coming Home movie, because I guess there hasn't really been one, but that didn't really interest me." (Redford is referring to the classic Hal Ashby movie, starring Jane Fonda and Jon Voight, about returning Vietnam veterans). "I think it would be really arrogant and irresponsible of me, who doesn't have any experience with that, to attempt to make some definitive statement about it."

In *Oliver Sherman*, the title character (Dillahunt), suffering from PSTD, makes an unexpected visit to the house of a fellow former soldier, Franklin (Logan). Where Sherman is obsessed with war and cannot seem to get over it, Franklin has gotten married, raised children, and lives a functional life. In keeping with Redford's goal of not making a political film, it keeps many things vague or unsaid. We never learn when or where it's set; specific signifiers like license plates were altered give the film universal generalized feeling. "In order to keep it universal and in order for it to have this weird lyrical quality to it, I felt we had to strip that away." Redford adapted the screenplay from the short story "Veterans" by Rachel Ingalls, which displays a similar quality. "The short story is actually set after the Korean War, but otherwise, her stuff, and even that story, aside from the Korean element... in a good way there's this generic timeless quality to it."

This style is a hallmark of Redford's days as a student filmmaker at York and a director of short films in the years that followed. When talking about these films, he claims "they all had a very rural and other worldly lyrical quality to them. Between those five or six movies, they had maybe fifteen lines of dialogue," but his first feature film isn't quite so sparse: "I guess the leap was dialogue; it has more dialogue. That said, the dialogue is pretty stylized; it's not realistic dialogue, it's pretty austere literary dialogue." This austerity extends to the manner in which the themes of the film unfold. Redford wanted to question the "validity of violence as a way of life." The film deals with men who are capable of great violence and the potential for violence within the characters seems always to be lurking behind the performances, but Redford made a conscious decision not to depict any violence on screen. "There are two ways you can go about creating tension. You can be very graphic about something and you can underline it. You can have a score that's telegraphing it and telling you to feel intensely... or you can do the opposite, which is what I did, which is to constantly withhold and to exercise restraint and to take away. It was a decision from the get-go to never show anything happening on screen."

Considering the grimness of the story, I couldn't help but wonder what it must have been like on set. I remembered seeing a set photo of Mel Gibson filming *The Passion of the Christ* with a red clown nose on. "If it's grim on set, it's not grim because of the subject matter," he assures me, "it's the money that's going out the window, the weather's horrible and you need to get your scenes... Because of the subject matter was it grim on set? No." Well, that's good news, I suppose.



by ANDREW RUSK

Inniskillin International Series Gewürztraminer, 2008
Wine Rack, $9.99
(on sale from $14.95)

This was an exciting week for the under $10 wine community. Last month Starbucks launched a new "Trenta" cup size for their cold drinks. The cup is a whopping 31 ounces, roughly the size of five standard coffee cups. This week one enterprising wino realized you could fit an entire bottle of wine into one of these cups. This is going to change the way we think about summer wines, particularly Gewürztraminer.

Regular readers will be surprised that I am reviewing a Gewürztraminer in the coldest month of the year. A very sweet wine that comes from grapes that traditionally thrive in colder climates, it is off-dry and features floral undertones and a rich bouquet of lychee and passion fruit. Sweet white wines are normally reserved for the warmer summer months due to their fantastic pairing with grilled meat. The floral aromas of Gewürztraminer make this wine one of the few that pairs really well with Asian foods. The discounted price at the Wine Rack, however, made this bottle too tempting to pass up!

Buying discounted wines comes at a cost! A wine has a sweet spot, after it is bottled, when it is delicious. Left too long, however, the flavours of the wine begin to disintegrate. Bottled in 2008, the aroma of this wine began to blend together, with fewer distinct flavours than I would have hoped. Unless otherwise stated, a good rule is to try and drink white and red wine within 2 and 3 years respectively

Find Gewürztraminer in a liquor store is like spotting a unicorn. It doesn't happen often! If you see a Gewürztraminer in a store, especially if it's under $10, grab it up! You won't regret it. Pour into a Trenta cup and pair with a steaming bowl of bibimbap after a night of Karaoke.

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HEADLINES ON TRIAL

the power of evidence



In the first part of a multi-part series, ED PARKER *and* KORDAN HARVEY *explore the misinformation in health products and the need for scientific evidence*

We believe it was the great Charles Darwin who once declared that "good science is rather like one's wife; treat her properly and you'll be much happier for it." Or at least he might have said something like that. Maybe once.

In fact, we have no idea whether Darwin ever expressed anything along these lines. We have no evidence of him uttering these words. But why should that stop us from suggesting that he did? Surely it hasn't done any harm? Evidence is overrated anyway, right?

Unfortunately, it's not quite that simple. When you start to make claims without proper evidence, particularly when it comes to matters of public health, the consequences can be anything but harmless. Yet we seem to be remarkably tolerant of such declarations. The mainstream media in Canada, the US, and elsewhere are saturated with pseudoscientific misinformation: miracle cures, health scares, anti-vaccine conspiracies and, well, bullshit.

The common trend that links all of these issues is the distortion of scientific evidence. Whether it involves simply ignoring evidence completely, or cherry-picking irregular results, the tried and tested methods of good, fair, trustworthy science are being disregarded.

To start with, let's take a look at some of the problems with ignoring the need for scientific evidence completely, in the form of bogus health gadgets and other holistic enchantments. It may strike you that these are hardly pressing matters of concern for public health — and you're absolutely right. But they do serve as perfect examples of the common tendency of industries to willingly ignore the importance and necessity of scientific evidence. Especially when profits are involved.

An excellent example is the rapidly growing trend of the Power Balance band, a fashion accessory that now graces the wrists of professional athletes around the world, available for a mere $30 in a store near you. David Beckham's wearing one. Shaquille O'Neal's wearing one. Even Robert De Niro's wearing one. So what's all the fuss about?

This "performance technology" essentially consists of a silicone bracelet with a hologram on it. But wait. It's not just any old hologram. As stated on the official Power Balance website: "The hologram in Power Balance is designed to resonate with and respond to the natural energy field of the body."

Perhaps it's not surprising that these outlandish claims have attracted rather a lot of skepticism. But while it's very tempting to dive headlong into a discussion about the plausibility of the body's "natural energy field," this craze serves to highlight a far more subtle disregard for scientific formality. In this respect, a recent statement by the company is highly revealing:

"From its inception, Power Balance has lived and thrived in the ultimate testing environment: the real world. We continue to see, hear, and learn about how people believe our products have positively affected their lives."

So what's the problem? If people say that it works, why not believe them?

The trouble lies in the suggestion that the "real world" is a suitable environment to test whether something works or not. Quite to the contrary, our prior expectations and beliefs about a product can have a profound influence on our reaction to it, whether this involves a medical intervention or a performance-enhancing sports gadget.

What's more, this psychological boost, or placebo effect, could easily account for the perceived sporting prowess that comes with donning the mighty Power Balance.

When you start to make claims without proper evidence, particularly when it comes to matters of public health, the consequences can be anything but harmless.

And here is the crux of the matter. There are clear, logical, and scientific ways of testing whether a treatment effect is real or placebo-induced. You take a group of people you want to treat (preferably a pretty large group), you split them up at random, then you give half of them the product you want to examine and the other half a dummy product, without telling them which one they've received. Then it's simply a case of measuring which group performs better for the response you're interested in.

This, in brief, is a randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled trial. No sleight of hand. No incoherent "sciencey" methodology. A simple idea, which remains the defining template of clinical research.

Yet the proponents of the Power Balance bracelet do not see fit to formally test its efficacy using these fair and logical procedures. Indeed, their entire marketing strategy tiptoes around making any direct claims regarding the exact effects of the product.

Such deliberate ambiguity seems to be a recurrent theme of pseudoscientific misdirection. There is no scientific evidence for any physical benefits of wearing a Power Balance band. Yet profits rise, and one senses that the company will happily ignore the necessity of conventional scientific practices while this continues to be true.

And this is only the start. Walk into any naturopathic clinic or "wellness centre" and you will find an astounding array of health products, nutraceuticals, and supplements — an Aladdin's cave of remedies promising to improve your concentration, unblock your energy channels, and rid your body of toxins. Certainly these are amazing innovations. If only they had the rigorous evidence to back up their remarkable promises.

While seemingly harmless, these products knowingly hoodwink us into ignoring rational, evidence-based decision-making. There is no need to practice to improve your sporting abilities; just use an energy-channeling power bracelet. Don't feel like ditching the chips and getting on a treadmill? Try our clever new detox milkshake!

If we do not hold all claims to the same standards of evidence, it won't be long before we are all cleansing our colons with ground coffee and taking mutual fund advice from our horoscopes.

It's a slippery slope when we become surrounded with such gimmicks: the real message of sound, practical health advice gets lost in all the noise.

In an ongoing series, Ed Parker and Kordan Harvey will be exploring the many facets of the current epidemic of misinformation surrounding public health. In part two, they will dissect homeopathy: a vast industry founded on the sale of sugar pills. Part three looks at the equally disturbing subversion of sensible health advice by anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists. Finally, part four will end by examining how the innovation of the controlled, randomized clinical trial was in itself a public health revolution that continues to save millions of lives: a gold standard of good scientific methodology. Be sure to check out the next installment of *Headlines on Trial* later this month!

Unravelling the universe

According to experts at a recent astronomy symposium at U of T, 96 per cent of the universe makes no sense.

Cristina Olteanu
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

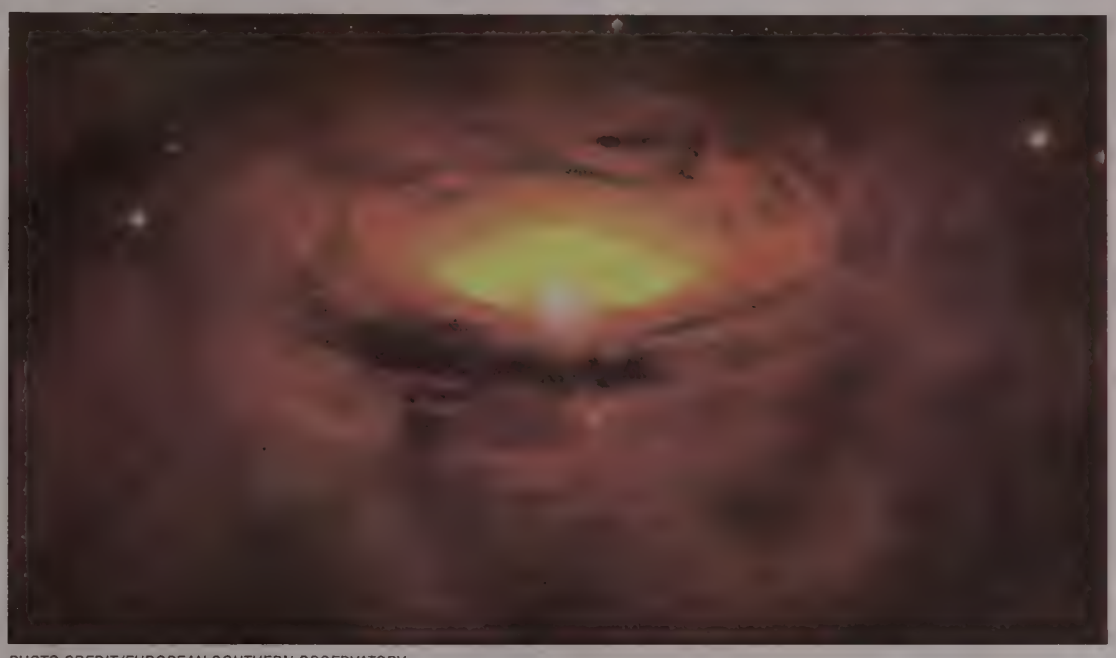


PHOTO CREDIT/EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY

There are 100 billion galaxies we can see from our planet Earth. But what else is out there?

At present, more is unknown than known when it comes to the universe. However, astronomers are still actively searching for answers. The eighth annual "Expanding Canada's Frontiers" symposium, organized by the U of T Astronomy and Space Exploration Society was held on Friday, January 28, 2011 at Convocation Hall. This year the event was called "Unravelling the Universe," and featured three speakers: Dr. Alexei Filippenko of UC Berkeley, Dr. Michel Levebvre of the University of Victoria, and Dr. Gilbert Holder.

Filippenko is one of the world's most widely cited astronomers, having published over 620 scientific publications. In addition, he has developed a robotic telescope, the Katzman Automatic Imaging Telescope, which conducts the most successful nearby Lick Observatory Supernova Search. His research involves supernovas, black holes, active galaxies, and the expansion of the universe.

In Filippenko's talk, the audience learned that exploding stars — called supernovas — are very luminous once they explode, but then fade away quickly. A galaxy produces one supernova every century, but with the 100 billion galaxies there are to observe, we never have to fear that astronomy students will run out of stars to study.

Filippenko is especially passionate about the subject of the expanding universe. Thanks to its uniform expansion, most nearby galaxies are moving away more slowly than those that are far away, he explained.

Not only a remarkable orator, Filippenko also amused the crowd with some jokes. The audience burst into laughter as he explained that the general public usually mixes up cosmology and cosmetology, remarking, "I do not give makeup exams."

The next speaker was Dr.Lefebvre who founded the Canadian ATLAS collaboration, which contributed to the creation of a particle detector that studies proton collisions from the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva.

In his talk, Lefebvre shed some light on the constitution of the universe. He explained that we only know about four per cent of the universe's make-up. The remainder is composed of things scientists cannot explai using conventional physics. For example. dark energy accounts for 73 per cent, dark matter makes up 23 per cent, while 3.6 per cent is intergalactic gas, and 0.3 per cent is made up of stars.

It therefore comes as no surprise when Lefebvre says that we are in fact "the debris of the universe." Dark matter is an intrinsic property of space, showing that empty space can be made up of energy. In fact, Einstein was the first to realize that empty space is not made up of absolutely nothing. Dark matter is another mysterious aspect of space, but we at least know that it is not a part of planets or stars, nor is it antimatter, since there are no gamma rays, which would normally be produced when matter mixes with antimatter. It is more widely believed that dark matter is composed of exotic particles such as WIMPs (Weakly Interacting Massive Particles) or axions.

Lefebvre also spoke of a possible fate of the universe: dark energy may become attractive instead of repulsive, at which point the universe will slow down and eventually come to a halt.

Dr. Holder, whose main research interests involve astrophysics and cosmology, primarily studies cosmic microwave background. He further emphasized Lefebvre's point on how much is left to discover about the universe.

Holder explains, "96 per cent of the universe makes no sense." The universe is expanding at a rate of one foot per nanosecond. One nanosecond after the Big Bang, the first photon and neutron were created. One minute after the Big Bang, helium, lithium, and hydrogen appeared. It then took 300,000 years to form the first atom.

Astrophysics, as Holder explains, "explores matter and space in the largest dimension." Where are the edges of the universe? Astronomers have yet to agree on an answer, but have proposed that it is either infinite or it wraps around itself.

Much to our relief, the sun will die slowly rather than explode in a supernova. The properties of space are just beginning to be discovered. An exciting future in space exploration awaits us.

Elementary, my dear Watson

IBM's supercomputer "Watson" is slated to compete on Jeopardy next week, to the delight of computer geeks everywhere. **JORDAN RIVERA** *uncovers the science behind the sensation.*

On February 14, 2011, Alex Trebek will play host to a battle of man versus machine.

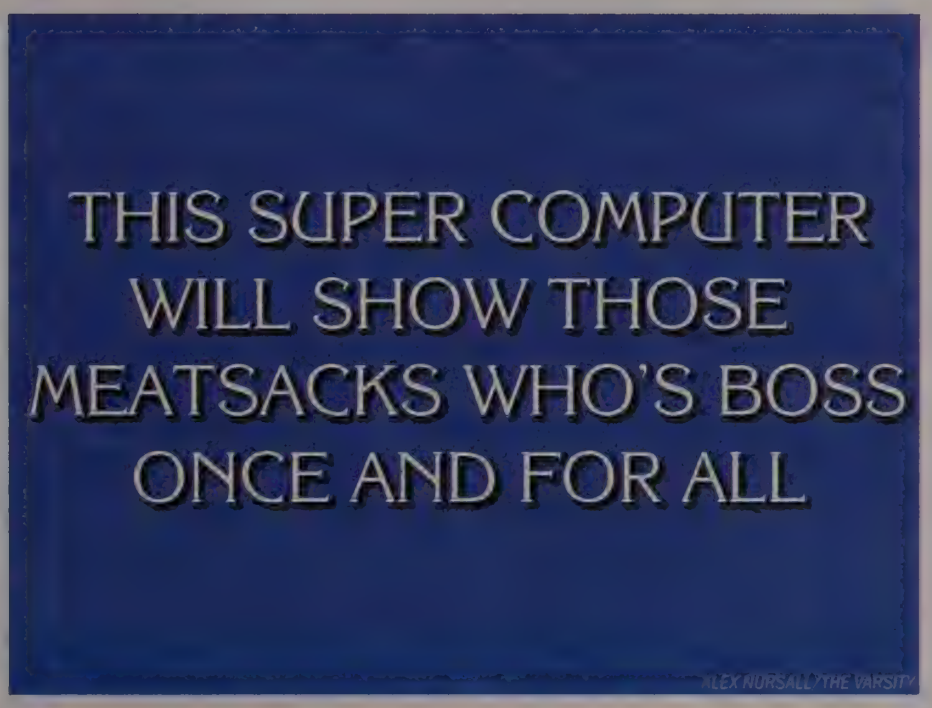
In a special edition of *Jeopardy*, IBM's deep analytics question-answer computer "Watson," named after IBM president Thomas J. Watson, will play against top *Jeopardy* winners Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter. IBM researchers hope to answer the question of how a computer will fare in a competition of knowledge retrieval and natural language processing when it's up against human players.

The rest of us are hoping for an answer to the question of whether a computer can ever be smarter than a human. Although it is tempting to pit this as a fight between artificial intelligence and human intelligence, it is much more important to consider it as an event with profound implications for understanding the nature of intelligence and what it means to be an intelligent being.

Watson represents a big step in IBM's long journey toward creating innovative intelligent machines. IBM's previous landmark was a computer named "Blue Gene," which scientists used to map the three billion base-pairs of the human genome. For Watson, the issue is instead to tackle a different but equally complex task: natural language.

"Language was an area that, even at the beginning of the computer era, people believed computers would be good at," says Dr. Bill Murdock, a Watson algorithms researcher. "So far, computers have failed."

From the beginning, the problem has always been "open question answering." This problem is very different from a simple search task that everyday computers are built for. It also more closely resembles how humans actually communicate.



"People can understand language because we relate it to our own thinking and our cognition," says Murdock. "Language is grounded in our experiences — not in a formal mathematical language that computers can only understand. Computers understand unambiguous things, not like human language."

Indeed, one of the most curious and impressive challenges will be testing Watson's ability to discern the many nuances, regionalisms, slang words, and short hand terms that run rampant in *Jeopardy* questions.

"*Jeopardy* is a playing field by which we can do some science," says Dr. Chris Welty. He explains that *Jeopardy* producers were at first hesitant about the idea, since they did not want the event to be a mere stunt or gimmick for their show. They reconsidered, however, when they realized the idea was not something to be passed off — a lucky break for IBM researchers, since *Jeopardy* provides the perfect conditions for testing a natural language processing machine.

"*Jeopardy* as the broad domain aspect asks all kinds of questions — something we really wanted to take on," says Welty. "And you have to work quickly. Technology must be responsive. We needed to make a system that can extract unique information from a large amount of general information, and faster than a human can."

Early tests showed that Watson's processing speed would be a major problem to overcome. Researchers used a process of putting as many algorithms as possible into the system, and then seeing which ones they could trust to provide a correct answer. The system works on parallel processing. Once Watson is fed a question, it activates all relevant algorithms, and cross-references them with the question. If there is a high degree of overlap or similarity between certain algorithms, this increases Watson's confidence that it has found the correct answer.

Watson can also input answers into its own system to see if the *Jeopardy* question appears. This further reinforces its confidence in its answer, highlighting the statistical basis of Watson's processing.

As one might guess, to be a competitive player at *Jeopardy*, Watson would need as many algorithms as possible, representing all available knowledge. Luckily, this obstacle was overcome thanks to the Internet, where vast amounts of information are now available digitally.

Watson represents IBM's most ambitious foray into deep analytics and natural language processing. However, Watson's early test matches were difficult for IBM researchers to watch:

SEE **'JEOPARDY'** – PG 16

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

Scientists identify new genetic variants linked with human height

While the genetic contributions to height have always been recognized, only recently have scientists begun to identify specific genetic variants dictating an individual's height.

Height is thought to be the product of variations at multiple genes, each producing a minor contribution. Researchers from The Children's Hospital in Philadelphia embarked on a genetic study of over 100,000 individuals in an attempt to identify variants contributing to adult height. Their method involved genotyping each individual, leading them to uncover 64 height-associated variants.

The scientists analysed the genomes by studying single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, which are a change in only one nucleotide of the genetic code. By genotyping uncommon SNP arrays — with a frequency of less than 5 per cent — new disease variants can be discovered, which could have been previously missed using common SNP arrays. However, these variants occur at a low frequency, which is why a large sample size is critical to detect them. Interestingly enough, these low-frequency variants actually have a greater independent effect than some of the more common variants.

This large collaborative study was published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

— NARDIN SAMUEL

Source: Cell Press

Brain activity linked to likelihood of quitting smoking

Want to quit smoking, but think you can't? A new study from the University of Michigan suggests that what you think may not necessarily correspond with your actual likelihood of quitting smoking.

Researchers took 28 heavy smokers and had them watch pro-health TV advertisements aimed at helping people quit smoking. They used fMRI, a scanning technology that measures brain activity, to see how the study participants responded to the ads. After seeing each ad, they also had the subjects rate how it affected their intention and confidence regarding quitting.

To follow up, the researchers contacted the participants one month after the scan to see how much they were smoking, and validated these reports by measuring the levels of carbon monoxide in their blood. Compared to smoking an average of 21 cigarettes a day before the study, participants reported smoking five cigarettes afterwards, which was consistent with measured carbon monoxide levels.

The researchers found a positive relationship between brain activity and quitting smoking, even in those participants who negatively predicted their likelihood of quitting. The principal investigator of the study, Emily Falk, commented, "It seems that our brain activity may provide information that introspection does not."

— MINA PARK

Source: National Science Foundation

'JEOPARDY' – CONTINUED FROM PG 15

Watson: "I Love Lucy for 800."

Question: "It is Ricky's signature tune and later the name of his club."

Watson: "What is song."

According to Dr. David Gondek, "Watson didn't have a good notion of what the answer type was, or what it was even being asked."

It would take two years for Watson to play at a competitive level. This was accomplished by building a computer the size of a classroom.

Dr. Eduard Hovy of the University of Southern California says the implications for such a machine will become more apparent and astounding once we can imagine a Watson the size of a PDA.

A more practical-sized Watson could be used in the healthcare industry. IBM researchers hope to build a Watson that can store all the medical information in the world — from illnesses to tried treatments — in order to provide information to doctors when treating patients. Doctors would be able to ask Watson to name all the treatments that have been performed for a particular ailment in the past, and choose one accordingly.

Lawyers could also benefit from Watson when searching for precedent cases, by asking it to name all of the cases similar to the one at hand. Watson would essentially make information retrieval more efficient using its ability to understand human language.

"Can you imagine computers communicating more fluently in natural language?" asks Welty. On February 14, we won't need to.

WHAT'S THAT IN MY FOOD

with *Mary Scourboutakos*

Acacia and guar gum!

Did you know that there are beans in ice cream and tree sap in candy? These days, there seems to be an increasing number of "gums," derived from all kinds of odd sources, appearing on food ingredient lists. From locust bean gum and cellulose gum to acacia and guar gum, these ingredients play many varied roles in the foods we eat.

Acacia gum, also known as gum Arabic, has been harvested from Acacia trees in North Africa, the Middle East, and West Asia since ancient times. It is produced from hardened sap. Chemically, it is composed of polysaccharides, which are essentially carbohydrates, and glycoproteins. Acacia gum can be found in beverages, gumdrops, marshmallows, and edible glitter.

On the other hand, guar gum can be found in baked goods, cheese spreads, dressings, meat products, and beverages. It is derived from guar beans primarily harvested in India and Pakistan, and functions as a thickener and binder. In the 1980s, guar gum was used as an over-the-counter weight loss drug, but has since been banned.

Gums are also noted for certain health benefits. In particular, guar gum is associated with relieving constipation, along with symptoms associated with Crohn's disease, colitis, and irritable bowel syndrome. It may even decrease cholesterol; however, more research is needed to confirm these benefits. Nevertheless, the concentrations of these ingredients, when they function as food additives, are not particularly high, and thus unlikely to exert these benefits.

Gums play a particularly important role in hydrocolloids — a term you might remember from your high school chemistry classes. A hydrocolloid is a system where particles are dispersed within water. Gums function as emulsifiers in hydrocolloid beverages. Therefore, their role is to keep the particles in beverages evenly dispersed, hence preventing sediment from collecting at the bottom of your glass.

Interestingly, gums aren't the only unique ingredients that serve this function. Another example of an additive that performs similar functions is carrageenan, which is seaweed extract. You may have noticed carrageenan listed as an ingredient in chocolate milk, where it functions to prevent the chocolate from settling at bottom of the carton.

Overall, gums are food ingredients that may sound suspicious, but in reality they're completely natural ingredients with few known side effects. Who knew the glitter on cupcakes was actually harmless? •



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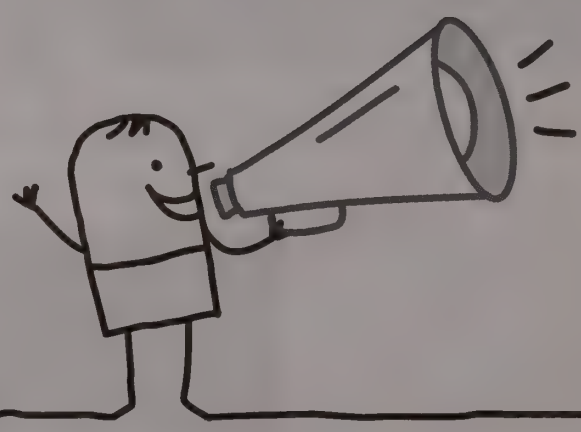
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Spotlight on: THE VARSITY BLUES WRESTLING TEAM

with CHARLOTTE TOMBS

Wrestling is a very intense, physically demanding sport, requiring superior agility and strength.

The Varsity Blues Wrestling Team is comprised of only four men and three women who are actively competing. The teammates practice together and with non-Blues wrestlers.

"We have some international wrestlers," says Blues wrestler Dene Ringuette. "Quite a few who are the best in Canada, who are almost uncontested."

There is a maximum of six practices per week. Some practices are devoted to technique, while others are solely devoted to matches. The intensity of the practice differs depending on whether or not a tournament is approaching.

"You have volume training, and then you have high-intensity low volume training before major events. This basically mimics what you do at competitions," says Ringuette.

Team members have the chance to improve their technique with members of other clubs who drop by to practice with the Blues. Teammates are supportive of each other, often acting like coaches for other wrestlers.

"At practice everyone works together," adds wrestler Alyssa James.

Although upon first glance wrestling may not seem safe, Riguette insists that, "Despite the fact that there are a lot of injuries, it is a very safe sport. I can't think of one that is that safe for how intense it is."

There are a few distinct styles of wrestling. Folkstyle wrestling is found in the United States and Cuba, while Greco Roman is most popular in Europe. The Varsity Blues wrestlers primarily compete in Olympic freestyle.

Folkstyle involves technique similar to freestyle, but with slightly different rules, while Greco Roman is entirely different. For Greco Roman, feet are not allowed to be used in any way — whether to take your opponent down or to escape a hold. Greco Roman wrestling involves more high-amplitude throws. Riguette won the Greco Roman Ontario Provincials last year, but his training is not focused on this style.

"It's certainly done as an afterthought here in Ontario. I guarantee that all my opponents see it as an afterthought," says Ringuette.

The team participates in up to eight tournaments per year within the university circuit, and in tournaments outside the circuit, including provincials and nationals. At every tournament, each match is best two out of three, two-minute rounds. Matches last between four and six minutes.

An exception occurs if an athlete executes a five-point takedown: this occurs rarely and only if the opponent's heels go over their head during the course of the throw.

"The criteria for a five-point take down is that during the course of a throw or a leg takedown, their feet have made an arc, meaning their feet have gone head over heels," says Riguette.

This takedown ends the match.

Another possibility is the one-point takedown which is when you take the opponent down by grabbing their feet and putting them into a non-dangerous position, like on their back.

There's also the two-point takedown.

"For two-points you'd have to expose their back to the mat while par terre (on the ground)" says James.

A three-point takedown is from "feet to back" — when you take the opponent by their feet, they must end up on their back.

If the score is zero-zero when time is up, the tie-breaks are decided by flipping a coin.

"One person gets to grab the other's leg — if they score, they win. If they don't score, the other person wins," says Ringuette.

If the final score is a tie but not zero-zero then the last athlete who scored wins the match.

At both competitions and practices the Varsity athletes get to compete against and practice with players from all around the world, always learning new techniques and styles.

"Often I find that Russians are the best wrestlers. Their style is more balanced, more like a chess match," says Ringuette. "They never seem to beat up an opponent. That's more the American style. The Russians are focused on deception, and I find that it works better. It's not about trying to sneak in there quick. Instead, they'll set you up at the beginning."

Both James and Ringuette say they enjoy wrestling because there are always new techniques to be learned, it is physically intense, and it is an individual sport. Although the team boasts some elite wrestlers, it also welcomes those who are new to the sport.

"If you want to join, just come to practice, and if you work hard enough, you'll get to compete," says James.



The Varsity Blues wrestlers at a practice last week. *DAN EPSTEIN/VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

A good sport

Remembering Brendan Burke

It's been one year since Leafs GM Brian Burke lost his son

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday marked one year since Brendan Burke, son of the Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Brian Burke, died in a car crash during a snowstorm in Indiana not unlike the massive blast of winter that just passed us here.

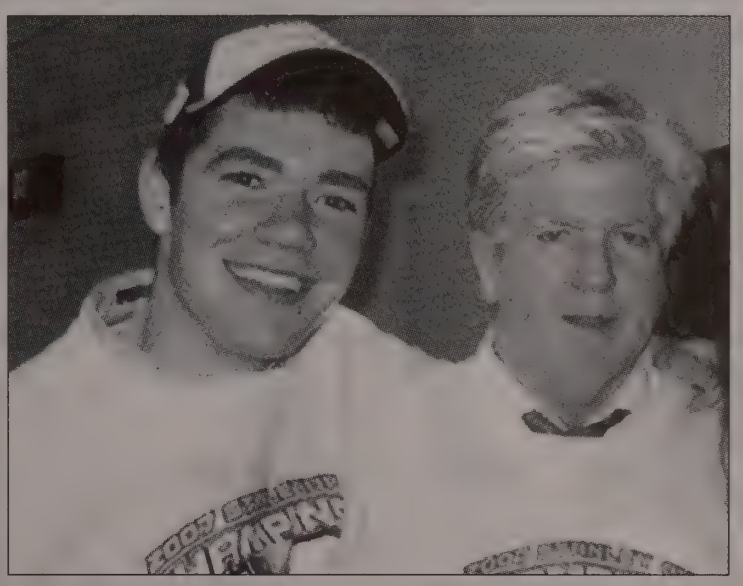
Of course, the story at face value is enough to be terribly sad — a 21-year-old dying suddenly under circumstances that could have easily struck anyone is scary. While his father did such a valiant job of masking his pain in public, it was hard to watch it slip through.

It's not as if tragedy has never struck high-profile figures such as Brian Burke in hockey-crazed Toronto, but Brendan's death was exceptionally unnerving because of his own high-profile act just several months before.

In late November of 2009, about two months before his death, he came out to a magazine writer, and with his involvement with his university's hockey team in a support capacity, became the first openly gay person involved in higher-level hockey.

An openly gay person in a sport not known as gay-friendly by any stretch is enough of a story in itself, but the stature of Brian Burke only added to Brendan's feat. What did the rough-around-the-edges, super-alpha, long-time advocate of fighting in hockey Brian Burke think of his son's sexuality?

Brian was just fine with it. He did a Hockey Night in Canada interview with his son in which he declared that homophobia, as far as he was concerned, had no place in professional hockey. He claimed that we would have to be fools to think that there were not several closeted gay people already in pro sports.



Brendan Burke, left, pictured here with his father Leafs GM Brian Burke.

At the time it seemed, and still seems, that Brendan's coming out was a major first step towards having an openly gay athlete on the field, court, or ice some day.

Since Brendan's death Brian has become an outspoken advocate for eliminating homophobia and other forms of discrimination from sports and other areas of life. He's spoken to high school Gay-Straight Alliances and marched in PRIDE. He's collaborating with a former NFL commissioner, whose son is also gay, to eliminate homophobia in sports.

For Brian Burke the world keeps spinning, unfortunately without his son. But his continued advocacy means he can find peace in the fact that a lot of people, both in and out of sports, are profoundly grateful for his choice to take up the fight of eliminating intolerance, and that Brendan would be awfully proud of him.



Reliving the perfect season

Women's hockey commemorates 2000–2001 accomplishment with a victory over York

PHOTOS BY ALEX NURSALL

The University of Toronto celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Varsity Blues women's hockey team's perfect 35-0-0 season in 2000–2001 on Saturday at Varsity Arena. The 16 players and eight staff members who were part of the OUA and CIS title-winning squad were honoured. This year's Blues (14-11-0) faced-off against the York Lions (11-14-0), winning 3-1 and securing an OUA playoff spot.







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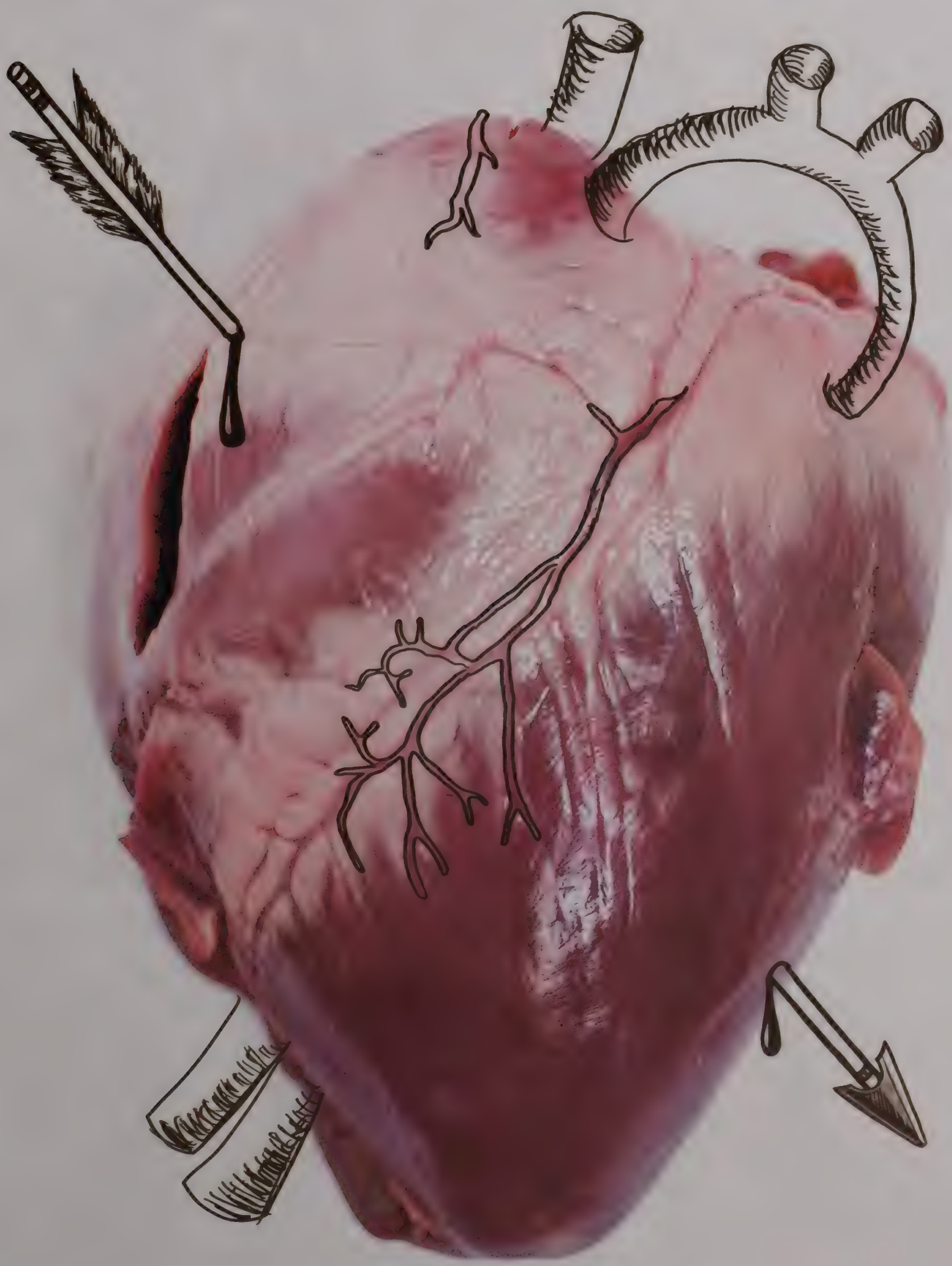
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THE VARSITY



LOVE & SEX ISSUE



BSA GETS DOWN. TO. FASHION.

Last Saturday the BSA hosted "Down. To. Fashion.", their annual fashion show.

photos by **DAVID PIKE**















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GETTING AROUND

UTSC TTC express axed

Public outcry disregarded by TTC, students inconvenienced.

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

After hearing nine hours worth of pleas from riders to save their bus routes, the Toronto Transit Commission voted to cut service on 41 bus routes, including the 116 Morningside Express; one of only three buses running at the University of Toronto Scarborough, rousing a backlash from students.

The public forum, which took place February 2 at City Hall, saw the TTC agree to reduce service on 41 out of the initial 48 buses considered to have low ridership, effective May 8.

"At a time [when] we have the highest ridership growth that we've seen in our city, it's not on these routes," TTC Chair Karen Stintz said during the meeting.

"We need to put the resources where the greatest good will be served," Stintz added, referring to the $4-million left over from the cuts, which will be reallocated to busier routes.

Of the 41 service changes, 10 are in Scarborough. The 116E, the only bus that travels directly between Kennedy Station and UTSC, will be one of the hardest hit.

"As a commuter campus, transit is an essential service for UTSC," said Pagalavan Thavarajah, vice president external of the Scarborough Campus Students' Union. From a frequent service, the 116E will cease all operations on weekends, holidays, and after 10 p.m. on weekdays. "With students coming from all over the GTA, the drastic changes made to the 116E have already been [ill-received] by TTC riders all throughout campus."



A public forum saw the TTC agree to reduce service from 41 bus routes. *REMI CARREIRO/THE VARSITY*

Kieran Way, an International Development major said, "I usually take the 116E right after my 10 p.m. Economics lecture, but since service on weekdays will soon stop after 10 p.m., it will put me and my fellow students at a great disadvantage."

With midterms just around the corner, more students have been studying late on campus or even visiting the library on weekends, according to Yusef Dualeh, an English major. "Transit is an important part of UTSC, and reducing its service hours will not only inconvenience students but will also deprive them of study time, which is invaluable in university."

Thavarajah pointed out that the cuts will not only undermine UTSC's growth but Scarborough's as well. "Over the years, Scarborough has become a neglected portion of this city. It has tried many times to make itself a more visible and important part of Toronto's cultural fabric, but with Transit City gone and the cuts coming in effect, Scarborough's already loose ties to the city will only weaken."



We hear it's election season.

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CAMPUS HOUSING

U of T leases land to private developer

Knightstone promises "resort style" living

Yeamrot Taddese
VARSITY STAFF

U of T plans to lease a part of the school's land to a private developer to construct a student residence worth $120-million.

Knightstone Capital Management Inc., a Toronto-based company, plans to erect the building east of Spadina Avenue on College Street.

"Knightstone is a well-known and well-respected developer of institutional buildings. They approached U of T with a proposal to build a residence, partly on U of T-owned land," said U of T spokesperson Laurie Stephens.

"U of T reviewed the proposal and gained approval from the Governing Council to lease the land to Knightstone to build a privately owned and operated residence."

If the City of Toronto approves the building, Knightstone wants to start construction as early as this spring.

The 40-storey building is expected to help alleviate the lack of housing on campus, especially for international and graduate students.

Stephens said that living in a privately-owned building will not be much different from living in one fully owned by U of T.

"There are currently some 10 privately owned and operated residences in the surrounding neighbourhoods. There may be no difference whatsoever," she said.

"The developer has indicated an interest in providing the standards for residences and services equal to those of the university. Where any of the private residences do not live up to our standards, U of T does not recommend that residence to students."

The cost of living in the condo-style residence, Stephens said, will be "in line with other public and private housing facilities in the downtown Toronto area."

The *Globe and Mail* reported that students will pay an amount close to that of Chestnut Residence, about $10,000 for a single room per school year.

Knightstone will receive payment from students and pay the university some amount in rent. U of T could not reveal the amount it will receive in rent payments as it is "a commercial agreement."

On its website, Knightstone boasts about its ability to fill the housing void in universities by providing students with "an amenity-rich student living experience consisting of advanced technology, private baths, and resort-style facilities and services."

International student Hiwot Telaye, who studies nutritional science and economics, moved into a downtown apartment after she wasn't able to find accommodation in one of U of T's residence buildings.

But when it comes to housing, Telaye said sophisticated "resort-

SEE 'PRIVATE REZ' – PG 8

PARTISAN ACADEMIA?

Conservative staffer accepts post with U of T

Guy Giorno insists partisanship will not affect work at school

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

"Pleased to be a new Fellow at the University of Toronto School of Public Policy & Governance," read Guy Giorno's Twitter account on January 11, 2010. Previous tweets read, "Fact that the Conservative brand is stronger than it was and the Lib/Lib leader brand is weaker," and "Still trying to justify your false, market-moving story on potash? Pathetic, Don. Just apologise and move on," directed at CTV show-host Don Martin.

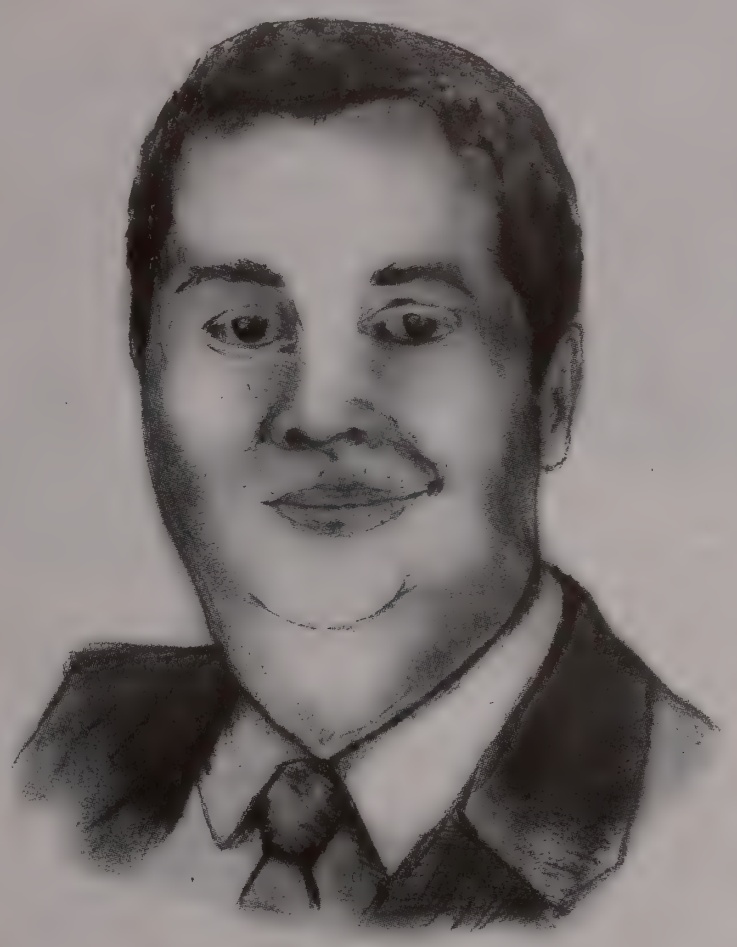
The fact that Giorno has a Twitter account alone distinguishes him from many of his colleagues at U of T; not to mention its content, which often includes back-and-forths with Canada's most prominent political pundits.

So, who is this most recent addition to U of T's MPP program's Fellows?

Until December 2010, Giorno was chief of staff to Prime Minister Harper, a position he held for two and a half years. Prior to that, Giorno served as chief of staff to then-Premier of Ontario Mike Harris, another Conservative leader. Giorno's formal education was all at the University of Toronto: he studied science as an undergraduate at St. Mike's, opting to go straight into U of T Law before finishing his B.Sc. He graduated with a law degree in 1989, and began practicing in 1991.

Throughout his time in university, though, Giorno was also learning about the formation of policy. "on the ground."

"I have been interested in public policy for a long time, and in politics," he said. "I was an undergraduate student at St. Mike's college, and then I went to the law school and as you will know from your geography of the university, the law school is just directly across the park from the legislature. During my second and third years of law school-I don't think the faculty approved of this-I had a part-time job while I was a law student, working at the MPP's legislature. So I would finish class and run across the park and do work in the legislature, and then run back across the park, so I was very much involved in politics and in government and the legislative process even when I was a U of T student, and maintained my involvement after I graduated, when I practiced law."



CORRIE JACKSON/THE VARSITY

Giorno says that the MPP program, which didn't exist in his day, "is a great opportunity that people like me never had...what a fantastic degree to go into so many fields with a real, practical sense of how policy is developed, how Canadians are governed."

It is true that our system of government is a political system, and it is a partisan system, and it is made up of partisan actors in the governing system and people who work with them.

— Guy Giorno

The program marks a recent shift in master's programs from research-based work ostensibly leading to further academia, to more course-based and experiential programs designed to prepare students for jobs. The MPP program, now in its fourth year, offers core courses in public policy as well as electives within the school and university specializing in either domestic or global policy. In addition to their courses, students are required to work in a sector of public policy, whether in government or a non-profit organization, as a component of their degree. A two-year program, the school's material describes "invited visiting public sector leaders and external researchers bridg[ing] theory and practice, providing contact with senior professionals in government and the broader public, private and community sectors."

Giorno looks forward to filling

SEE 'GIORNO' – PG 8

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ROBARTS

400 years old and still kicking

Bible exhibit includes Coronation Bible once owned by Vincent Massey



"Great and Manifold: A Celebration of the Bible in English" runs until June 3.
NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND/FLICKR

Carolyn Arnett
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library opened an exhibition to celebrate the Bible. "Great and Manifold: A Celebration of the Bible in English" is running until June 3 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Version. The free exhibit includes more than 90 items ranging from the Codex Torontonensis circa 1070, to the Robert Crumb graphic novel, The Book of Genesis Illustrated, published in 2009.

"[The King James Version] achieved iconic status by being the one thing that united a fractured English Protestantism from the mid-sixteenth to the twentieth centuries" says organizer Pearce Carefoote. This exhibit comes "400 years after the summoning of the convocation at Hampton Court by King James at which the decision to translate was first made." The project has been in the works since 2004.

Included in the collection is a first edition of the King James Version, which is also known as the Authorized Version, even though King James never insisted that this be the only version of the Bible allowed in England. Also of interest is The Wicked Bible from 1631, which was ordered to be destroyed after only 1000 copies were made. It was realized that the omission of the word "not" from Exodus 22:14 meant that the Bible said, "Thou shalt commit adultery." This is one of the rarest Bibles in the world. The Wicked Bible, along with the first edition King James Version, belongs to the library's permanent collection.

Carefoot is very proud of the Coronation Bible they have displayed that originally belonged to Governor General Vincent Massey. Printed under the direction of Charles Batey, Printer to the University of Oxford, this Coronation Bible is number 17 of the 25 that were made. "[The Coronation Bible has] one of the most amazing design bindings in the exhibition — very startling for a Bible."

The collection also includes a first copy of the King James Version to be printed and bound in Canada, and only dates back to 1944.

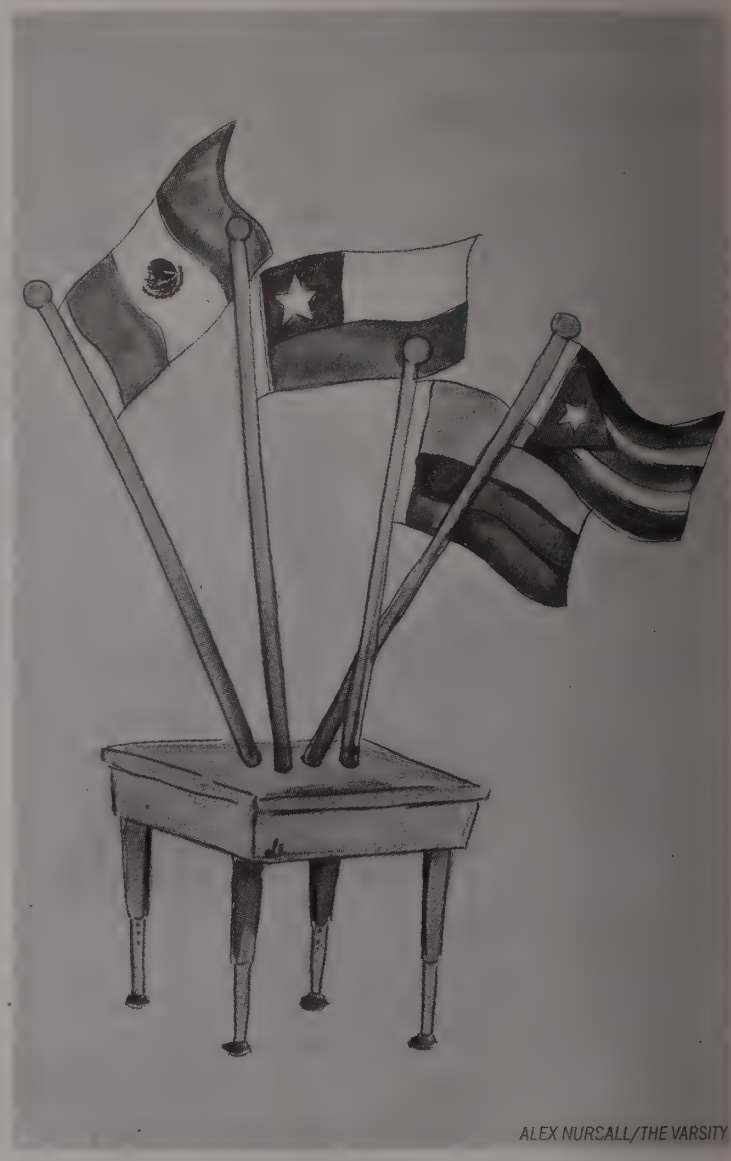
Carefoot suggests that the King James Version is more than a religious book; it is a work of literature designed to be read aloud possessing a "melody, rhythm, and cadence that subsequent translations have not been as successful in achieving."

OISE

Study finds Spanish discrimination in schools

Better support suggested for improving student performance

Dwayne G. White
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

A newly released OISE study has found that Spanish-speaking high school students encounter an overwhelming amount of discrimination in Toronto from peers and educators.

The report, entitled "Proyecto Latino Year 1," was completed in collaboration between OISE's Centre for Urban Schooling and the Toronto District School Board and is the first of its kind in Canada. The study follows an April 2008 report from the TDSB that suggested Spanish-speaking students ranked consistently among the lowest for achievement and standardized literacy tests. In addition, 40 per cent of these students did not graduate from high school.

"Developing strategies for addressing these challenges is a major challenge, since there is very little research about the experiences of Latino students in the context of either Toronto schools in particular or Canadian schools more generally," said lead researcher and OISE Professor Rubén A. Gaztambide-Fernández.

"While much more research is needed, this report offers some initial insights about the schooling experiences and engagement processes of Spanish-speaking students in Toronto schools."

The study included 60 students from six high schools across Toronto in varying socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of academic achievement. Students participated in focus groups, individual interviews, and a survey.

Key factors that emerged from the student participants as barriers for Spanish-speaking students included: systematic issues in Toronto schools, the media, and work-school balance. While other groups of visible minorities encountered discrimination, the study suggests that the key difference pertaining to systematic issues was the lack of availability of proper levels of course work, primarily because of linguistic challenges.

"In this situation it's not about what's available but about the kind of decisions made or being made by or on [Latino students] behalf," said Gaztambide-Fernandez.

"Structure of schooling ends up steering certain students into certain tracks... poor students and students of colour will be geared towards the trades and technical class and applied courses as opposed to university courses."

The study also points to structural problems in the media as reinforcing racism and stereotypes, usually depicting gang-related violence as being a "Mexican" issue. Compared to the United States, there are also relatively fewer Latin American subjects found in the media.

While the students interviewed recognized the importance of education in attaining good jobs, the study found that these students often worked unconventional jobs to accommodate for their poor economic status, many working from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and still attending school.

The study suggested several options for improving support for these students, including better support for new immigrants, peer-to-peer support programs, part-time job opportunities, courses in Latin American history and culture, and opportunities for students to recognize teachers with whom they have positive and encouraging relationships.

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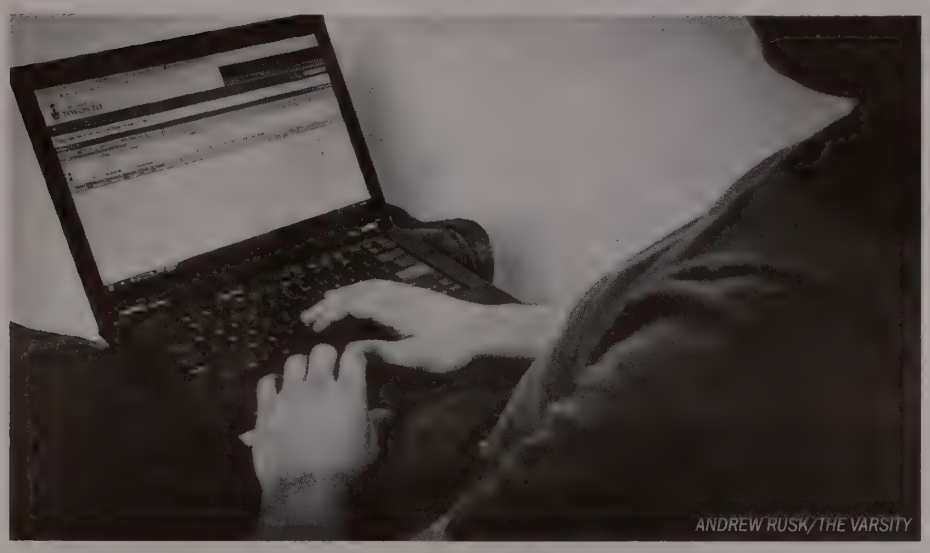
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CAMPUS MAIL

U of T planning to outsource e-mails to Microsoft

Concerns about new system addressed



ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

In the middle of talks with Microsoft, U of T is planning to adopt Live@edu as its new email service, replacing UTORmail.

The move to Microsoft comes after four community consultations attempted to identify students' email needs. Chief Information Officer Robert Cook and his team found that UTORmail is "near-end-of-life" and no longer meeting demands.

They concluded that developing a new system built especially for the university will be too costly, recommending that the university consider a more cost-effective partnership with Microsoft.

"Outsourcing is definitely a good step by the university, but given an option, I'd rather switch to Gmail than to Live@edu because of its cleaner interface," said Andrew Butson, a history major. Director of Information Security Martin Loeffler disagrees.

"We had to choose between Google's innovation and Microsoft's stability, and we felt that with Live@edu, we can expect more consistency," explained Loeffler. "It's a trade-off that U of T will benefit from."

Live@edu will offer 10GB of memory space compared to UTORmail's 100MB capacity. The new service will have a "more sophisticated" calendaring system and include new additions like SkyDrive file storage, Microsoft Office web applications, instant messaging, audio and video chat, and mobile browsing.

"Once U of T and Microsoft agree on the contract, the university will surely see an explosion in communication," gushed Cook.

But while most agree that U of T is making a smart move, some still have reservations about the incoming change.

"As much as I support the university's decision, I want to make sure that none of these new offerings will come at a price," said English and Women's Studies Major Janelle Velina.

But Loeffler assures that though the university will incur some costs for implementing the new system, the service will be free for all students.

Charissa Hussain, a Psycholinguistics major is mainly concerned with Blackboard's connectivity. "I usually receive announcements from Blackboard through UTORmail and having this feature will probably be the deciding factor of whether or not the students support the new system."

To ease Hussain's concern, the contract outlines that the new email system will not only support Blackboard but ROSI as well. There will be no advertising or data-mining and the content will be owned by the university and the students themselves. All emails will also be subject to the laws of Canada while passwords will be under the supervision of U of T.

Research done by Cook and his team found that 28 per cent of institutions in the US have outsourced email providers, rising from a mere five per cent two years ago.

Out of all the major Canadian universities, University of Alberta was the first to enter a contract with Google while others are still in the process of considering the switch.

"The best possible scenario is that we will have a pilot set up around May, start rolling it out for incoming students by September and migrate current students to the system beginning fall," said Cook.

New accounts will be under the domain "mail.utoronto.ca" while old users have the option of switching to the new provider and forwarding content to their emails.



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GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL
Spring 2011-12 Election
Call for Nominations

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- other matters, as appropriate

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- School of Graduate Studies

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NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 5:00 PM MONDAY, February 28, 2011

For more information contact: Governance & Policy Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies, 65 St. George Street, Toronto, ON, M5S 2Z9 • www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/gec/elections.htm
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Describe your worst Valentine's Day ever.

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Noah

4th Year Biochem,
"Having to sit through the movie 'Valentine's Day'. It was absolutely terrible."



Josh

1st Year Engineering,
"They've all been pretty boring. I think I'll be studying for this one."



Jonathan

2nd Year Architecture,
"People who have bad Valentine's Days aren't doing it right."



Josh

3rd Year Cognitive Science,
"Sitting at home, crying...while masturbating."



Alice

2nd Year Art History,
"I spent one in a motor home that didn't run. Paper hearts hung from the ceiling and then the White Russians ruined it. Worst hangover ever."



Vanessa

2nd Year Biotechnology,
"This one. I'll be spending it with a four-hour chem lab and then two midterms."



Julia & Ana

2nd Year Immunology,
"Her boyfriend was a douche, she came crying to me, then we locked eyes... shit went down."



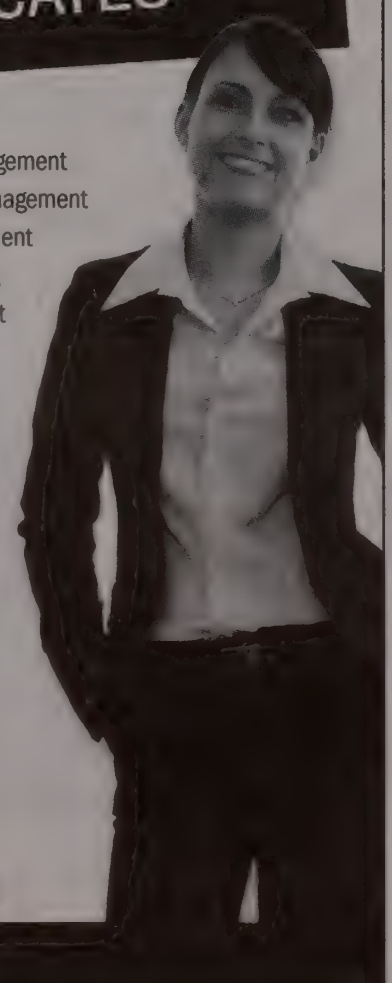
Adrian

4th Year Women's Studies,
"I didn't have my license, so we took the Viva bus. At least I paid for her ride and sprung for the comfier seats!"

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'PRIVATE REZ' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

style" living is not a priority.

"International students don't come here for luxury; they're here for the education," she said.

"Considering how pricey tuition is already for international students, the least we'd expect is to have an affordable accommodation."

Telaye, who pays about $9,000 a year for her apartment, wants to move out for the next school year to find a cheaper option.

"I don't want to move further away from campus, but it's just very expensive," she said.

Trent University has also been looking at private dwelling options on campus, but students voted against the proposal in a referendum in 2008.

A group called No Private Residence at Trent Coalition, made up of students and university staff, went as far as running a banner ad on city buses that read, "Don't let Trent sell out our campus to commercial interests."

The Knightstone residence will also house students from other universities.

'GIORNO' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

that role. "I'm very much looking forward to this — and I'm excited at the very concept that there is such a school, which is unique," he said. Specifically, Giorno anticipates, "working with students, speaking to them, coaching them — anyone who has an interest in practical public policy — facilitating debates, and being able, in a real and practical sense, to actually talk about how public policy is made."

A shadowy figure. He is rarely seen but his influence is felt everywhere.

— Jane Taber

He believes his experience provides "a fantastic window on that process [of public policy]...having been there, having been in the room, having heard cabinet ministers."

Giorno, in his time as a political staffer, has been criticized as hyper-partisan, charged with contributing to the increasingly divisive nature of Canadian politics. Jane Taber of the *Globe and Mail* described him as "a shadowy figure. He is rarely seen but his influence is felt everywhere."

Giorno insisted unequivocally that his partisanship will not affect his work in the school. "Oh no, not at all, not at all, not at all. The purpose of the school is to have healthy debates, discussions, and to teach about how things work and how public policy is developed and formulated and how Canadians and Ontarians are governed."

He qualified, though, that "it is true that our system of government is a political system, and it is a partisan system, and it is made up of partisan actors in the governing system and people who work with them," crediting the school for offering a mix of partisan and non-partisan (public service) perspectives, as well as both Conservative and Liberal-aligned fellows.

At the end of January, Giorno was appointed national campaign chair of the Conservative party. It is unclear when he will act in this capacity, though, as Prime Minister Harper has maintained he does not want an election in the near future.

Stepping Down

The resignation of RCMP Commissioner William Elliott would be a terrible thing to waste

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

Last week, the RCMP's highest-ranking official, Commissioner William Elliott announced his early resignation. In comments he made after the announcement, Elliott expressed his wish that the prime minister not appoint another civilian to replace him. Instead, he argued that the government should look for new leadership from within the ranks in order to smooth the path of reform he himself spearheaded since taking charge. Combined with revelations by another retiring Mountie about plummeting morale, Elliott's resignation puts the RCMP's future deeply in doubt. Paradoxically, this might be just the right time for the government to take action to shake up the force.

The government should start by respectfully declining to follow Elliott's advice and appointing another outsider to lead the force, unless it can find an insider who can play the reform game without caving into the RCMP's notoriously narrow-minded corporate culture. The search for an outsider should extend beyond the federal public service. Perhaps there is such an outsider to be found among the leadership of the Ontario Provincial Police or the Sûreté du Québec (Quebec's provincial police force). It is more likely, however, that the government could find someone within the Canadian Forces, preferably a tough leader with military police experience.

Once the government finds a suitable candidate, it should work hard to ensure that the new commissioner wins the confidence of the RCMP's upper brass and the rank and file. As Elliott found, this will not be easy to do, but is crucial for any reform efforts. The commissioner needs to make clear that, while he or she respects the RCMP's culture and history, Canada has changed since the 1920s and the foce must change with it in order to remain releveant. This means first and foremost: real civilian control.

The Conservatives should expedite legislation they introduced in the spring to overhaul the RCMP's complaints commission and ensure that the new commission has the funding and staff it needs to do its work. Moreover, they should also clarify that commission's duty to oversee the RCMP's whole portfolio of responsibilities, including counter-terrorism. The commission's staff should be trained by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, which has set the gold standard in civilian police oversight. Federal prosecutors should also make clear their intention to punish misbehaviour in the ranks. "Tough on crime" means tough on all crime, including crimes committed by police officers.

The government should also support the implementation of Elliott's internal reform plans for the RCMP, including the creation of regional command structures which would give provincial RCMP leadership greater independence in exchange for greater responsibility. The government should not give into the temptation fuelled by Elliott's speculation last autumn that the RCMP should be made into an arms-length agency like the Canada Revenue Agency or Statistics Canada. While clarifying the agency's independence from politicians is an admirable goal, it should come at the end, rather than at the beginning of a major reform process. Until then, the federal government needs to assert strong external control.

The path to medium and long-term reform for the RCMP is less clear, but should certainly attempt to tame the force's reckless and secretive culture. Eventually, the government should encourage cities and provincial governments to take over their own policing as budgets and populations warrant. Though there is a risk that the proliferation of new police forces could lead to oversight shortfalls, greater local ownership over the police might well help curb abuses. A fair number of the problems plaguing the RCMP come from the difficulty of managing a force responsible for everything from stolen cars in Surrey, to counterfeiting in Toronto, to counterterrorism in Montreal.



CORRIE JACKSON/THE VARSITY

A leaner RCMP could focus more clearly on what should be its core responsibilities. It would be easier to monitor because the civilian oversight staff would have fewer types of cases to review and could develop the expertise which characterises the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's review body. The government should express its intention to explore possibilities for change by commissioning a major public report on national policing arrangements in other countries, especially federations like Australia and the United States. This would provide the basis for much-needed, but very difficult reforms the RCMP.

None of these changes will be easy, but they are deeply needed. Nowhere is this clearer than in the countless communities where the stories of RCMP abuses are so com monplace that bad apples alone cannot be to blame. The RCMP and the Canadian public deserve to be proud of the force's future as well as its history. We must demand that the government assert its control over the Mounties and ensure that they get moving on these crucial reforms. The first step is a new commissioner, but as we saw with Elliott, he or she will get nowhere without serious government support.

Low definition

David Cameron's confused attempt to re-imagine a multicultural society

Fatima Syed
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

After British Prime Minister David Cameron's speech in Munich stating the failure of 'multiculturalism' just last week, the world is brimming with debate on what seems to be one of the most sensitive and emotional topics in politics. The doubt lies in the lack of clarity in defining the term. Can something fail if no one knows what it means or what it stands for? Can something be resolved if there is no definitive understanding of precisely what it is?

In his speech David Cameron defines "the doctrine of state multiculturalism" as a strategy which has "encouraged different cultures to live separate lives, apart from each other and apart from the mainstream". He states that government has failed to provide the means of a community to which they can belong and thus led to people being able to tolerate segregated communities rather than learn how to integrate their different ideals into a common identity. The idea that David Cameron touches upon is that current definitions of multiculturalism are out-of-date as they suggest separateness, when in fact it should be the basis of policies that aim to integrate society and asserts a sense of one national identity.

But that is David Cameron's view of multiculturalism. The Oxford English Dictionary offers a broad definition stating it is "the policy or process whereby the distinctive identities of the cultural groups within such a society are maintained or supported". So is multiculturalism simply the acceptance of societal and cultural differences and its accommodation rather than their integration as Cameron suggests it? 'Tolerance' and 'integration' are two terms that are at separate ends of the spectrum of community values. One has the 'live and let live' motto attached to it while the other instills a sense of 'it doesn't matter if you're Christian, Muslim, or Jew, you are British'. But neither mindset exists in today's world.

In essence Cameron is saying that tolerance of many cultures, as the core approach of reaching a state of multiculturalism in the past, is wrong because any society and any state requires a strong element of shared values if it is to function well and in this he is correct. But one has to question whether there is enough room in not only British society but in any society around the world for societal diversity to evolve into a common accepted culture. Then one has to consider that there are as many cultures in society as there are people- no one person shares the same values and ideals. Cameron states British culture as having 'muscular liberalism', and factoring in that individual freedom of choice is an important notion.

'Tolerance' and 'integration' are two terms that are at separate ends of the spectrum of community values.

Is it possible to create the kind of pluralism that Cameron wants without creating a chaotic society? Will it bring everlasting peace? Trying to integrate society under the banner of multiculturalism is a bold move by the British Prime Minister, but one wonders if he has thought it through. Ultimately his task lies in somehow linking together disparities of religion and individualism to create a 'multiculturalist society' — a very different problem indeed.

What is StudentPac?

TAYLOR SCOLLON *outlines the purpose and misson of the new student political group*

$745,000. That's how much of our student fees the University of Toronto Students' Union spent on their own salaries last year. For that sort of money, you would expect progress on the issues that matter to students. But year after year, tuition goes up, clubs continue to operate on shoestring budgets, and the largest university in Canada hosts a homecoming that's both underfunded and underwhelming.

StudentPAC was formed by a group of students who think that we can do better. It's not a political group. We are not affiliated with any party, ideology, or movement. Our members come from every college, faculty, and campus at the university. In a packed room at Hart House in October, this diverse group of ordinary students came together to share their ideas for a better university. We found that most people were concerned about the same core issues: their money, their clubs, and their social life.

These may be the issues that most students care about, but they are not the issues that UTSU has chosen to spend our student fees working on. Instead, they have put our money to use furthering their own personal pet projects. These may be worthy causes, but they are not the causes that matter to students. StudentPAC's mission is to make sure that UTSU spends our money on the things that matter to us.

For the past few months, we have been attending UTSU commission sessions and the Annual General Meetings and General Assembly. We have been asking UTSU the questions that matter to students. Why does our tuition keep rising even though UTSU promised to lower it? Why do our clubs only get a fraction of the funding they need and deserve? Why doesn't UTSU spend a bit of the money they collect from us on a decent homecoming and better social events?

It's reasonable to ask that our money — yours and mine — be spent with our concerns in mind. Unfortunately, UTSU looks down on those who suggest that this is the case. At the university's General Assembly, students who asked questions regarding UTSU's repeated failure to lower tuition were shouted down. The Varsity reported that one such student was dismissed as a "rich white kid."* This is not how a student union should respond to the students it is supposed to represent.

StudentPAC has worked for months to talk with UTSU about the issues that matter to students. They're not listening. Our current UTSU Executives are nice people, but they're wrong on all the issues that matter to students. Fortunately, we also elect the UTSU Executives who run the union. The next UTSU election was recently called and on March 8, 9, and 10 all University of Toronto undergraduate students will have the chance to elect a new UTSU Executive.

In previous elections, turnout for UTSU elections has been understandably low — after all, why would students take time out of their busy day to vote in elections for a student union that had so consistently failed to deliver results and so adamantly refused to talk about the issues that mattered to us?

This year is going to be different. At every event and meeting, ordinary students who have never voted before in UTSU elections are coming out and expressing their desire for a student union that shares their concerns and hopes. Just like those who packed the room at StudentPAC's first meeting, students are tired of UTSU taking their money and giving nothing in return.

We have been hearing the same thing all year: not voting is just too expensive. Many of us are on OSAP, most of us are strapped for cash, and all of us have eaten way too much Ramen and Kraft Dinner for our own good. For students, every dollar counts. So when UTSU collects almost $2 million in student fees from us every year, we expect to see some results. Disappointingly, we're still waiting.

StudentPAC is working to make sure that this election is about the issues that matter to students. But the $745,000 UTSU spends on their salaries is your money. If you want it spent on things that matter to you rather than someone else's paycheque, then you will have to take action this election and vote for an UTSU Executive that shares your priorities.

This year, don't settle for the same old, same old. If you're fed-up with rising tuition and broken promises to lower it, then say so. If you're tired of bake sales being clubs' main source of funding, then demand better. If you think that the country's biggest university deserves the country's best homecoming, then you've got to vote for it.

StudentPAC is going to continue raising these issues, but it's up to each and every one of us to get out there and demand an UTSU that works for us. It's our money and it's being wasted. We have a right to be upset. But unless we take action, nothing is going to change.

Taylor Scollon is Communications Director for the Student Political Action Committee

**Editor's Note: On January 24, 2011 in the news story "Reform group hits campus," The Varsity reported that Andrew Agnew-Iler, part-time undergraduate representative on the Arts and Science Council, tweeted a photo of a table used by members of the StudentPAC at the U of T General Assembly with a caption that read "the rich white men are out in force."*

▸LETTERS◂

Re: The start of a revolution?, Feb 7

I think that there are many good parts about your analysis, but the fundamental thrust here should be an attack on the seemingly impervious armour of IR discourse in the United States. As a student of IR, I did not find the Foreign Policy article by Stephen M. Walt convincing, but it is for a quite simple matter-of-fact reason: United States foreign policy does not stop revolutions. It just doesn't. Revolutions have domestic causes.

The emphasis here is on Mubarak's regime and its complete inability to understand the domestic needs of Egyptians, who are dissatisfied with a lack of political freedoms and also with a lot of economic inequality.

And therein lies my criticism of your position, Arash. The reason why this unarmed revolution is safe is because the Egyptian army will protect the people and preserve order at all costs. It is a marvellous institution which does more than provide public safety. It even produces the basic goods that Egyptians need as if it were a national firm, and it delivers public services as if it were the government. Whatever future lies before Egypt, the army will be there, watching. Any democratic government will be doing a lot of tugging with that institution in order to provide for a more stable nation.

Mubarak's government, in comparison, has nothing to show for. So the question is, can you call this a socialist uprising? It's a pro-democratic rally. Let's use the same words that the Egyptians do for once, shall we?

TOBIAS

Re: Harrassment Strikes CUP Journalism Conference, Feb 7

Having read your latest front page article, titled "Harassment Strikes CUP Journalism Conference" I would like to say that I was disappointed by the story. First of all, this is not an issue that concerns the majority of U of T students — we pick up a student newspaper to read about current events that effect us on campus! Why does this deserve to be front page material? Perhaps the upcoming student elections would have been more important for our student lives?

Also, I am saddened to see such an institution take such a strong stand against freedom of speech, to the extent of condemning it.

Voltaire wrote "I may not agree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Have we really gone backwards in our philosophy of values? Perhaps it is just my opinion, but a campus newspaper openly praising censure of free-speech is a dark day indeed.

Finally, this 'Twitter incident' legally does not constitute slander/libel/harassment — harassment must be repeated and not an isolated incident. So then the words used to describe it are wrong. So therefore they're used just to make an impression — to sensationalize, bias, and slant the story, if you will (as we are all against harassment!) — which makes it factually (definitionally?) incorrect. Or perhaps it is correct, but just an example of bad journalism. Anyway, as such and as a whole, this therefore makes this the property of Fox News, aka the 'No Fact / Spin Zone'. Sorry, Colbert!

PAUL VOINEA

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comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions pitches are also welcome.

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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FACE OFF

POINT COUNTERPOINT

The Great Valentine's Day Debate

Valentine's Day honours those we love

Zoe Sedlak
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

January is a very dreary month. There is very little to re-focus our vision from the grey wall of snow and post-winter-break woe that has submersed us all in these first weeks of the new year. And there is even less if you choose to scowl at the smiling cherubim and construction paper hearts that decorate store windows and eateries come the beginning of February. Valentine's Day is a known source for the polarization of our emotions. On one side, there are the romantic feelings: the jazzy saxophone music and blurry soap opera vision of those who have someone to share this day with. On the other, there is the bitterness towards a holiday that seems to only exist for the insensitive mockery of your singledom. There seems to be no middle ground, but there ought to be one.

The same way that the simple act of a stranger holding the door for you can brighten a dreary day, V-day is a moment amidst a series of cold, grey winter days wherein the secular population may gather and share in one common value.

This day in the middle of February doesn't have to mean an expensive candlelit dinner with that special someone where you feed each other chocolate-dipped strawberries, but it should mean something. For John and Hank Green of Youtube's Vlogbrothers fame, Valentine's Day marks "Valen's Penis Day," a day created by the fandom of Babylon 5 to celebrate the visit of the demi-god Valen to earth and the subsequent spike in the population after his visit.

For teachers around the world it means a night of baking two dozen cupcakes with white and pink frosting for a group of seven-year-olds.

For the pagans of centuries yore, Valentine's Day was marked by a massive feast to commemorate Juno, the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. This was joined by the matchmaking of youth in the community, where they would be joined up for the duration of the festivities and often build strong bonds from this partnership.

For others, yes, it does mean store-bought Hallmark cards and heart-shaped boxes of Ferrero Rochers.

But, just like nobody is obligated to get inebriated on St. Patrick's Day, just like nobody is obligated to empty the shelves in a spell of consumer madness during the Christmas shopping rush, there is no strict code of conduct for the celebration of Valentine's Day. Because, after all, it really is just a celebration of — at the risk of sounding mushy — love. Or camaraderie. Or mutual feelings of tenderness towards another individual. Or whatever word you choose that may be less likely to trigger your gag reflexes.

This day, as we commonly acknowledge it today, may be traditionally celebrated in our culture by consumer activities of shelling out money for disposable gifts and grasping to achieve the inflated expectations of others. To some it may seem to be a day in which other people's happiness is flaunted in front of your down-turned and lonely face. There are so many holidays that capitalism has exploited for profit — this is not a new concept.

You don't have to listen to Hallmark, nor do you have to be angry at them for taking the opportunity to profit from this holiday. It isn't something meant to make you feel bad about being single, or bitter about all the others who are in relationships smiling and showering each other with shiny pink gifts. Valentine's Day, rather, can allow you into a fascinating social experiment. We witness the evolution from second grade when we receive pop culture-themed cards from every member of the class, to the adolescent realization that sometimes you are a receiver of candy grams, and sometimes you are simply a witness to others receiving theirs, to adulthood, where your feelings towards Valentine's Day have turned to boxes of chocolates and diamond tennis bracelets. This evolution in itself makes Valentine's Day a holiday worth acknowledging.

I support Valentine's Day, because I support the idea that everyone has someone to love — whether it be paternally, maternally, platonically, or romantically. V-day makes one day out of hundreds of other normal days into something warmer, something slightly more remarkable. It's a value we all share, and it's a value we all ought to celebrate.

Valentine's Day is a waste of time

Marco Adamovic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A few years ago, Family Day was created here in Ontario. It's called Louis Riel Day in Manitoba. How cool is that? At least it counts as a statutory holiday here (unless you're in school this year, and find yourself short-changed during Reading Week). The larger implications of not having a month, or even more than two weeks per year of vacation, are glaringly evident in the banality of celebrating a thing like Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day — or V-day — falls under the umbrella of arbitrary fabric, corporate-driven mechanisms, and stupid design. If you're Christian, then the last point might not apply to you, because you're actually observing these dates out of faith. But wait. Didn't we just witness the foolishness that was the political-correctness of Christmas? Hold up, I've already committed an infraction. I should have said Happy Holidays. Shouldn't the same rules apply to V-day?

This isn't about V-day. Phew, thank god.

This is about what it means to celebrate a holiday. Here in Canada, apparently, we need excuses to celebrate things. St. Patrick's Day is an excuse to become a teenager again — as if you needed to remind yourself of how ignorant you were then. Mother's Day is an excuse to try to mitigate the imbalance of gratitude (not in our favour) that has come from their putting up with your delinquincy. I could go on, but you get it.

In Canada, every single holiday we celebrate pays homage to history as it is typically taught. What's more is that we only have a few handfuls of days of the entire year that we can take rest, legally, unless you're in school (and the work-rest trade-off doesn't work in our favour, that's for sure). Why? Well, that would be on account of our collective workaholism, and drive for more. So we're taught to keep the machine going.

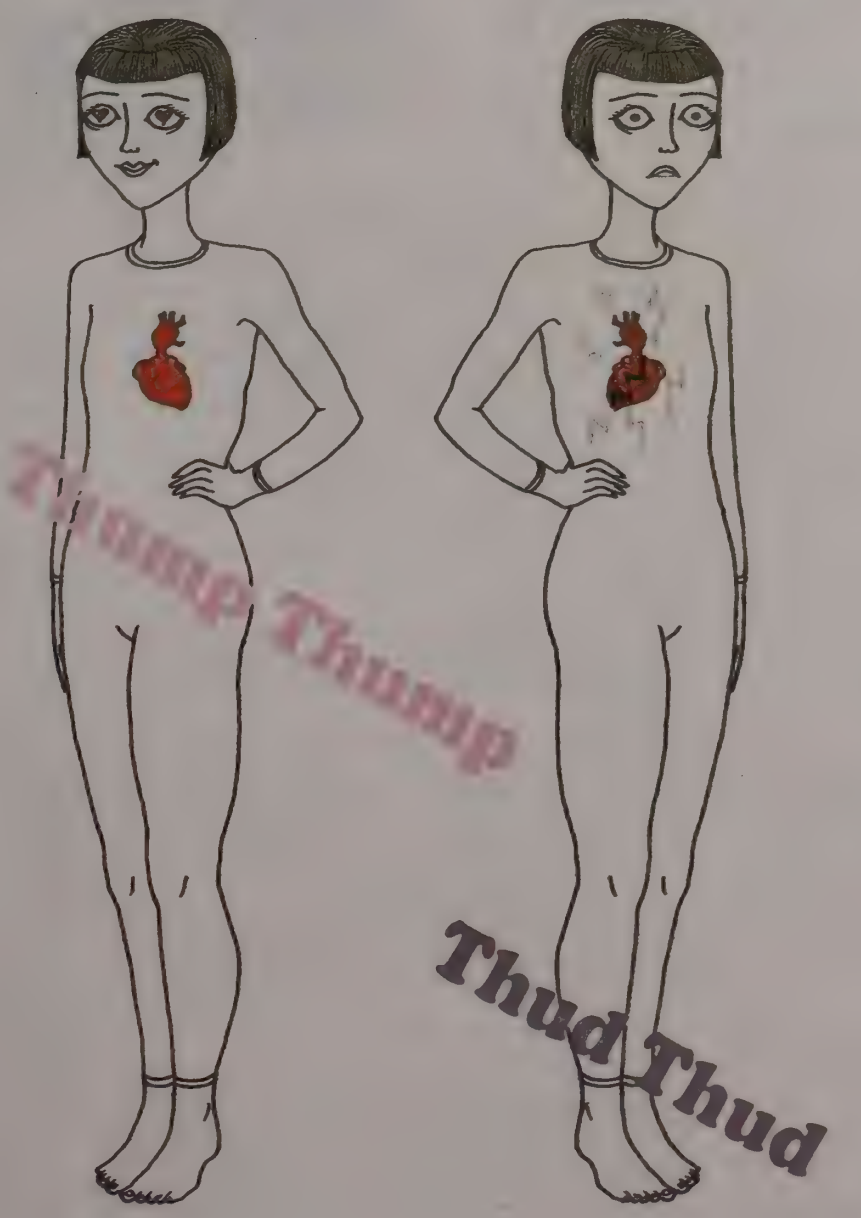
Enter the consumerist aspect of the argument. V-day is — sorry to break the bubble — yet another holiday bird come to dig its talons into our wallets. Every year, we can always count on these bump-the-economy days to keep it going. Break it down you say? Ne w Year's, V-day, St. Drunkard's, and then the summer when it becomes the most trivial Drunk Again Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a trivial homage to the British Monarchy, Day of Workers, Gratitude Day, and Presents day. That's what they sound like in my head, at least. These are days on which merchants, and the financial system at large, can count on an injection of your disposable income into the economy. In the end it's all what the market will bear. But then, you are the market, aren't you? You don't really believe in invisible hands, do you? During the ne xt recession we'll have Brother-in-law day, Puppy day, and my favourite — Snow day. Imagine trying to be sold snow. See? Madness.

Is our society constructed in such a way that the only effective way, apparently, to show that we really care about one another is to celebrate an arbitrarily-allocated day? Just one day to give thanks or to celebrate love? Surely, that isn't enough. Let me use the example of Mother's Day. Am I to believe that there is only one day in the year that even comes close to showing the mothers of the world that they actually matter? I thought that this kind of narrow-minded rationale escaped with the dissolution of the term "household sciences."

Nothing says "I love you" more than an obligatory gift. On the flip side, who doesn't love receiving gifts? I love them too. But, have you always listened to society?

If you want to celebrate your love, do it on any day other than February 14. Any day will do. Do it because your eternal love cannot possibly fit into a container of 24 hours. Do it because you weren't told to. Do it because you actually think about why you're celebrating things. Then, at least you'd truly celebrate romance by going against the grain for your love.

One day in February isn't special. Valentine's Day is a waste of time.

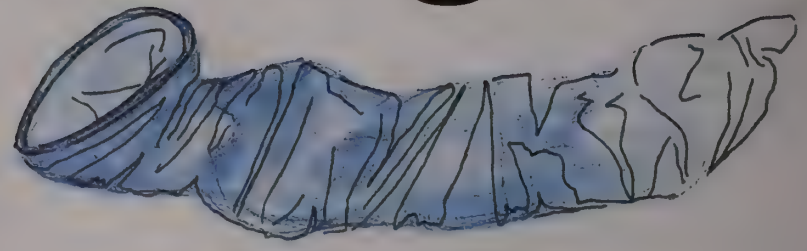


CLAIRE BUTTERFIELD/THE VARSITY



All Aboard the BangBus

Notes on misogyny



by **WILL SLOAN**
illustrations by **ALEX NURSALL**

DISCLAIMER: This article contains graphic language. Read with discretion.

"Um, excuse me, do you know where the steakhouse is?" says Preston from the driver's window.
"Oh… no, um, actually, I'm on vacation now," says Maggie, on the sidewalk. "Yeah, I dunno."
"You're on vacation?"
"Yeah, they have little signposts around here, I've been checking them out — they kinda give you directions. What're you looking for?"
"The Knife."
"The Knife?"
"The Knife, it's a steakhouse, Argentinean. We're from Atlanta —"
"Sounds really good right now, I'm so hungry"
"Where are you from?"
"I'm from Texas… what, you don't like Texans?"
"No, I shoulda known, 'cause you're pretty cracker." He laughs. "I mean look at you, I can tell you're from Texas."
She laughs — a sharp burst of laughter. "Houston!"
"Houston? For real?"
"Well, the Woodlands."
"Are you a cougar? Are you a Houston cougar? Isn't the University of Houston there, right? Cougars?"
"I think so, I thought you meant, like, cougar like an older lady. Do I look old?"
"Naw, you're not a cougar like that," says Preston. "Well, listen: in order for you to come eat with us, you gotta get in this creepy van."
"It's kinda creepy," says Maggie.
"How old are you?"
"Twenty-three."
"Nah, nah — how old are you really?"
"Twenty-three."
"Are you?"
"Yeah. Why?"
"No, I was just wondering — you have to be at least twenty-one to get in. But only one thing: we can't go to The Knife, it's too expensive. It's like thirty-five bucks a person."
"I'm not worth thirty-five dollars?" Another of her sudden laughs.
"Aw, okay, yes you are."

"Hello everyone, welcome to the most exciting episode yet of *The Penny Show*. I'm your host, Penny, and today we're gonna have the wannabe world-famous porn star, Preston Parker."

Every week, from the basement of her house, Penny, a college student, welcomes porn stars, sex therapists, and friends who want just to embarrass their exes to be guests on her Internet chat/porn show, distributed by the Bang Bros porn network. Today's guest is Preston Parker, the host of *BangBus*, *Facial Fest*, and other shows Bang Bros produces. By the time the show is over, Penny will have jumped over the desk and fucked Preston on the couch.
"How's your life been? Obviously busy."
"It's been good, y'know," says Preston. "Lotta work, lotta good times."
"So tell us a little about yourself."
"Um… I'm a porn star, and do a lot of shooting, a lot of filming, a lot of…"
"Girls?"
Preston smiles. "A lot of girls, I guess. How 'bout you?"
"Mmm, same amount… So how'd you get started in porn?"
"Good question. I, uh… how'd I get started… I met the right people, I guess."
"Do you like it?"
"Yeah. I like it."
"That's good. So, why does your website say, 'The Man, the Myth, the Legend'?"
"Oh yeah. Yeah… I don't know who wrote that, but… y'know, it sells, I guess."
"So who's your favourite girl to work with?"
"Hmm… well… you know what, I was gonna say you, but…"
"…but I'm a jerk?" She laughs.
"No, no, I like you. In fact, I had sex with you, and it was amazing. Y'know, I think… you're young. Your blowjobs are gonna be better one day. I promise."
She laughs. "Oh, you're an asshole."
"I promise it will."

Preston Parker has no Twitter. He has no Facebook fan page. There is only one email address on all of *BangBros.com*, and it isn't his. Aside from *The Penny Show*, there are no interviews with him anywhere. He used to model as "Dillon," and for all I know that could be his real name. IMDB also lists "Chris," "Chris Parker," "Dillon Parker," and simply "Preston."

Aside from his early modelling work, he works exclusively for Bang Bros, and unlike Gonzo porn founding fathers like Max Hardcore and John "Buttman" Stagliano, we almost never see his face. He hosts *BangBus*, but he just holds the camera, talks the girl out of her clothes, and cheers on as one of his bros fucks her. On *Facial Fest* he takes a lead role, interviewing an aspiring porn star at his office and fucking her himself, but again, he holds the camera, and we almost never see his face. Just his ten-inch dick and legendary cumshots I can pretend are mine.

There's a video on the Internet proclaiming Preston "the new Peter North" for his ejaculations. *The Penny Show* is the first time I've seen his face.

"How many girls have you made love to?" asks Penny.
"Made love to, or had sex with? There's a big difference."
"I dunno… sex."
"Sex? I dunno… two thousand?" Preston nods. "So how 'bout you?"
"Girls?"
"Yes."
She pauses. "Three?"
"Three girls? Did you ever have an orgasm?"
"Mmmmm… not with girls."
"Have you ever had an orgasm?"
"Of course."
"How many guys have you had sex with?"
"Mmmmm… twenty… five?"
"Times three is…?"
A pause. "No…"
Preston smiles. "That's normally how it works."
"Really? No, I'm trying not to lie right now."
"No, I believe you, but most of the time…"
"No, that's actually about right."
"Twenty-five? And you're eighteen?"
"Mm-hmm."
He nods. "Good start. That's a good start."

"I talk a lot, yeah," says Maggie, with an exaggerated nod. "Finally," says Preston. "I've found someone who talks as much as I do. Do you have, like, ADD something?"
"Yeah, uh I guess you could call it that, uh… manic bipolar?" She shrugs.
"Manic bipolar? Oh, that's cool."

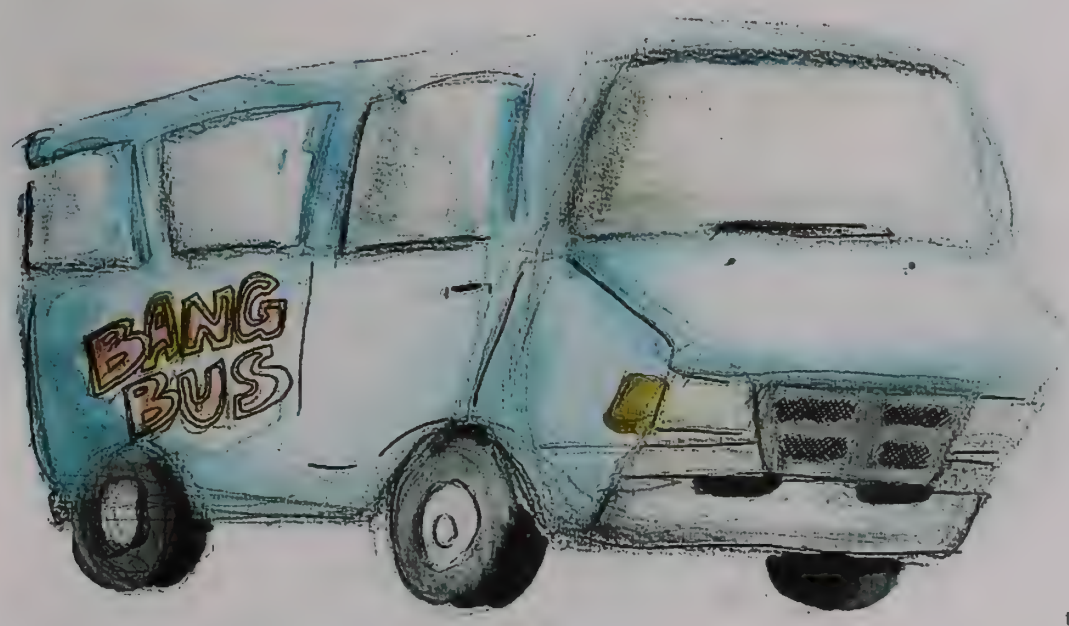
"Well, I just, like, don't have a filter…"
"Manic bipolar… so, what is 'manic'?"
"It's like when I can't stop talking, or, like, like, honestly, like, it means I'm horny all the time, that's the biggest thing, like, my mother hates it because I'm so, like, I was sheltered and all that. No, I'm serious, I know that sounds weird in a group of guys, but I'm like a nympho for real, I've been diagnosed, they're putting me like on these medicines for it and it's really, as you can tell I talk a lot…" She trails off.

Preston and the other guys laugh. "No, no, no, no, we're cool. I got all day." The guys laugh some more.
"You know, most girls worry if they're safe when they get in, but I'm wondering if we're safe when you got in."
"Well, I mean, this is kind of a weird situation, I'm sitting in a van with, like, some dudes and shit in here, I'm not really from, like, around here and shit, I mean, it's kind of a weird situation. I like weird situations — that's why I'm in it right now, but, I got a bit… what's the fuckin'… I'm a little… you know what? I'm not normally intimidated or nervous, but I'm a little intimidated right now, 'cause this is a little sketchy."
"What do you mean?"
"I'm being straight up — this is a little sketchy."
"See, nine out of ten people woulda figured that out before they even stepped in the van."
"Well, I like that."
"And you obviously like this."

You can't fake a cumshot. I think that's why they're so popular. Preston may have hired his *BangBus* girl in advance, and her moans of pleasure may sound a little over-the-top, and maybe it's a little suspicious she doesn't find it unusual that one of the bros would just come on her face without any warning, but ejaculation is ejaculation. It is definitively real.

Preston's appeal is that he could be anyone, and the same goes for the girls. They're not all classic beauties. Some of them have pimples on their asses and razor burn on their crotches. I keep hoping I'll see girls from my high school. The ones who dropped out early. The ones who, rumour has it, sometime around grade six or seven, might have let a guy suck their nipples, or given handjobs, or maybe even had sex. Which, of course, meant they were sluts.

In 2004, the *Miami New Times* published "The Ride to Perdition," an article



by Kris Conesa, about a woman who agreed to participate in a *BangBus* shoot with her boyfriend to pay for an abortion. The boyfriend took all the money, and the video reached a much wider audience than she had anticipated, including her customers, co-workers, and her brother. I'm not sure what I find more troubling: the girl's misery, or the fact that Preston doesn't just pick those girls up with his charm and his dick.

"She said she was a nympho, I dunno if you heard her earlier." says Preston.
"I did say that," says Maggie. "Because I blurt things, I mean, it's like, y'know, and then every guy thinks, that's means there's a sure fuck…"
"How many guys have you been with?"
"In my life? Or in the last week?"
"In your life. And then we'll get to last week."
"Guys, I can't even, don't even… I'm divorced, I'm twenty-three and I'm divorced, honey, so, I have an ex-husband and I have an ex-boyfriend, and from there I ain't, I ain't, fuckin'…"
"How many in the last week?"
"In the last week? What's today, Wednesday? Well, I was sick two of those days, but, I mean, at least… I have a girlfriend now, it's really hard to say, like, she's my girl, but…"
"It's so funny; I asked you this question, like, a minute ago…"
"I can remember from today, but I can't remember last week?"
"How many today?"
"Today?" She holds up her hands to form a zero.
"How many from this week?"
"Oh, I dunno… I mean, at least five, I guess, I dunno…"
"Holy shit."
"Oh wait, actually, it's Wednesday, isn't it? Okay, so, I know this… five. Oh, you include girls too?"
"Yeah, girls too."
"Girls too? Just five."
"So where do you find your guys?"
"Okay, literally, like, when I go anywhere and everywhere…"
"I have a crazy question for you."
"What? Okay, what is it? Ask, let's do it."
"I just wanna see her pussy and see what it looks like, y'know, if it's something you'd wanna fuck or not. Can I see it? Do you mind?"

"So, yeah, you used to be skinnier. Did you gain weight?" asks Penny.
"I gained probably about twenty pounds, yes," says Preston.
"Any particular reason?"
"Um… probably workin' a lot. Stopped going to the gym."
"So, are you single?"
"Yes, I am single."
"Hard to believe."
"Hard to believe, yes."
"So, how big is your penis?"
"I don't know. Probably ten inches."
"Really? Pull it out now." They laugh. "No, I'm serious."
"Uh, I mean, ten inches of… erectness, I guess." Preston smiles.
"Come on!" Penny laughs. "Pull out your penis!"
He stands up and unzips his fly. From behind his baby blue boxer shorts, he reveals his flaccid penis. Penny has brought out measuring tape.
"You're horrible, look at that," he says.
"That's really not that bad… five inches. So you're a liar."
"I'm not a liar."

Preston Parker could be any of us. If I was Preston Parker, I could cruise around Miami with my bros in my BangBus, picking up ladies for an "interview" and talking them into fucking us on camera, all within the 55 minutes of a typical *BangBus* episode. Damn, that's smooth. If I was Preston Parker, it would be easy. The girls would suck and fuck, fuck and suck, and on and on and on until we would get tired of her and dump her at the side of the road, 'cause a real lady shouldn't be going around fucking strange men on camera. I've gotta have standards. I'm Preston Parker, after all.

BangBus has won five Adult Video News Awards. It earned close to $2 million in 2007. You can find the torrents everywhere. A lot of us want to be Preston Parker.

"I've been with a lot of black guys. I actually just started fucking them, like, two weeks ago, but ever since then, like, when they say, 'Once you go black you never go back,' I've only fucked one white guy since I've gone black. I've fucked Puerto Ricans, like Mexicans, like, light-skinned guys, but…"
"Since Wednesday this week? When did the week start for you?"
"Today's Wednesday? Last Wednesday? I can't remember who I fucked — I fucked, last Wednesday I fucked three people, I know that much."
"On Wednesday?"
"Last Wednesday."
"You fucked three different guys? Where did you find them?"
"I seriously, like, I'm not even joking, like, when you come up to me, that wasn't that weird, 'cause, I go, like, what I do, like, if I saw him, like, somewhere in a gas station, I'd be like, 'Hi, are you single —'"
"How do they ask you? Do they give you money for it?"
"Money?"
"Yeah, to have sex with you."
"Why? I don't want money. I don't need it."
"You don't want it, but… well, everyone needs money."
"Mmmm, not me."
"Yeah, you need money. I mean, you need food, right?"
"Uh… I dunno, you're talkin', uh, I, uh, no, no. I get it somehow."
"So, what I wanna do is, I wanna, I mean… You said you're a nympho."
"Mm-hmm."
"I wasn't kidding earlier when I said you should put this dude's dick in your mouth."
"Oh!"
"You like dick in your mouth, don't you? Or you just wanna be pounded?"
"I like both."
"Then, just do it. Just pull it out."
She pulls it out.

"Anyway, have you ever done any gay porn?"
"I haven't done any gay porn, no." Penny mumbles something to Preston, and his voice rises slightly. "I didn't jerk…" He leans his head back and smiles and sighs. "Yeah, I did actually, I jerked off, but that's all I did. I didn't know what you meant by 'gay.' Like, touching other guys? Hell no."
A cameraman speaks. "What about being massaged by them?"
"Were you massaged by other guys?" asks Penny, laughing.
"No, hell no."
"Roll a clip," says the cameraman. On screen we see several glamour shots of Preston: shirt unbuttoned to reveal sculpted abs; fully nude from behind, his firm ass cheeks clenched; nude from the front, a red pepper placed to obscure his penis.
"So what's up with you and fruit?" says Penny, giggling.
"Me and fruit? Are you talking about some photos that are out there, on the Internet?"
"I dunno, maybe you like fruit, what's up with it?"
"Like, big red peppers?" On screen, various pictures of Preston nude, holding fruit. "Oh shit, well, let me explain this story… about a time I did a photo shoot with the wroooong company."

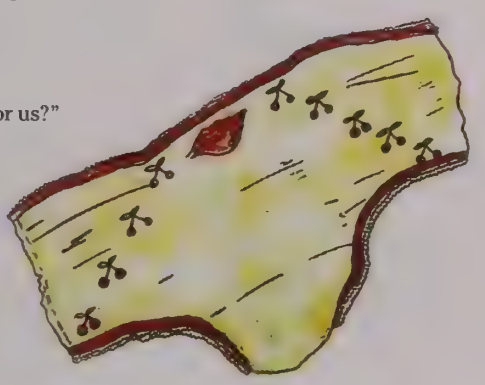
A lot of Preston's gay porn is floating around the Internet. Mostly just pictures. "Dillon" with his shirt unbuttoned. "Dillon" with his dick sticking out of his underwear. "Dillon" with his ass clenched. "Dillon" holding fruit over his cock. In *Muscle Magic 5*, a 2004 release from BG Video, "Dillon" showers and jerks off on a couch, coming on his stomach.

Then another guy massages him, and cups his balls, and strokes his dick until he comes. We don't see the other guy's face.

"You are getting better," says Preston. "It's starting to work well."
"Shut up!" says Penny, taking Preston out of her mouth.

"D'you see that fence over there?"
"You're telling me to walk all the way over there and throw it away?" says Maggie, holding the tissues.
"Just real fast. Just do it, just run over there, I wanna see you naked outside."
"I'll really be naked outside?"
"Yeah, just real fast, though."
"Am I gonna get in trouble?"
"No, you just gotta do it quickly, though."
"Okay, where do I throw it?"
"Just inside…"
"Inside the fence?"
"Yeah, but you gotta go quickly."
She runs to the fence. "Go, bro!" says Preston, and they drive away, and they laugh.

"I'm twenty-six, so… my first time having sex, I was almost nineteen."
"Weird."
"I know."
"Now you're like a love machine."
"I guess."
"So can you take off your shirt and flex for us?"



Based on the Bang Bros' webisodes: BangBus: Paris In 'True Nymphomaniac' *and* The Penny Show: Close and Personal with Preston Parker

Valentine's. In Brief.



Seo: Bra $64, Underwear $76 by *Hanky Panky*

Selvin: Boxerbriefs $20 by *Zara Men*



PHOTOS BY DAVID PIKE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM BOWMAN

Turning heads with a kiss

Fiona Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

In this season of love and romance, you might find yourself wondering with whom you should spend Valentine's Day. How will you celebrate the festive, yet ever so slightly commercialized holiday? And how and where do you execute the perfect kiss?

In the case of the latter, one burning question remains: Which way do you turn your head as you reach in for a kiss?

In 2003, psychologist Onur Güntürkün of Ruhr-Universität-Bochum observed 124 couples kissing in public areas such as airports, parks, and train stations in the United States, Turkey, and Germany. Twice as many couples tilted their heads to the right as opposed to the left.

A University of Amsterdam study, published by John van der Kamp and Rouwen Canal-Bruland last year, focuses on a more socially awkward possibility. What if one person prefers to lean to the right, while the other tilts their head to the left before their lips meet?

In particular, one issue with Güntürkün's result was that an individual's bias is not necessarily reflected in the direction of head-turning in a couple. Thus, the more recent study questioned whether right-turners were just as likely to adapt to a partner's left-turning preferences, or vice versa.

Some 57 study participants were asked to kiss a life-sized doll's head, with adjustable orientations to the left or right. The participant's individual head-turning preference was found by orienting the head at zero degrees. This was followed up with another 35 kisses, in which the doll was rotated at different angles.

Participants tended to switch their direction when faced with an incompatible orientation. However, right-turners were found to be more persistent in maintaining their head-turning direction, even when the doll was made to kiss to the left. In other words, right-turners were more hesitant to adapt to the doll's direction compared to left-turners. As a result, couples with opposite head-turning preferences will often turn to the right.

The authors reason that since right-turners are more prevalent in adulthood — this study showed 72 per cent of individuals were right-turning — left-turners may encounter incompatible orientations more frequently and thus face more pressures to switch sides.

Of course, results such as these have wider-reaching applications than human romance. Güntürkün has long questioned why humans are twice as likely to use the right foot, ear, or eye, than the left. He hypothesizes that this joint pattern of lateral bias starts when the fetus turns its head in the womb, and that newborn humans continue to exhibit this head-turning in the first three to six months of life. However, the Güntürkün study was the first to show that behavioural asymmetry continues long into adulthood.

It is worth noting that the kissing bias may have no correlation with the widespread propensity to use the right hand as opposed to the left. In fact, right-handedness is eight times more common. Instead, handedness is attributed to environmental factors such as social pressures on children to write with their right hand.

Güntürkün's theory has been met with skepticism from fellow academics. Chris McManus of University College London points out that in order to prove Güntürkün's hypothesis, it would be necessary to follow infants with known head-turning preferences across their lifespan, instead of simply observing couples with unknown backgrounds.

Daniel Geschwind of UCLA further states that there is no clear correspondence between head-turning and other asymmetries, which have their own respective influences by early patterning — for example, the fact that ear-sidedness is related to language.

Indeed, the University of Amsterdam study suggests that the kissing bias is independent of the aforementioned joint pattern of lateral preferences, contrary to Güntürkün's claims. The study gathered handedness, footedness, and eye preferences, and showed that the direction of head-turning often contradicted hand and foot preferences, supporting the notion that perhaps the head, hand, foot, and eye have separate lateral specializations. The authors of the study recommend further research regarding the laterality of each of these functions.

The evolution of kissing

Pallavi Hariharan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Researchers at the University of Leeds and the University of Lancashire have hypothesized that mouth-to-mouth kissing — specifically the kind that involves the exchange of saliva — is a behaviour that evolved in human beings in response to the threats posed by the Human Cytomegalovirus, or HCMV.

HCMV, an infection that is ubiquitous in human populations, is a form of the herpes virus that can have severe teratogenic effects — effects harmful to developing fetuses — if the mother is first infected while she is pregnant. HCMV is readily transferred from person to person through bodily fluids such as saliva, urine, and semen. Thus, as the scientists have proposed, women evolved in ways to become infected before conception.

The HCMV virus is a potent one, affecting approximately 8,000 children in the United States, even today. This is an especially staggering number when taking into account that pregnancies are normally terminated if the infection is detected. This disease can cause a fetal mortality rate of up to 30 per cent. Neonates that escape mortality are susceptible to disabilities like cerebral palsy, seizures, and motor disabilities.

Although mothers who are infected prior to conception still have a chance of transferring the disease to their babies in utero, this probability is decreased from 50 per cent if the mother is first infected while pregnant, to only 0.5–2.5 per cent if she is infected before conception. Thus primary infection before conception is highly advantageous.

Scientists Colin Hendrie and Gayle Brewer proposed an evolutionary explanation for avoiding infection from the HCMV virus, in a February 2010 article published in the journal *Medical Hypotheses*. The new theory states that, in order to avoid primary infection when pregnant, females have developed behavioural strategies to protect their child. Infection is inevitable during sexual intercourse, since the virus spreads through bodily fluids. Thus, making an attempt to become infected prior to conception is the only viable course of action.

The scientists propose that open-mouth kissing during courtship is just such an attempt, allowing women to expose themselves to the male's particular strain of HCMV before sexual intercourse has begun. In such behaviours, saliva from the male carrying small amounts of the virus will flow into the typically shorter female, effectively inoculating the potential mother against further infection from that particular viral strain during pregnancy.

Explaining the origin of mouth-to-mouth kissing is an effort that other scientists have undertaken in the past. Other theories accounting for its evolution include attempts to look to behaviours exhibited by other members of the animal kingdom.

In many other animals, mouth-to-mouth contact can be used in fighting, or as a way of begging parents for food. One theory states that mouth-to-mouth kissing evolved from mouth-to-mouth contact between parents and children in their infancy, as a way to orally exchange food. This sort of premasticated food exchange is seen in isolated human populations in Papua New Guinea and the San of South-West Africa.

Hendrie and Brewer explain this behaviour by observing that these populations did not come into contact with HCMV until after the arrival of Europeans, effectively explaining the onset of sexual mouth-to-mouth kissing as an adaptation to the introduction of the virus.

Other hypotheses suggest that mouth-to-mouth kissing evolved to support pair-bonding between partners in order to care better for their offspring. This theory states that hormones released through the act of affectionate kissing, including such neuropeptides as oxytocin, results in a stronger bond. However, the release of these hormones arises from acts other than that of kissing as well, exonerating kissing as the only cause of stronger pair bonding.

Even today, we have not been able to develop any vaccines for HCMV. The evolution of behavioural strategies seems to be the best way to stop the infection of neonates. So go ahead and kiss your partner this Valentine's Day. You may be doing more than just showing your love.

Your brain on love



Mina Park
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"Your love, your love, your love is my drug." When it comes to the brain, these lyrics to a catchy Ke$ha song may just ring true. New research is unraveling the neural mechanisms behind falling, and staying, in love.

A team of scientists from Rutgers University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook have conducted a series of studies over several years to understand what goes on in your brain when you're in love. In a study published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, scientists scanned the brains of 10 women and seven men who claimed to have fallen intensely in love in the past year and a half.

When the participants looked at a picture of their beloved, activity was detected in the caudate nucleus and the ventral tegmental area, a brain region that produces the pleasure-inducing the neurotransmitter dopamine. These regions play major roles in reward and motivation. Put simply, this brain system gets activated by pleasurable activities like eating chocolate, having sex, or doing drugs. And presumably, by falling in love.

In their next study, the scientists scanned the brains of individuals who were rejected by their beloved, but claimed to still be in love with him or her. When looking at a photograph of the rejector, the same brain regions were activated, suggesting that the reward and motivation system is activated even when you're unhappily in love.

Activation was also found in the forebrain, an area that has been implicated in cocaine craving and addiction. These findings might help explain why rejection is so hard to get over. According to one of the researchers in the study, Helen Fisher, "Romantic love is an addiction; a wonderful addiction when it is going well, a horrible one when it is going poorly."

So, if love is like a drug, can the high last? Thankfully for all of the romantics out there, it appears as though it can. In their most recent study, published in January of this year, the researchers looked at the brains of people who insisted they were still passionately in love with their significant other, even after years of marriage.

When the participants looked at a photo of their spouse, they found patterns of neural activity that were similar to those seen in individuals who were in the early stages of intense love. However, they also found activation in brain areas that are important in attachment and in modulating anxiety and pain, which was not found for those newly in love.

Long-term love, then, may be the best drug of all.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM BOWMAN



What's that in my pants?

The low-down on STIs

Afton Arlana Chadwick
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

After a long night shaking the book stacks at Robarts, the last thing you want is for your friend to leave something a little more permanent in your pants. Nobody wants a sexually transmitted infection. But in case you do get one, it's good to get informed about their symptoms and treatments — all in time for Valentine's Day!

1. Gonorrhea & Chlamydia

These two STIs are grouped together, because they sound like ugly twins and their symptoms are very similar. Gonorrhea is an infection caused by bacteria. Not only can it infect your privates front to back, but also your throat and eyes. That's right, you really want to avoid gonorrhea of the eyes. On the other hand, chlamydia (gonorrhea's ugly twin) stays below the belt and is very common among young people. Both are transmitted via unprotected sex, oral included.

The symptoms for gonorrhea and chlamydia are similar, and often, if you have one of them, you should be treated for both. In men, look out for burning when you urinate, green or milky discharge, pain in the testes, and itchiness. For women, symptoms are similar, except the pain will be in your lower abdomen and you may have spotting in between periods. The good news? Both gonorrhea and chlamydia are completely treatable! So if you feel pain when you pee, do get checked, then cross your fingers and hope it's a urinary tract infection. But if not, no worries.

2. Hepatitis B

Hep B doesn't get as much attention as the other STIs. Like gonorrhea, you can get it from saliva, semen, and any action below the belt. However, you can also get it from toothbrushes, razors, and tattoo equipment, and anything that could involve blood mingling.

The symptoms for Hep B are also difficult to spot. They include feeling tired, not feeling hungry, and having strange-coloured urine or stool. These are all symptoms that would often be dismissed with a casual "Shouldn't have eaten that taco," but it's always important to get the blood test anyway. And if you are Hep B free, get the vaccine. The vaccine is important because there is no cure for Hep B — you would just have to wait until your body fights it off (during which time you may have to remain sex-free).

3. Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV has been getting a lot of attention of late because of the Gardasil vaccine, which has recently been offered to grade 8 girls in Ontario. Buying the vaccine yourself will cost somewhere around $300. However this vaccine is much newer than the Hep B vaccine, and so indivuals considering the vaccine should do their research before taking Gardasil.

So what is HPV? Well, it's sneaky because it comes in many forms, inside and outside your private parts. On the outside, it could be a simple vaginal wart, which your doctor will freeze off. On the inside, it can cause precancerous cells that can lead to cervical cancer, or even penile and anal cancer. What's more, you can still spread warts even if none of visible. HPV can be treated, but not cured — and it can lead to permanent changes in your cervix.

Yet many sexually active people will experience some form of HPV in their lifetime. My advice is to look around, have a visit with your privates and your partners. Warts are visible, so keep a lookout!

4. Pubic lice (a.k.a crabs) and Scabies

These ones are the real ball busters. You have probably heard of crabs, whether from *South Park*, or grade 7 health class. Crabs are tiny red or brown lice that live in your nether regions, and burrow below the skin to lay eggs. Scabies are nets that you can't see, but which burrow and lay eggs as well, leaving a rash. Both cause itchiness and a rash, and you may actually see the tiny lice or their eggs in your pubes!

These creepy crawlies can be passed on via sexual or non-sexual contact, like sharing a towel or a bed, where they can also live. The good news is that crabs and scabies are completely treatable with creams and shampoos. You may have to dry clean your entire closet, and vacuum the mattress, but for the most part they just sound awful. They are really the lesser of the STIs.

So remember: keep a lookout, get tested, and wrap it up for a safe Valentine's Day!

The psychology of Harry Potter and Twilight

In the first part of a multi-part series on the psychological implications of Harry Potter and Twilight, **DEBORAH CHAN** *explores the consequences of the two series on the female brain.*



MAY ARIDA / THE VARSITY

"Every human culture before ours has regarded female sexuality as something that is so extremely powerful that it has to be regulated. Who knows what will happen [now that female sexuality has been unleashed on the world]? The birth control pill is the next atom bomb, in terms of social and historical significance."
— JORDAN B. PETERSON

So, to start: how does the female brain differ from the male brain? Neuroscientists explain that typically gendered male and female brains differ in one significant area in the hypothalamus, known as the medial preoptic area, or mPOA. The actual function of the mPOA is still unknown, but we do know that the hypothalamus controls the more "beastly" human behaviors.

Simon LaVay explains in his book, *The Sexual Brain*, that neuroscientists think of the hypothalamus as "haunted by animal spirits and the ghosts of primal urges. They suspect that it houses, not the usual shiny hardware for cognition, but some witches' brew of slimy, pulsating neurons adrift in a broth of mind-altering chemicals."

What does this brain difference lead to, behaviourally?

Population studies show that on average, males often have a "fight-or-flight" response to unknown elements in the environment. This response is mediated by our brain's emotional centre, the amygdala, and is automatic, and thus more imprecise and thoughtless.

Females, on the other hand, usually have a "tend and befriend" response to unknowns. This response is also mediated by the amygdala, but also involves higher cognitive thought processes, like recognizing others' emotions.

What's more, we know that females can usually form emotional memories more easily and more strongly than males, which might be associated with the neurotransmitter oxytocin in the amygdala. On the whole, females are more empathetic than males, consistently scoring higher in EQ, or emotional quotient.

Obviously, there are exceptions to the above conclusions. But it's important not to discard the scientific evidence altogether. The fact is, most women do tend to be more emotionally intuitive, and less firmly decisive than most men — and this has had extremely significant social consequences.

Hermione Granger, Harry Potter's closest female friend, has a much wider emotional range than her two male friends. In *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, her decision to take on more schoolwork and stress than she can handle culminates in a teary emotional breakdown — quite true to real life, but perhaps not so politically correct in a world where women are called upon to "man up."

It's interesting to note that the movie version of *Prisoner* has Hermione release her pent-up emotions in a very masculine way, violently knocking over a crystal ball and storming out of Divination class. Later, she forcefully punches Draco Malfoy and coolly comments, "That felt good." This, instead of the much more emotional bitch-slap described in the book.

According to Jordan Peterson, this new societal pressure on everyone to act in a more traditionally masculine — including feminine-gendered people — has resulted in some incredibly negative psychological consequences.

"Women are now being called upon to adopt a masculine role, and that is not easy to integrate with being female," says Peterson. "You could take a poll of female university students. First, of female undergraduates, about half of them will say that they don't want children. Then, take a poll of 29-year-old women: maybe one would say she didn't want children."

Historically, women have been "sold a bill of nonsense," according to Peterson. "It used to be that you couldn't be in the workforce; then, it changed to you could be in the workforce. Now, you have to be in the workforce — and have to be is not the same as able to be."

He notes that men's jobs aren't even very interesting. "Who's to say that making widgets in a factory is more desirable than raising a child?"

But the most destructive social consequences have arisen in the lower classes, where women don't have the same privilege and protection that, say, most female U of T students have.

"Our model for what a woman [should be] — aggressive and very emotionally stable — is actually a very small slice of the female population," says Peterson. "Something that I discovered [as a clinical psychologist] that I had no idea could even happen, is that there is a large amount of women who do not know how to say no [to sexual advances].

So, ["strong women"] (like the movie version of Hermione Granger) can easily say no to, and sexually reject men. But, take someone who was already timid and eager to please, and put her in a room with someone aggressive, and she often cannot say no." One thing that our current liberal, intellectual environment often fails to recognize is "that social structure was there to protect women," and not simply to oppress them.

The *Twilight* series is incredibly unpopular among the intellectual elite, but it's massively popular elsewhere.

Theodore Dalrymple, a psychiatrist and essayist who spent many years treating lower-class citizens in Britain, takes issue with the view of certain liberal intellectuals (like, say, Virginia Woolf in *Three Guineas*), who view traditional institutions as something that need to be destroyed.

"Sex is not in the [reproductive] organs — those are just the plumbing. The brain is the true sex organ.

In *The Frivolity of Evil*, Dalrymple describes a representative female patient — a 21-year-old woman who was sexually abused as a child, who has three children from three different fathers, all of whom were emotionally and or physically abusive. "With three children already, she would attract precisely the kind of man, like the father of her first child [...] looking for vulnerable, exploitable women. More than likely, at least one of them (for there would undoubtedly be a succession of them) would abuse her children sexually, physically, or both."

The *Twilight* series, for all of its literary (and, some argue, socio-political) flaws, at least understands this and communicates it to its mostly young female readership. The main character, Bella Swan, chooses to court and marry her dream man Edward Cullen — a vampire who warns her that he has the power and potential to harm her (as all men do; here it is metaphorically represented with beastly vampire powers).

However, Edward then says, "Just because we've been [...] dealt a certain hand [...] it doesn't mean that we can't choose to rise above — to

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conquer the boundaries of a destiny that none of us wanted. To try to retain whatever essential humanity we can." This is the exact message that Dalrymple tries to communicate to both his psychiatric clients and his readers.

In his essay "Sex and the Shakespeare Reader," Dalrymple notes that "beastliness [...] means sexuality without the human qualities of love and commitment: for without love, sex is merely animal — beastly in the most literal sense. And, as [Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*] makes clear, the animal triumphs over the human when laws or institutions are too weak. The baby is not socialized by the nurse but beats her whenever it is thwarted in a desire, which in infancy can only be instinctive. It is only by having desire thwarted, and thereby learning to control it — in other words, by becoming civilized — that men become fully human."

In *Twilight*, Edward becomes "fully human" by literally listening to the beat of Bella's heart. This experience makes him realize that "it won't be so hard again." If that isn't an obvious metaphor, I don't know what is. The *Twilight* series communicates that love and trust can help humans to conquer any self-centred, savage impulse.

The *Twilight* books function as an improvement on *Beauty and the Beast* for modern times. The institution of marriage is no longer as relevant as it once was, so it would be wiser for a young girl to go for a beast who has already tamed himself (as Edward has) before she sleeps with him. For one, on the off-chance that she does get pregnant, he'll be more likely to stick around and help her raise the baby.

But, far more importantly, it will protect her brain from trauma in a literal, chemical way. Psychoanalyst Norman Doidge, in his bestselling book, *The Brain That Changes Itself*, notes that post-orgasm, the human brain floods with oxytocin, which provides "the ability for two brains in love to go through a period of heightened plasticity, allowing them to mold to each other and shape each other's intentions and perceptions."

If we empathize with our lovers post-coitally (as girls tend to if they do in fact like the person), this means that we are actually getting an imprint of our lover onto our brains. What's more, if you actually did some of the work, exercise-wise, then your hippocampus probably grew new brain cells, and you are even more likely to remember the event.

Our culture has traditionally associated a masculinized gender with the male sex, and a feminized gender with the female sex. Historically, people who deviate too far from these norms have been socially punished. But, in reality, sex is about masculine and feminine elements connecting between two brains — it's the nerves under our skin, and not our bodies' outer shells, that make sex happen.

As Human Behavioral Biology lecturer Professor Franco Taverna explains, "Sex is not in the [reproductive] organs — those are just the plumbing. The brain is the true sex organ. Without it, your organs won't do you much good."

The female brain seems to have evolved for the ultimate sexual experience to be with someone it loves and trusts, which takes time and commitment. Neuroscientific evidence points to higher-quality female orgasms when the insula is activated (this typically occurs when you think of the person whom you "love"). It takes full devotion during sex to completely lose yourself, and reach that moment of transcendent ecstasy.

This is something that both Hermione Granger and Bella Swan will benefit from, since both characters, as far as I can tell, wait until they have a solid emotional bond with their man before engaging in sexual acts.

Hermione is not an archetypal hero. Unlike Harry, she doesn't, for example, face a lurking serpent (which represents the unknown), conquer it, and find a virgin mate (Ginny) as a direct consequence.

What Hermione does seem to represent is the struggles of being a modern woman. She has a feminine emotional range, and yet she finds a way to mediate between masculine and feminine, and grows up to have a successful career.

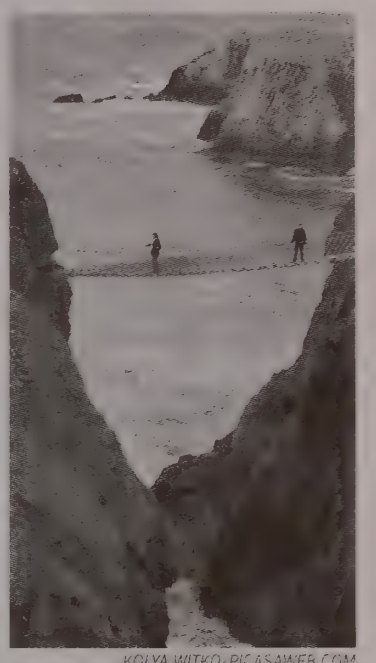
Bella represents a much more traditional woman, one who dedicates her life to her husband and child.

One thing that I hope modern feminists will concede is that both Bella and Hermione are better role models than, say, Miley Cyrus in the song, "Can't Be Tamed." That song is essentially the alpha-straight-male's nightmare, isn't it? Jane Goodall discovered that without the taming of unifying social structures, primates will rip each other to shreds. Human beings can be downright beastly. We need to be tamed to function in society. That's why it's only socially acceptable for us to bite each other during the "terrible twos." Clinical psychologists (or, at least, psychoanalysts) say that an adult who throws a temper tantrum is regressing. And, look at what happened to Chris Brown after he so viciously regressed — complete social ostracism.

Read more online for the real life psycho-behavioural consequences of books on their young readers.

How psychology can help you score!

Afton Arlana Chadwick
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



KOLYA WITKO/PICASAWEB.COM

The "misattribution of arousal" theory explains how we are often physically aroused, and form beliefs about what is causing the arousal — beliefs that may or may not be accurate. Not surprisingly, this theory can have some serious implications for your Valentine's Day plans.

A classic study on misattribution was performed by Dutton and Aron in 1974. The experiment consisted of two groups of men, who were asked to walk across a wide, stable bridge over solid ground, or across a wobbly, rope bridge suspended 200 feet above a river. Halfway across each bridge, a female experimenter gave the participants her telephone number in case they had any follow-up questions.

The experimenters found that over 60 per cent of the wobbly bridge participants called the woman back, versus only 30 per cent of the stable bridge participants. This is because the men on the more frightening bridge misattributed the cause of the arousal to sexual attraction rather than to fear.

So how can we use this tidbit from social psychology to our advantage?

1. It's always a good idea to scare your lady-friend on the first date. Scary movies, roller coasters — anything that gets the heart racing. If you're lucky, your date will confuse the fear-invoked arousal for sexual arousal toward you. And hopefully she'll hold your hand.

2. Drive fast (but not too fast)! I'm not suggesting you break the speed limit here, but aggressive driving can stimulate the heart just like a rollercoaster. So drive to a theatre to watch a thriller and you're set.

3. Physical Activity. Go paint balling, play basketball, speed walk — whatever floats your boat. Personally, I find men more attractive when I'm snowboarding. I wonder why?

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LIVING ARTS



Based on first impressions – would you date these guys? *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Speed dating

When was the last time you tried something new? Associate Arts Editor **BRIGIT KATZ** *went looking for a Valentine, but learned more about ice cream.*

"If you were an ice cream, which flavour would you be and why?"

I'm sitting at a small table in the Alleycatz Jazz Bar. Across from me is Andre, as the nametag on the front of his shirt indicates, and he is my sixth date of the night. Because this is a speed-dating event, we only have four minutes to get acquainted before he has to move on to the woman sitting at the table next to mine.

But instead of trying to gauge our compatibility in such a short amount of time, I'm focused on coming up with a witty response as to why I would want to be a human tub of Ben and Jerry's. I can't think of anything, so I decide to go with a generic response.

"I guess I would be something chocolatey," I tell Andre. "Then everyone would love me and I would feel like the most popular girl in high school."

I was hoping that this response would elicit a smile. It does not. Andre very seriously writes "chocolate" next to my name on the match card that each person received before the dating began.

"You like chocolate ice cream?" he asks. "I like pistachio." "Yeah, lots of people love pistachio," I reply, wondering how long this conversation is going to last. "But I don't really like nuts."

He looks disappointed. I decide it's probably a good idea to change the subject.

"So, Andre, what do you do?" I ask.

"I work in the finance department of an ice cream company," he answers. I have a feeling that it's going to be a long four minutes.

***

The reason that I found myself discussing the intricacies of the ice cream business at a speed-dating event is due largely to a conversation that I had with a friend of mine several weeks earlier. We met for coffee and, in due course, she asked if I was seeing anyone. "Not right now," I replied. "I'm trying to focus on my studies without any distractions. I want to get into grad school."

She made a face. "That's pretty depressing, Brigit," she said. "You're twenty-one. Live a little, or you're going to wind up as a cat lady."

A few days later, in the interest of both living a little and preventing myself from becoming a feline-obsessed spinster, I agreed to write an article on speed dating for the Valentine's Day issue of The Varsity. I figured that I had nothing to lose. I wasn't fixated on finding a boyfriend, but if by some chance I met my soulmate at this event, I certainly wouldn't complain. At the very least, it might be nice to find someone to make plans with on Valentine's Day. I may or may not have spent last February 14 sitting at home in my pyjamas, sulking over a recent breakup, and eating macaroni out of a pot.

Soon after I walked into Alleycatz on the night of the event, however, I began to question whether my decision to speed-date was a wise one. It's quite strange to be in a room where everyone is there for the express purpose of scoping out a potential partner. I felt like I was watching the painful sexual dynamics of high school being re-enacted by adults. Women stood together in groups, laughing too loudly and trying to look at ease, while the more gutsy men approached them and attempted to strike up a conversation. As I made my way over to the registration table, a group of guys standing nearby very conspicuously ran their eyes from my head to my feet.

"Ugh," I thought. "This place is such a meat market."

Feeling uncomfortable, I sat down in a corner of the bar, waiting for the dating to start. It did not begin promisingly.

"So, what makes you a good candidate to be my girlfriend?" asked Jonathan, my first date of the evening. I raised my eyebrows. "Is this a job interview?"

"Sorry," he said. "I'm not good at this. I don't know what questions to ask you. I just graduated from engineering school, which is why I'm at speed dating in the first place." I laughed and he seemed encouraged. With both of us now at ease, we passed the next few minutes debating the merits of various shows on the Food Network.

In fact, most of the guys I met were very pleasant, and as time went on and everyone became more relaxed, I found that I was actually having fun.

"So, what makes you a good candidate to be my girlfriend?" asked Jonathan, my first date of the evening. I raised my eyebrows. "Is this a job interview?"

I had some genuinely interesting conversations that night, albeit short ones. I spoke to a former CBC broadcaster about the state of modern journalism, discussed Mordecai Richler with a physicist, and met an electrical engineer from Colombia who teaches salsa dancing on the weekends.

Of course, when the conversation slackened, four minutes felt like a very long time.

"I like racist jokes," said Michael, my twenty-fifth and last date of the evening.

"Pardon me?" I reply, thinking that I misheard him.

"I like racist jokes," he said again. "Any race is off limits."

"You mean no race is off limits?"

"Oh, yeah. No race."

I couldn't think of a response that would salvage the next few minutes of the date. The rapport was dead.

Despite the fact that my last date was quashed by a bit of mild racism, for the most part, I had a good time speed-dating. I met some nice guys, and because you only spend a few minutes with each person, awkward and dull conversations are relatively bearable. That said, it's difficult to make a real connection with anyone when you go through twenty-five dates in under three hours. By the end of the night, I realized that I was not really willing to go out with someone I ultimately know nothing about. For a more romantically adventurous person than myself, however, speed-dating is probably a fun way to get back into the dating game. At the very least, it might prompt you to reflect on one of life's more profound questions: if faced with the choice, what ice cream flavour would you be?



An interview with Ken

Barbie's ex talks to Arts Editor **WILL SLOAN** *about Obamacare, abortion, and winning his girl back in this Valentine's Day exclusive. (No, really.)*

Sometimes an interview opportunity comes along that we simply cannot turn down. Such was the case when Mattel Inc. offered The Varsity a one-on-one chat with Ken, popular plastic toy and ex-boyfriend of Barbie. Never mind that Ken is, as best we could determine, both a small plastic doll and a fictional character: Mattel assured us that as part of his campaign to rekindle his romance with Barbie (the pair split in 2004), he was making himself available for phone interviews with select press. Fictional or not, Ken's place in popular culture is so immense that we leapt at the chance, and on February 4, a man claiming to be Ken phoned the Varsity offices.

THE VARSITY: *Well Ken, I was really shocked when I heard you and Barbie broke up. I mean, if you can't make it work, what hope is there for the rest of us?*

KEN: You know what? So was I. But, y'know, I think all power couples have their ups and downs, and, yeah, it was unfortunate, but now I know that I definitely want her back.

TV: *How did the separation come about, if you don't mind me asking?*

K: It was her decision, but, as I was saying, we were a power couple, we were together for over forty years. When we met on our first commercial we did together it was love at first sight. We had an amazing relationship, but I think that… I think there was a lot going on, a lot of pressure, y'know, work-related, travel-related. It's so difficult with her busy schedule, my busy schedule. I mean, the amount of jobs we both have, the different careers — I mean, I think she had 85 different careers when we were together…

TV: *And you've had 40 or so?*

K: Yes.

TV: *Okay. Now, do you think Barbie will take you back? What sort of grand gestures do you have planned?*

K: Honestly, we were made for each other. Although we're plastic, our love is real, and that's something that's important for everyone to know. […] Some of the grand gestures — first of all, I've got ads; I've got my billboards; I'm going to different places in malls to create awareness, get people knowing I'm looking for her. I was at LG Fashion Week looking for her, because she usually goes, she's got her fashion line.

TV: *You broke up in around 2004. Have you been seeing anyone since then? I dunno, Stacie perhaps?*

K: Yeah, I… nothing serious, but I've been the ultimate bachelor for the past couple of years. And now I'm ready to be the ultimate boyfriend again.

TV: *How about Skipper? Did you have anything going on with her?*

K: Uh, no, nothing serious there.

TV: *I guess she's only, like, 14, right?*

K: Yeah, she's a bit… a bit young.

TV: *Well, y'know, you're only as old as you feel, is what I say.*

K: Well, yeah, exactly, I mean, I feel young, I look young — like, life in plastic's great. But I am turning fifty soon.

TV: *I don't very often get the chance to talk to someone as famous as yourself, so I was wondering if I could take this opportunity to ask: boxers or briefs?*

K: Uh… boxers.

TV: *Okay. Three favourite movies?*

K: Oh… wow… three favourite movies, let's see…you're the only one who's ever asked me what my three favourite movies are. Let's see…[ten second pause]…let's go with the… something… can I say the *Godfather* trilogy? We'll go with that. We'll go with… some… comedy? Let's say the lighter side of me likes *Wedding Crashers*. And, last but not least by any means, my romantic side: *Love Actually*.

TV: *Excellent. Do you follow politics? Because I was wondering what you make of the current crisis in Egypt.*

K: Um…yeah, yeah, I am following, and I mean…y'know, I could say some comments, but I think that that's not something I want to comment on right now. I think right now I just want to focus on the quest to get Barbie back. I mean, I think that's a…

TV: *Well, I guess I shouldn't ask my pro-life or pro-choice question then, either…*

K: Oh, really? [Laughs] That's, uh, y'know… pro-life or pro-choice, we really wanna get into the political debates… uh, well, y'know, being Ken, I would definitely be, y'know, in Malibu, be more liberal on these kind of issues. So, I think, in general, it's more of a pro-choice.

TV: *If I could ask you one more political question, I mean, seeing as you are plastic I don't know how much this applies to you, but: Barack Obama's healthcare plan. Since you're more liberal-minded, is that something you would support?*

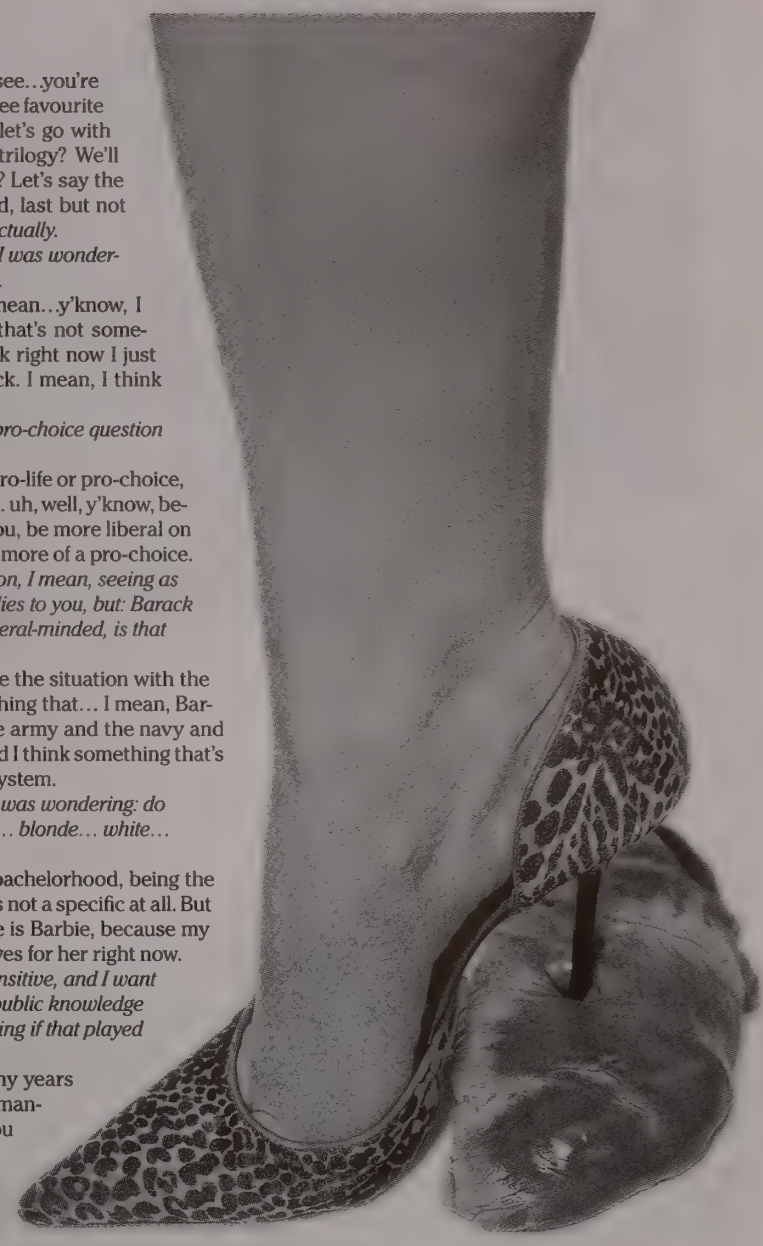
K: Um… yeah. I definitely… y'know, we all see the situation with the American healthcare system, so that's something that… I mean, Barbie's a doctor. I was not, but I did serve in the army and the navy and the police, so, y'know, just dangerous jobs, and I think something that's really, really important is a good healthcare system.

TV: *Because you've been together for so long, I was wondering: do you have a specific type? Y'know, sort of… thin… blonde… white… whatever?*

K: Over the past couple of years during my bachelorhood, being the ultimate bachelor again, I had no type. There is not a specific at all. But now, I've come to the realization that my type is Barbie, because my plastic heart is [for] one doll. So, I only have eyes for her right now.

TV: *I have one last question, and it's kind of sensitive, and I want to talk about this man-to-man. I think it's fairly public knowledge that you don't have genitalia, and I was wondering if that played a role in your break-up?*

K: I think that I have been an icon for so many years of being the ultimate boyfriend, of being romantic, confident, well-dressed, articulate, so you could take me anywhere — great arm candy, if that's what you're looking for. So, I think that that doesn't really play a role, just because I am still such an icon, right? It's great to be me. Great to be Ken.





All that glitters is not (Oscar) gold

The 83rd Academy Awards walk a thin line between "movies" and "films"

Alex Griffith
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Almost every year, detractors complain of the Academy's disregard for popular entertainment. In Oscar's eyes, the "movie" is somehow inferior to the worthy "film," and as a filmmaker, you either dumb down your craft to make nine figures, or you take your work seriously, because Academy voters like nothing better than art that knows it is serious. When both coalesce it is the exception, not the rule.

Last year the dichotomy between pop and art were obvious: Cameron's crowd-seducing *Avatar* vs. Kathryn Bigelow's indie thriller *The Hurt Locker*. I use the labels "movie" and "film" with caution. They are more economic distinctions than aesthetic ones. *Avatar* glowed with as much breathless artistry as *The Hurt Locker* simmered with tried-and-true exercises in Hitchcockian suspense. Bigelow's effort made back its $11-million, but only squeaked in and out of theatres. Meanwhile *Avatar* charged, dominating the box office for seven straight weeks.

By giving Best Picture to *The Hurt Locker*, the Academy lived up its reputation for high-brow snobbery. Of course, they would not give the award to the biggest cinematic event of the year (which *Avatar* was, tepid plot aside). Of course, they would not give *The Dark Knight* a nomination in 2009. Even doubling the number of nominees did not give the popular films a fighting chance at the award.

This year, unique visions and commercial appeal have paired together in a surprising number of films that won critics and audiences. In an industry increasingly dominated by massive budgets and groundbreaking special effects, Americans (and, let's not forget, Canadians) have turned overwhelmingly to niche auteurs and dramas. A group of strong contenders are poised to carve the Academy between themselves, maybe evenly. There is no binary Cameron-Bigelow showdown. Undoubtedly, *The Social Network* is the zeitgeist biopic winning accolades and the critic's affections. Fincher's cynical drama has raked in over $218 million worldwide, despite having little star power (only Justin Timberlake in a supporting role) and an unsympathetic cast of characters.

Even more extraordinary was *True Grit*, which has grossed $158 million domestically. Considering the Coen brothers are hardly mainstream material and the Western is a genre long thought dead, this was the year's runaway hit. The psychosexual *Black Swan* also exceeded expectations with an impressive $97 million and counting, despite director Daren Aronofsky's poor history with the box office. Other films excelled: *The Fighter* won over $84 million; *The King's Speech* crossed the Atlantic and the $100 million mark worldwide.

This was an amazing year for dramas, original concepts, and a dead monarch's stutter. Even among the blockbusters novelty prevailed. Who would have thought a two-and-a-half hour mindbender like *Inception* would gross $800 million worldwide? Granted, the ads were prefaced with "From the Director of *The Dark Knight*," but Christopher Nolan does not have the same draw as Steven Spielberg or Michael Bay. Neither does Tim Burton, who gambled on an unpromising March release date to sell the monumental *Alice in Wonderland*.

But what about the usual cash machines — the sequels, remakes, and star vehicles that fill the most seats year by year? As Brook Barnes noted in *The New York Times*, a large number of expected steamrollers tanked. *Killers* and *The Tourist* needed foreign rentals to make back their budgets, despite having the full weight of studio marketing. Sequels like *Sex and the City 2* and *Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore* also underperformed domestically.

I have hope, as Barnes does, that audiences are

SEE **'OSCAR'** – PG 23

arts' arts

Facesuckers

By Nick McKinlay
(for those lovebirds in the JCR)

for a second,
I am audience to a Hollywood
Embrace.
(make that
threeorfour
minutes...)

He lifts her up & they
land on the leather lips of
a couch's mouth &
I don't see their faces for
awhile.

& they whisper loudly,
& they kiss quietly,
& they can't keep their
noses off of eachother.

He slaps her ass
& she cocoons herself a
little deeper in his arms
& I am certain that they
Love Eachother.

I notice that a button's
falling off my jacket &
stare at some water damage on the
ceiling, wondering if anyone
else ever notices what a
shithole this place is.

Vacationing in Eden

By Michael Labate

I was quicksand for the lotus snow,
earth around me erupting
collarbones the colour of sour clay.

I flickered — a background figment,
stubble rippling out of history's skin.
Paradise shivered my teeth crooked.



Untitled
David Pike

"Just Moving Along"

UC artist in residence Linda Griffiths explains how her work has "a surreal, either spiritual or magical" element.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Alex Griffith
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"This is a lot of stuff," says Linda Griffiths halfway through our conversation. "Are you overwhelmed?" In a way, I am. She looks and acts perpetually excited, flying into sentences, pausing to catch the right word, then charging to the end of her thoughts before turning off into tangents. She is always a playwright, she is often an actor, and now she is teaching drama at University College. Despite all the projects she has to keep her going from day to day, Griffiths is preoccupied with one idea now, something she says — with weighty, enthusiastic emphasis — will be a "major work."

Anatomy of a House Fire is about "two teenage boys in a basement, one 15, one 16, both into videogames." The teenagers play a game in which moral choices are rewarded randomly: "You can abandon the mission to save your comrade-in-arms, and you can get rewarded or not." She adds that "there's a lot of 2012 hanging over it" and a heavy concern over the use of technology. "It's not the enemy, but you just see how all the levels work to create a situation which is really dangerous and in which no one is communicating."

Her research into the male-dominated world of gaming is a deliberate shift away from historical pieces anchored around women. "I really wanted to talk about boys," she muses, "I don't want to be characterized as the costume drama person." *Age of Arousal* (2007) was a battleground of female passion and official decorum in Victorian England; 1998's *The Duchess* placed the hard-living Wallis Simpson in the magical fairyland of the British nobility.

The former is punctuated by "thought speak," Griffiths' technique to reveal a character's repressed urges. In her breakout hit *Maggie & Pierre*, Trudeau shouts, "I want somebody to fuck me silly!" halfway through a conversation with a journalist. In *Age of Arousal* Griffiths knocked the air out of the period piece, blowing fresh air into a stale genre. Mary and Rhoda are lovers and partners in a school for secretaries. They take in three sisters as students, each with a different attitude towards feminism, propriety, and sex.

"There's such a lid on what they are saying," she says of the characters. "That lid was very interesting when you opened it up." The erotically charged result is the anti-Merchant-Ivory, careening between public virtue and private fantasy. In *Anatomy of a House Fire*, what's left unsaid is expressed in combat simulations. Ironically, the boys' real-life bond is explicit, in a fabricated (and violent) world. For Griffiths, seeing life through different planes of reality is a sensibility.

"I'll say it because no one's said it," she says with slight exasperation. "All of my work has a surreal, either spiritual or magical element to it, in which I live all too comfortably." The political and the personal is transcended to an "über level" that makes *Maggie & Pierre* and *The Duchess* more than bioplays.

"It seems to be a big red herring in my work: 'Oh, she does famous people'. No; I will sometimes spring from a specific set of circumstances and then I go away from it." She calls this approach collective creation, part of her training in early '70s Saskatoon with long-time collaborator Paul Thompson. One starts with the headlines, and then one go goes deeper. "*Maggie & Pierre* is passion over reason, it's not about Margaret and Pierre Trudeau."

And *Arousal* is not simply about the 19th century suffragette movement: "It's everything I know or don't know about being a woman. It is all the contradictions and confusions about being a woman. That's why I'm so happy to be writing about guys now."

Before diving into the mind of the adolescent male, Griffiths went into her own past for the one-woman *The Last Dog of War* which wrapped up at the Alberta Theatre Projects last November. The extended monologue explores her trip to the U.K. with her father, who reunited with his RAF comrades of Bomber Command. "The political issue is war, the personal is father-daughter, and the imagined is me on a bomber going to Berlin in the Second World War."

She never expected a trip with her father to turn into anything more than a chance to exploit some war stories. "I [went] in totally self-interested. 'Gimme your stories, you ol' bastard!' But it's something to come out and say here I am, this is my family, this is what I'm like around family." She is working on a film adaptation with playwright Layne Coleman.

As if that were not enough, Griffiths is revisiting a collection of stories called *The Paradise Play*. "It's my own very romantic view on a certain period of time putting together a play that is called *O.D. in Paradise* [1983]." The Toronto scene Griffiths lived and breathed in the '80s was different, "looser with the rules, so much less corporate. There was money around. [Now] you live in a time when students go back to live with their parents because they can't afford to live on their own. We could. You lived poor, but you could live."

And now, more than 20 years later? "I'm inspired by my circle of friends — nobody's looking back, you know, and people are just moving, and bringing out new stuff and thinking of new things. If you're lucky enough to have lived this long — and lots of people in this theatre community have died this last year — there's another breath that you take going into this stage of your life which is like 'I must have learnt something by now.'"

No mid-life crisis? "Oh, fuck no. That's over. Every new work, every new play I think I know nothing, I've no idea how this goes. But I figure if I work on it something will…come out. There's a certain amount of smiling by the muses, which you really have to accept is part of it. That's something to be able to say to yourself, even though you doubt every day. It is…it is a good time."



'OSCAR' – CONTINUED FROM PG 21

becoming more demanding. They want an *Inception* or a *Despicable Me* rather than another *Prince of Persia*. Strong numbers for the Oscar front runners could be a signal of audiences maturing out of the governing 18—25 male demographic.

To understand the shift to quality it is useful to go back to last winter, when *Avatar* was well on its way to breaking the billion-dollar benchmark. Cameron's visuals, scope, and 3D mastery have not yet been equalled, even challenged. Has the standard been set too high for subsequent blockbusters to compete? Were *Avatar*'s stunning looks and banal story so mismatched as to train us to spot rehashed material in subsequent spectacles?

There are too many outliers to answer in the affirmative. 3D did wonders for *Resident Evil: Afterlife* and *Clash of the Titans*, and the requisite summer sequel *Iron Man 2* exploded globally. But the same magic is gone, or at least waning. *TRON: Legacy*, in all its attempts to be 2010's *Avatar*, was only a moderate success. When *True Grit* is approaching the same numbers as *Tron*'s domestic haul, one can be optimistic enough to say we might just be sick of the same shit.

Studios recognize this but, typically, are taking shortcuts. When Sony hired *(500) Days of Summer* director Marc Webb to direct its *Spider-Man* reboot, industry watchers like *Variety* called it a watershed moment of abandoning studio journeymen in favour of untested young talent. I think the more pressing issue is that Sony fully expects us to watch Peter Parker learn to climb again. No later than 2013. I thought the success of this year's contenders would inspire Sony to find Webb a project to suit his subjective and postmodern take on romantic comedy.

Increasingly, it does not matter what Canadians and Americans think. Foreigners are gorging themselves on Hollywood crap. *Gulliver's Travels* has little right to make obscene amounts on money, but Jack Black and co. did just that outside the U.S. Flashy, simple, and loud, action movies easily transcend cultural barriers. Producers can jump on the 3D bandwagon (regardless of how gratuitous and poor most 3D is), and exhibitors can charge higher ticket prices.

While I am glad that so many award-winning dramas plundered the home box office, this might be a minor blip in the Hollywood model and not the start of a trend. Clearly, studios are still hedging their bets on animation, sequels, and comic book adaptations.

Now the challenge is putting new wine into old bottles. Nolan's reinvention of the derailed Batman franchise showed the MPAA how to inject high-brow gravity, no matter how superficial, into the familiar origin story. 20th Century Fox has already picked up Aronofsky to direct the next Wolverine film. The result should be interesting, but I hope auteurs will be given support for their own projects, even if they have to "make one for the system." However, if attendance continues to drop almost five per cent a year, then the system might have to green-light stories as original as their directors.

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by ANDREW RUSK

Valentine's Day is easily the most important wine holiday of the year (if you haven't purchased your wine when your reading this, get out now!). When you're choosing a wine, aim for something that you don't regularly drink — this rules out the big brands of the Niagara Peninsula and California. You want a wine that is charming and personal — just like your relationship.

The B & G Partager Rouge is a great red wine from France that is a perfect Valentines accompaniment. Full-bodied with oaky tones and rich berries, this wine says "I love you" better than any singing telegram, bouquet of roses, or box of chocolates. (That being said, pairing this wine with a box of chocolates is not a half bad idea).

You'll also appreciate the cork placed in the top of this bottle: both the global cork shortage and drives to economize cause wineries to move to twist tops. Corks will be something you tell your grandchildren about as they stare at you in disbelief and shuttle you off to the home.

Opening a corked bottle doesn't need to be complicated. It all starts with a proper corkscrew, one that folds down and looks like a pocket knife. Place the screw in the centre of the cork, press down, and twist the bottle several times. Once the screw has taken hold stop turning the bottle and start turning the corkscrew. Avoid the more complicated corkscrews that look like they belong in a fetish video instead of a kitchen. Just be patient and enjoy the experience.

This wine is perfect for Valentine's Day. Pair with a large dinner and cozy blankets.

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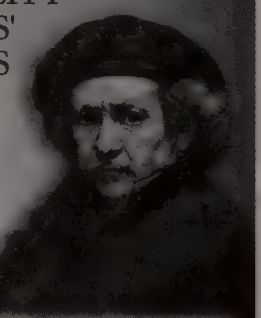
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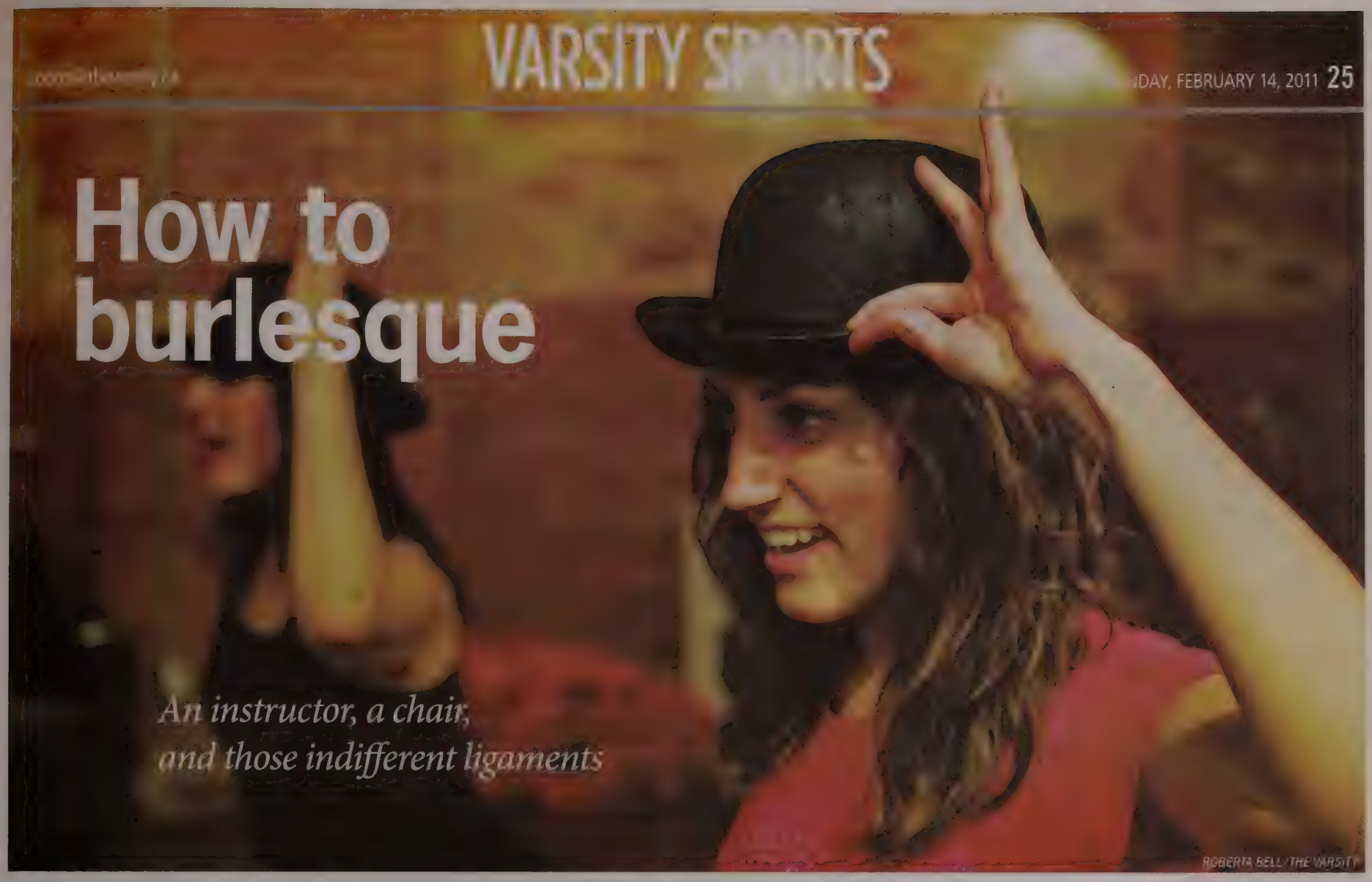
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How to burlesque

An instructor, a chair, and those indifferent ligaments


ROBERTA BELL/THE VARSITY

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY STAFF

University has brought me to a pretty low point in my life where I, for lack of a better verb, cringe at the very thought or notion of anything that may pertain to physical fitness and exercise. Could it be my gluttonous eating habits and infatuation with French fries or perhaps my sheer propensity for steering towards a cyclic routine of slothfulness? I have decided that it is an amalgamation of the two — and a deadly one.

February is quite an eventful month, considering it's the shortest; we celebrate Black history, eagerly anticipate a rodent from buttfuck nowhere's deceptive prediction while continuing to get pounded by mother nature's wrath, observe my birth, and indulge in the most perverse and lustful consumer holiday ever created. Those who are single may be embittered and envious of the exceptionally delusional who seek pride through their greedy accumulation of attention on this bastardized day known as that of St. Valentine.

Now that the seven deadly sins have been identified and applied, it is difficult to believe that something good could come from this month (besides my birthday, that is). And you know what? Something did, something I never thought I would do in my entire life. I was incredibly hesitant to take on this arduous and esteem robbing task: participating in a burlesque class at Flirty Girl Fitness.

Was I prepared to sacrifice myself on the altar of dignity to have material for an article in The Varsity? The answer is yes. But was I prepared for the physical activity required to complete the assignment? Hell to the no. To help paint a clear picture, the extent of my activeness is cruising down grocery store aisles while selecting fatty foods and breathlessly attempting to make it up the daunting stairs of Alumni Hall. What you all really want to know is whether or not I came through and manned the fuck up. Well, I did.

It was a frigid Wednesday and my meal of choice prior to the class consisted of half a cheese pizza and two cups of pop. You see where this is going? I was running a little late when I finally faced the cold and made my way towards Flirty Girl Fitness. It's a good thing their sign is fittingly bright pink and nearly impossible to miss.

The staff was extremely welcoming in spite of our tardiness and got us set up quickly. The female-only establishment exuded an air of freshness, confidence, and hospitality with their big smiles and enthusiasm. We entered the entirely mirrored studio, which was adorned with pearly pink workout balls and rosy floor mats, and were greeted by our burlesque instructor, Teresa Lombardi.

Before jumping right into the workout regimen, I surveyed and took note of the complicated movements Teresa demonstrated as the rest of the class mimicked her. The ladies were learning incredibly quickly and I started to think I might just turn this into an observational piece. I mean, my grace doesn't exactly scream seductress — I suppose my physical gestures shout something more along the lines of crass and uncoordinated.

"Don't be scared to touch your body," remarked Teresa while explaining to the ladies that they should be conscious of their arm movements. "You know how you like to be touched, right?" No, not after getting dumped by your boyfriend.

Her openness and great sense of humour made the class all the more enjoyable, as well as comfortable, considering props were about to come out.

The kind of burlesque taught at FGF does not include tassels hanging from breasts, nor any kinky costumes of that sort. The class takes on the conventions of neo-burlesque, which has a wide range of styles, but ours in particular was quick-paced, sexy dancing with a chair. Let me tell you, if those chairs could talk, I wonder what would be the outcome of a conversation between them and a few from Robarts: "Dude, this chick just totally chair effed me right now." "Oh, some guy just farted on me. I guess it was the Taco Bell he ate at lunch." I digress.

The soundtrack of the night was exclusively limited to Christina Aguilera's "Show Me How You Burlesque," which I probably heard over 20 times that evening. Once I got in on the action and got on one of those chairs, I quickly pulled a Christina myself by making up my own moves, (as opposed to lyrics), to the song. I'm sure I would do her proud with my half-assed gyrating, right?

"Don't be scared to touch your body," remarked Teresa while explaining to the ladies that they should be conscious of their arm movements. "You know how you like to be touched, right?"

Teresa, who showed absolutely no signs of fatigue or lack of intensity throughout the class, never ceased to animate her movements with amusing dialogue. While I had big issues with my attempts at straddling and swaying my hips on my chair and the rest of the women had a good grasp of what they were doing, she shouted words of encouragement: "Oh, I love this chair. So sexy!" No, Teresa, that's what your chair thought of you. I couldn't love mine because it hated me.


BERNARDA GOSPIC/THE VARSITY

"Don't panic," she said. I panicked. "Around, around, around, around," she articulated. I grew dizzy, lazy, and consistently moved in the wrong direction. "Show me how," she said with her hands on her breasts, "you burlesque!" Finally, something I could hone. Pathetic? Perhaps. Was I proud of myself? Unbelievably.

When the clock struck nine, the class had ended. "We'll see you on Friday," said one woman on her way out, "because we're coming in for lap dancing." Please, tell me at what other fitness establishment you would hear such words being spoken.

I had the opportunity to ask some, out of the dozen or so, participants a few questions about their experiences at FGF. "It makes you feel sexy," said a woman in her mid-twenties, "I've grown much more confident and comfortable in doing this in front of anyone." She and her friend were taking advantage of the one-week free trial period FGF offers to new members, taking 2-3 classes a day to help them decide which was the best for them.

Another mentioned that it "[felt] like being in a club, but without the drinking and creepy guys," in addition to allowing her to "get in touch with [her] girliness." The studio embraces the fact that it has classes unlike any other, making it a much more social experience than the average fitness centre. Another was much more drawn to taking a class like this because she just didn't see herself as a "gym person."

After everyone else left, I had the fortune of a private lesson with my exceptionally patient instructor Teresa. She mentioned something about positive muscle memory while I complained about my maladroit movements. Uh, yeah. The only thing my body remembered was how to add another knot on the plethora already chilling in my back.

"It takes a legend... to make a star" is the tagline for the recently-released Aguilera film Burlesque. I decided to provide my own for the evening I spent at Flirty Girl Fitness: "It takes a leg lift... to create a soft-tissue injury."

Teresa took the time to correct every error in my posture by manoeuvring my arms, legs, torso, and back into the precise positions which she had intended for the routine she choreographed herself. Although I should have attempted to memorize the sequence of dance steps and chair seducing, I couldn't help but watch what was reflected in the mirror for the entire half hour we had together, alone. I felt like the biggest narcissist, but not really, because I was transfixed by her reflection, and not my own.

In the hour and a half I was there, I was on two completely opposite ends of the confidence spectrum. I came in feeling uncomfortable and clumsy, and left harbouring sentiments of poise and sexiness.

Let's get physical

Sex burns calories, lots of them



FRANCESCO RACHELLO/FLICKR

Erene Stergiopoulos
VARSITY STAFF

As Woody Allen once said, "Love is the answer, but while you are waiting for the answer, sex raises some pretty good questions."

One of those questions is actually a matter of muscle. Sex is hard work. So it makes sense that one of the benefits of sex, apart from the obvious, is a good workout. Are all those visits to the gym just as good as an evening under the covers?

According to research on caloric output, sexual intercourse burns around 80 to 200 calories, depending on the rigour involved. To intensify your, uh, workout, you can try for a more challenging location that requires increased dexterity and stamina.

Yes, sex can actually be a viable method of weight loss.

Apart from its energy-burning qualities, knocking boots also has many health benefits. Increased heart rate and heavy breathing can work toward increasing cardiovascular fitness and decreasing cholesterol levels. Having sex reduces your risk of developing heart disease, and also helps tone muscle groups that aren't used on a regular basis.

Just like a good workout, sex will make you sleep better. Better sleep results in higher energy levels, increased metabolism, and faster weight loss. What's more, you'll also be able to stay awake in class.

Yet one issue that remains on many minds is the question of how to increase one's sexual prowess. Quite literally, how do you get the best bang for your caloric buck?

Perhaps the most popular workout for improving sexual skill is the Kegel exercise. Originally designed to help women tighten up their vaginal muscles after giving birth to avoid mild incontinence, Kegel workouts in men can increase sexual satisfaction, and help men maintain stronger erections and control ejaculation.

Kegel exercises work on the basis of increasing muscular control of the pelvis. This involves contracting the pelvic floor and the pubic muscles. Basically, imagine you really need to pee, then try to hold it in. Rinse, and repeat.

At the level of overall health, having sex also changes your hormonal makeup, inducing sensations of well-being and reward. When you feel good, you're more likely to engage in more positive activities — like exercise. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

Next time you're in the sack, just remind yourself: just because something feels good, doesn't mean it's bad for you.



THE GOAL KEEPER

Where the money's at



Murad Hemmadi
VARSITY STAFF

Real Madrid, a club that has not won the Spanish La Liga in two seasons, or the Champions League in eight, topped Deloitte's annual list of the top-earning clubs in world football.

Clubs from the big five European Leagues — Spain, England, Italy, Germany, and France — dominate the Top 20 in Deloitte's "Football Money League" report. Last year's UEFA Champions League winners, Inter Milan, came in ninth, while beaten finalists Bayern Munich were fourth. Barcelona, who have dominated the football scene with their style and success in the last two years, finished second, a full forty-million euros behind their arch-rivals Madrid.

Deloitte's list ranks clubs based on revenues earned over the 2009–2010 football season. So what do all these figures and rankings really mean, and how important is the Holy Grail of playing in the Champions League to a club's revenue?

The clubs on the Top 20 list include seven who are not competing in the Champions League this season, meaning that they finished outside the top three or four teams in their leagues last season. Liverpool, which had a disastrous 2009–2010 season, were eighth on the list, ahead of Tottenham Hotspur, the team that took its usual Champions League spot. Hamburg, the German club that failed to qualify for any European competitions, ranked above Schalke, a compatriot that qualified for the Champions League. Juventus and Milan finished below Roma in the Italian Serie A but ranked higher in the Money League.

Apparently, success doesn't translate into money. Neither does spending a lot of money on players. Russian clubs in recent years have spent huge sums on transfer fees and player salaries. But no Russian club got anywhere near the Top 20 of Deloitte's list. Manchester City, which has spent hundreds of millions of pounds in the last two years on players, finished 11th, nine places higher than last season, but still behind Arsenal, which has spent relatively little.

Why does it matter where clubs rank in the Money League? It matters because of the Financial Fair Play rules that UEFA President Michael Platini is introducing this season. The rules basically state that if a club spends more than it earns, it cannot play in UEFA competitions — and that means the Champions League. So Manchester City, with revenues of £125-million for 2009–2010, have broken the rules by spending over £120-million on transfers alone.

The whole point of the fair play rules is to stop clubs with billionaire owners from buying success by spending more than the club's revenues on transfers and salaries. The likes of Chelsea, Manchester City, Real Madrid, and Manchester United — who can afford to spend £25 million and more on a single player simply because their owners have the money — will supposedly have to be more fair.

To me, the money league shows something different. It shows that money, or revenue at least, isn't a guarantee for success. Facts and figures cannot explain why, for example, the French club Lille currently leads Ligue 1 while Lyon and Marseilles, both in the Top 20 of the money league are no longer really challenging for the title. They don't explain how West Ham United and Fulham, English clubs that ranked just outside the Top 20, are currently fighting to avoid relegation from the EPL.

Frankly, I don't think most casual football fans really care too much about Deloitte's Money League. After all, it doesn't seem to have such a great effect on what happens on the field.

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A good sport

Celebrity sexcapades

When winning isn't enough...



Delonte West allegedly slept with former teammate LeBron James' mother .

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

We all know what the jock stereotype is: big, strong, good at sports, bad at school, and yes, good with women. Not all of those things are true of all jocks, of course, but it's probably not a controversial claim to suggest that professional athletes get more off-field action than the rest of us would on-field if we were athletes ourselves. In keeping with this week's theme of love and sex, here's a rundown on some of the most... interesting sexual relations that professional athletes have had.

A few rules: these rankings are hugely subjective. There's nothing tangible that makes, say, number two "worse" than number three. Speaking of "worse," this list isn't an attempt to pass judgment. There's nothing "bad" about being on this list — it just means you've done something sexual that might cause a lot of people to do a double take. And obviously, a lot of the activities described below don't fall into what we might conventionally associate with Valentine's Day.

1) Delonte West misses jump shot, nails Gloria James instead.
Talk about hitting on the boss's wife taken to another level. Delonte West took it many steps further last May, allegedly having sex with Gloria James, LeBron James' mother. Not only was LeBron a teammate and friend of West, but he's the top dog in basketball. Who says alphas get all the action?

2) Can't steal second, steals teammate's wife instead.
Actually, it's weirder than that. Back in 1973, New York Yankees baseball players Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich, literally switched wives. Both had young families that were extremely close, and a joke double date is alleged to have led to a casual swap at a liquor-fueled party, and that led to a more permanent swap.

3) Sing me a song.
Baseball superstar Roger Clemens is alleged to have begun a decade-long relationship with country singer Mindy McCready when he was a married 28-year-old superstar and she was a 15-year-old up-and-coming star. Clemens claims it was merely a "close" relationship that did not involve sex with McCready, who will not deny any aspect of their relationship.

4) Sweet Revenge.
Anna Benson, wife of recently retired baseball player Kris Benson, seems to have her game plan thought out well in advance should her husband ever cheat on her. The plan? According to an interview she did with Howard Stern, she intends to sleep with everybody on his team. Considering how awkward that would make life for Kris, it seems like she's found a winning formula for keeping him close to home.

5) National Crisis.
Football's serious in England, but not all the time. At least for John Terry, who took it upon himself to sleep with teammate Wayne Bridge's wife. The kicker — literally — Terry is married with twins. One wonders if Bridge would have felt better about it had Terry gone the Delonte route and slept with his mom instead. Maybe not.

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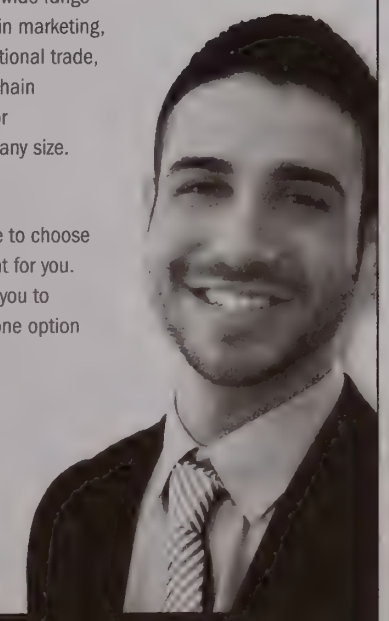
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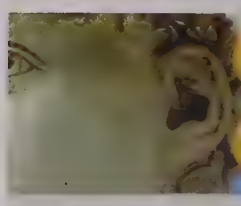
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Overheard On Campus

Prof is calmly trying to pull down the projector screen for a full minute or so.
Girl: Man, he's so slow.
Guy: Yeah, but that's okay - it means he's chillz...

Lit theory class: "And the artistic merit of this is... Actually, I don't have to express an opinion on this, so I don't think I will."

OISE professor:
"That was when I teach thirty years ago, so I don't get sued. If it was today, I would be sued and go to jail, and you bring me cake and cigarettes."

After failing to operate the projector: "When in doubt, always destroy."
—UTM- South Building.

Girl approaching another girl sitting near Tim Hortons.
Girl 1: I am so mad at you!
Girl 2: Oh my... did you find my underwear underneath your pillow?
...Girl 1: No...but let's go back to that..

Prof for HIS 334 on our classroom: "When I was a professor in a certain Communist university in a small town many years ago, conditions were like this!"

Share your own overheard on the Overheard on Campus Facebook group!

We're recruiting!

Want to write?
Photograph?
Write the crossword?
(*Please*, someone, write the crossword!)

The Varsity is always seeking fresh talent. Writers, photographers, illustrators, bloggers, copy editors, and people who don't know how they want to get involved — yet.

recruitment @thevarsity.ca

LikeALittle at University of Toronto

At 89 Chestnut: Female, Black hair
You were sitting directly across from me. Don't think I didn't see you looking at me in the caf whenever I turned my head slightly. Also, getting ice cream from the dessert section to put on your waffle? You are some kind of sorcerer.

At Kelly Library : Female, Brunette
Earlier today Girl with large 70's style Box Glasses at the computers, you are very cute. You have nerdy/cool look about you.

At Howard Ferguson Dining Hall (FUNG): Male, Blonde
I see you working at fung in your uniform - you're way to hot to be true, and nice to boot. so many girls have a crush on you, there's no way you can't know that...well, a girl can hope you'll point those pretty blue eyes at her someday :)

At CHM139: Male, Black hair
I won't be happy on Monday... unless you be my valentine :)

At PB study room: Male, Black hair
black t-shirt with your headphones on.... STOP WATCHING THE OFFICE AND STUDY!!! ps. your really sexy ;)

At Hart House Arbor Room: Female, Redhead
You were with two friends, chatting it up while the music played. I would've approached to get you a drink, but was too caught up in my studies :((hope i get to see u again, somewhere :)

Courtesy of likealittle.com/utoronto

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

DISCUSSIONS:

Juxta Talks: Examining the Ethical Issues Involved in Student Volunteerism and Research Abroad
Juxtaposition Global Health Magazine is presenting this interactive session that seeks to critically analyze and discuss the role of students and scholars in global health. The goals of Juxta Talks are to bring together researchers, students, and experts who can speak to the myriad of complex and ethical challenges we face as the field of global health expands.
- *February 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House, East Common Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

Sport for Development and Peace: The Promise and The Risk
In the last 20 years, the number of NGO's working in low-income countries, many in Africa, has grown significantly. This panel discusses the complexities of these relationships, the impact of nationality on development efforts, and the role of sport and physical activity.
- *February 16 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

FESTIVALS:

U of T Drama Festival
Four nights of competitive theatre. Eleven original student-written plays take the stage. The nineteenth annual festival is adjudicated by Canadian actor/director/education William B. Davis, with an awards ceremony happening on the final night. Get your tickets now and support your peers!
- *February 16 to 19 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House Theatre (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$10 for students (check uofttix.ca)*

SHOWS:

Daffydil: Daffydilirium
Come celebrate 100 years of the Faculty of Medicine's Daffydil with Daffydilirum! Daffydil is a student production that satirizes medical school life. This year, the production chronicles the journey of an unenthusiastic medical student who is forced to direct the hundredth Daffydil and the production mayhem that ensues before opening night.
- *February 23 to 26 at 8 p.m.*
- *Hart House Theatre (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$17-$21 with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society (check torontomeds.com/daffydil for more details)*

OFF CAMPUS:

DISCUSSIONS:

Black Romance in the 21st Century
Filmmaker and actor Sharon Lewis leads this discussion, addressing contemporary dating and marriage statistics, taking a closer look at Black romance in literature. In honour of Valentine's Day and Black History Month, a timely discussion for both the lucky and unlucky in love. There will be cocktails, a Q and A, and a book signing.
- *February 18 at 6 p.m.*
- *Arts and Letters Club (14 Elm St.)*
- *$10*

KARAOKE:

Heartbreak Karaoke
Think Valentine's Day sucks? You're not alone. Leave it to the ladies behind Toronto indie fashion magazine *Worn Journal* to come up with this antidote to a lame Valentine's: at this event, participants can belt out all the heartache among friends at Heartbreak Karaoke. Something tells me "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" will be popular.
- *February 14 at 9 p.m.*
- *Supermarket Restaurant and Bar (268 Augusta Ave.)*
- *$5 if you wear red, $7 if you don't*

VALENTINE'S EVENTS:

Valentine's Day Events at Trane Studio
This jazzy Valentine's at Trane Studio includes a prix fixe menu, a film screening, and Terry Logan Quintet, featuring Terry Logan on the piano, Michael Arthurs on the sax, and Alexander Brown on the trumpet. They will be playing Chet Baker's "My Funny Valentine." You can choose to see the concert and film or the concert and film with dinner.
- *February 14 at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Trane Studio (964 Bathurst St.)*
- *$15 for concert and film, $40 for concert, film, and dinner*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

check our blogs at varsity.ca

ON SCREEN



THE VARSITY

Vol. CXXXI, No. 22 University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880 28 February, 2011

'We have no faith in the system'



DAVID PIKE

From left to right, the former candidates: Brent Schmidt (VP Internal and Services), Jasmine Song (VP Equity), Matthew Gray (President), Alec Levin (VP University Affairs), Rohail Tanoli (VP External)

Slate boycotts UTSU election after alleged last-minute disqualifications

Jakob Tanner
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Following Sunday's all-candidates meeting for the upcoming UTSU election, StudentsFirst, one of the two major slates, announced it was boycotting the proceedings due to alleged corruption in the elections process.

"It's clear that the democratic principle, which the UTSU claims to respect, is not being honoured; and it is, in my perspective, and certainly in the perspective of the people on my team, [that] they're basically working to stifle opposition," said Matthew Gray, presidential candidate for StudentsFirst.

The slate's decision to boycott the elections centres around the CRO's decision to disqualify three of its candidates on grounds that incorrect student numbers were listed on their nomination forms. The candidates disqualified were VP external candidate Rohail Tanoli, and Cloe Bilobe, and Susanna Moore, Board of Directors candidates from Trinity College and Victoria College respectively.

"Basically we were being hit with this as we're going into the meeting," said Gray, who asked during the meeting's question period if the disqualified candidates could re-enter the race upon a successful appeal. The CRO allegedly refused to provide a definitive answer.

> **It's clear that the democratic principle, which the UTSU claims to respect, is not being honoured.**
>
> *— Matthew Gray*

"If I was deemed eligible after today's meeting, I would have missed the candidates meeting, which meant I would have had grounds for immediate disqualification," said Tanoli, upset to have heard of his disqualification immediately before the meeting. "He should have figured out a way to contact me, so I could have done something in advance, not 10 minutes before the meeting, when I'm standing there awkwardly, not knowing what to do with the situation.

"The problem is that all of our promotional material [has Tanoli's] name on it," said Brent Schmidt, VP internal and services candidate for StudentsFirst. "To design new promotional material would take anywhere from now to Friday [...] we're talking thousands of posters. And essentially anything that we printed off before is now illegal, we cannot be reimbursed for it, because [Tanoli] has been disqualified."

The Varsity sent News Editor Andrew Rusk and Design Editor Tom Cardoso to the all-candidates meeting. After identifying themselves during a roll call, they were confronted by one of the deputy returning officers, who identified himself as "Teddy," and asked to leave the room.

"I dunno. I was just told to remove you," said Teddy, who would not give Rusk or Cardoso his last name. "To be fair enough, you being here

SEE 'UTSU' – PG 4

UTSU

Voting of the University of Toronto Students' Union - Local 98 - Canadian Federation of Students

2011 SPRING Election

Voting Dates

The U of T Students' Union represents all full-time undergraduates at St. George and Mississauga campuses. U.T.S.U. provides important services such as Health & Dental Plans, book bursaries, clubs funding and discounted TTC Metropasses. Your Students' Union also represents students to the central U of T administration and government, advocates for students' rights, and connects students across all campuses to work on common goals, campaigns and social programming.

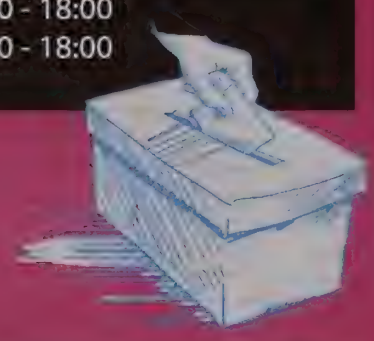
March 8th, March 9th & March10th

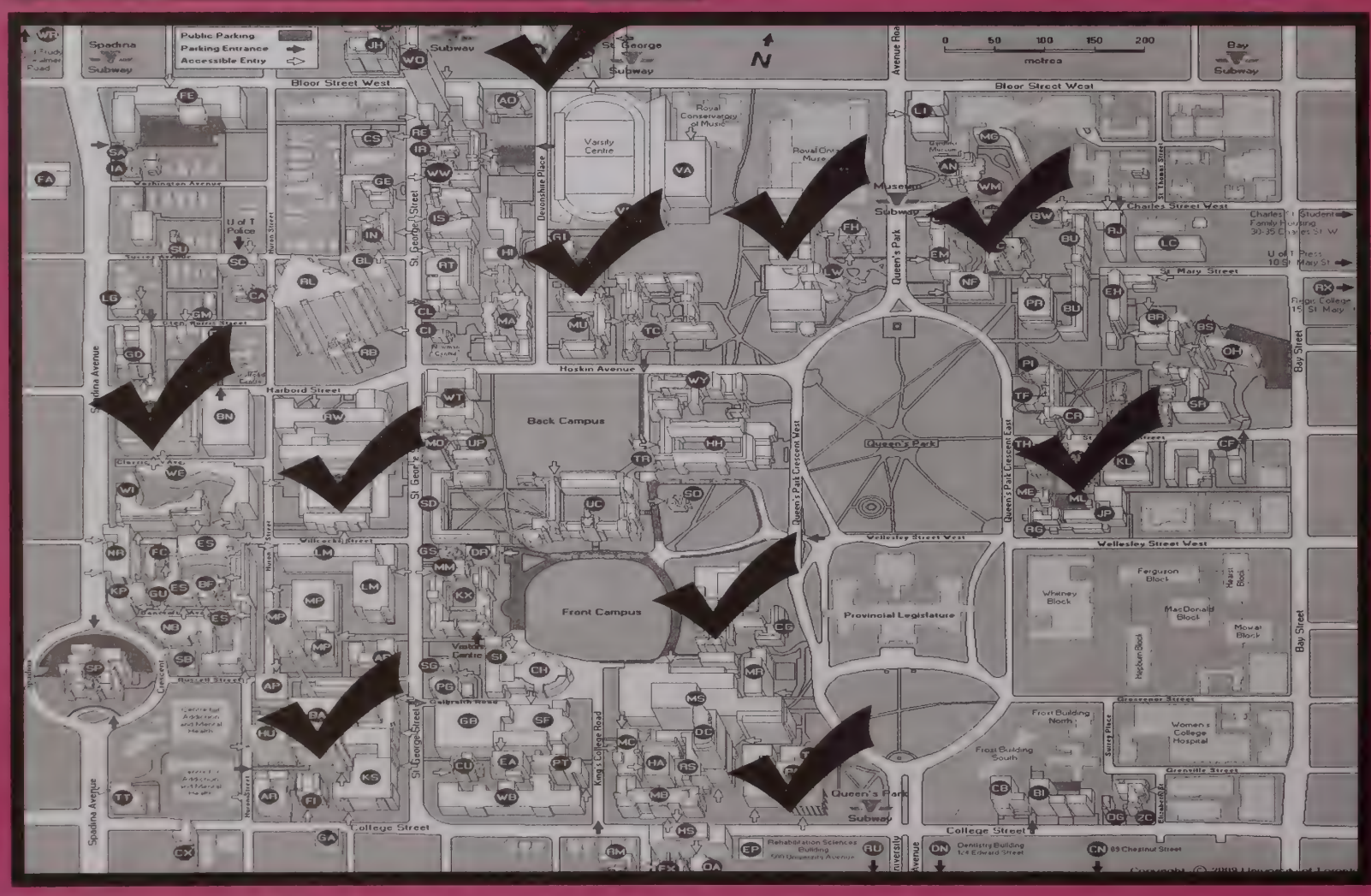
St. George Campus Polling Stations:

Sidney Smith Hall (2)	09:00 - 18:00
Bahen Centre for Information Technology (2)	09:00 - 18:00
Athletics Centre (1)	09:00 - 18:00
Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building (1)	09:00 - 18:00
Gerstein Science Information Centre (1)	09:00 - 18:00
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (1)	09:00 - 18:00
Alumni Hall (1)	09:00 - 18:00
*Isabel Bader Theatre (1)	09:00 - 16:00
Edward Johnson Building (1)	09:00 - 18:00
Gerald Larkin Building (1)	09:00 - 18:00

Mississauga Campus Polling Stations:

UTM North (1)	09:00 - 18:00
UTM CCIT (1)	09:00 - 18:00
UTM South (1)	09:00 - 18:00





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Hours of work: 09:00 to 18:00 March 8, 9 & 10, 2011.
Please send resumes to cro@utsu.ca to view full posting please visit www.utsu.ca under jobs.

All Poll locations are accessible and open from 09:00 - 18:00*

***Isabel Bader Theatre, open from 09:00 - 16:00**

For more information, visit our Students' Union website at www.utsu.ca or contact cro@utsu.ca

Please note that, at the time of this publication, "University of Toronto Students' Union" and/or "U.T.S.U." refers to the Students' Administrative Council of the University of Toronto, Inc ("SAC")

UTSU

Live animals, demerits, and appeals

A breakdown of the UTSU election process

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UTSU elections are much more than speeches, debates, and posters. Candidates must follow a long list of rules, and face electoral and financial penalties for breaching them. Here's a primer on the rules of this election and the people who enforce them.

CANDIDATES AND SUPERVISORS

The most visible electoral positions are the five executive spots: the UTSU president and vice-presidents. There are also four spots for at-large director candidates: students who represent multiple faculties collectively. There are two positions for each of these spots: professional faculties (e.g., education, nursing, pharmacy) and the Faculty of Arts and Science. The remaining 28 director spots represent colleges and faculties proportionally.

The nine-day nominations period ended last Thursday. Campaigning starts today and runs until March 10; voting takes place March 8–10. Results will be officially announced March 22, but are published online shortly after polls close.

The election is run by the Elections and Referenda Committee, a group of UTSU executives and directors who determine candidate eligibility, appoint a chief returning officer, and hear appeals to CRO rulings.

As per UTSU procedure, the ERC was formed at the beginning of the semester. Although the committee is to include UTSU's president, VP internal and services, and VP university affairs, they are often replaced by other executives when planning to campaign or run in the election.

Candidates who unsuccessfully contest CRO rulings to the ERC can appeal to the Election and Referenda Appeals Committee, which consists of one staff or executive of the Graduate Students' Union, ASSU, and a GTA university student union. ERC Chair Maria Galvez said one of the appointed members of the ERAC is ASSU President Gavin Nowlan.

"I got a call [from Galvez] saying we need someone," said Nowlan. "I have no clue what's going on at the moment. I think I'm on the committee but I haven't received an email or a call or anything."

THIS YEAR'S ELECTION REFERENDA COMMITTEE:

Maria Galvez, UTSU VP university affairs (Chair)
Zexi Wang, UTSU VP external
Mags Ngo, Transitional Year Programme director
Carol Rodrigues, Woodsworth director
Damir Pavelic, professional faculties-at-large director

RULES

Candidates are subject to the Elections Procedure Code, a 20-page document outlining everything from candidate eligibility to campaigning rules.

Candidates can be disqualified for breaching serious rules — soliciting student account PINs, or interfering in election processes — but most rule-breaking results in demerit points.

> **I got a call [from Galvez] saying we need someone. […] I have no clue what's going on at the moment. I think I'm on the committee but I haven't received an email or a call or anything.**
>
> *— Gavin Nowlan, ASSU President*

Demerit points are issued to candidates who violate the code, and points can lead to disqualification. Candidates who rack up more than 10 demerit points pay for each subsequent point.

The heaviest penalty possible is for "failure to comply with the spirit and purpose of the elections." Other high-point violations include pre-campaigning, "gross misrepresentation of facts," and "malicious or intentional violation" of the code.

Candidates must produce receipts for all campaign materials to prove they don't exceed allotted spending limits. Candidates for executive positions are reimbursed for their materials based on the vote they receive. If an executive candidate amasses 25 per cent or more of all votes, they can be reimbursed $1,200 — the maximum amount they're allowed to campaign with.

Some rules are meticulously detailed. Posters must be recyclable and can't be laminated or high-gloss. "Live animals" cannot be used for campaigning.

Under the code, candidates can be issued demerit points for the actions of "non-arm's-length parties," defined as "an individual or group that a candidate know, or reasonably ought to have known, would assist that candidate in his/her campaign." In past years, demerit points have been issued after friends of candidates were accused of intimidating other candidates.

The code was updated last February. Among the more controversial changes was a fair play policy that forbids "any attempt to undermine the authority of the CRO" or the ERC. Another change forbids "campaigning where alcohol is served."

The current CRO's second ruling surrounded a complaint after Danielle Sandhu, who is running for president, was collecting signatures at Sammy's Student Exchange, where alcohol is served. The CRO ruled that collecting signatures does not count as campaigning.

MEET THE CRO

This year's CRO is **Daniel Lo.** Lo graduated from UTM in 2007 before studying and working in the UK.

In an email, UTSU University Affairs VP Maria Galvez said the position was advertised on both UTSU's website and charityVillage.com for a month. She says Lo was the most qualified of three applicants.

"He is not a member of the union, is a recent graduate from law school, and worked as a poll clerk in the union's fall by-election, where he has familiarized himself with the union's bylaws, policy, and Elections Procedure Code."

Lo, whose term started on January 25, told The Varsity in an email that he feels "excited and confident" about his term as CRO. He believes his work and education will help with the job.

"I have had experience with project and personnel management through the operation of a franchise business. My legal education and legal work experiences have contributed towards my ability to interpret legislation, and draft fair and justified rulings."

Lo said he has never been part of any political movement.

Meet **Unite For Action**

With **StudentsFirst** boycotting the election, **Unite For Action** is the only slate campaigning

THE CANDIDATES

VP Internal and Services **Corey Scott**
VP Equity **Lena Elamin**
President **Danielle Sandhu**
VP University Affairs **Clara Ho**
VP External **Shaun Shepherd**



To read the candidates' statements, visit **www.thevarsity.ca**

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ISSN 0042 2789

Please recycle this issue after you are finished with it

ALUMNI

How she got here: Adrienne Clarkson

Adrienne Clarkson tells The Varsity how she went from U of T undergraduate to Governor General



Mme. Clarkson graduated from Trinity College in 1960. *ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY*

Robin Buller
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Fifty years ago Adrienne Clarkson never expected to be living as a retired Governor General in a cozy Annex house just blocks from where she completed her undergraduate degree. Mme. Clarkson graduated from Trinity College in 1960 with an honours BA in English Literature.

"Trinity was my life," said Clarkson, speaking of her undergraduate experience. She was the head of college at St. Hilda's, a Trinity residence, and was also involved in several U of T publications. The U of T Ms. Adrienne Poy (Clarkson's maiden name) knew would seem foreign to today's students.

"We didn't have sexual freedom and sexual liberation," said Clarkson. At her class' forty-year anniversary she said that alumni all agreed that the largest change since leaving U of T was the birth control pill. "I think we would have been different people if we had that."

"You have to realize that it was a much more innocent time," said Clarkson, quick to establish that her social life was in no way boring. "I went out all the time."

Although she read novels and heard stories about people who had extraordinary love lives, Mme. Clarkson described the risk of pregnancy at the time as simply too dangerous. "I just saw a bottomless pit," she admitted, "I just thought that would be the end, my life would be over, and I would not be able to do whatever it was I was going to do."

"I always thought I would have an interesting life," she said, remembering the only certainty was that she did not want to become a teacher or a librarian. "I didn't know what it was going to be. I had no idea!"

During the summers Clarkson held a series of jobs, working once in the complaints department of an Ottawa store. "It was great to work somewhere where you weren't going to spend the rest of your life."

She later worked for the federal government as part of their summer programme for students. "[It] was the most boring job I've ever had in my life," she recalled, "but…they took me on for three years, and I earned enough to pay my own boarding fees."

After graduating Clarkson moved to France to study, returning to Canada to do a PhD at Victoria College. During her studies she was asked to host a book review television show. With no training under her belt, Mme. Clarkson broke into the world of broadcasting.

"I felt very good in a television studio right away," she said. "I liked the cameras and the silence of it. It suited me a lot."

During the remainder of her career she chaired the board of a national museum, received over 12 honorary degrees, led numerous CBC shows (as host, writer, and producer), published three books, served as colonel-in-chief of a military regiment, became an officer of the Order of Canada, and took up residence in Rideau Hall. "It was an interesting route, but I didn't plan it as such," she said with a smile.

Mme. Clarkson advises students graduating to keep their options open, emphasizing the importance of knowing oneself and having purpose. "I don't think one should pick too soon what one is going to do," she counselled. "A lot of people go to law school because they can't think of anything better to do."

"Whenever I was asked to do anything, I never said I would do it unless I could bring something different to it. If I felt somebody [else] could do it as well, I wouldn't do it."

When Clarkson was asked to be senator, she declined because she didn't think she would bring anything special to the role. "It's about knowing yourself, and knowing what you can do," she explained. "If you can't do it, don't do it."

Clarkson is also particularly concerned about gender equity in the workplace. "As a woman, especially in my generation, people wanted you to do things because you were a woman."

Clarkson realized the full impact of U of T when she returned last year for her fiftieth reunion. "I realized [they] had set me up for a wonderful life."

Assu Ranjini (Rini) Ghosh **EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Do you know an instructor who has shown excellence in teaching and made contributions to undergraduate education? Have they gone out of their way to make a difference? Why don't you nominate them for the our teaching award? Yeah, go ahead, do it!

Eligibility for the Award
Any teaching staff member (Full/Associate/Assistant Professors, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer) from the Faculty of Arts & Science, St. George campus who taught or is teaching a course in the 2010-11 academic year. Teaching Assistants are not eligible for this award. Nominees must also be published in the *ASSU ANTI-CALENDAR*.

Nomination Procedure
Candidates may be nominated by F/T St. George campus A&S students only. Nominations must include a typed letter outlining the merits of the instructor and why you feel they deserve to win the teaching award. Letters of support may also be included. Nomination forms are available ASSU - SS 1068 or by visiting **www.assu.ca**

Nominations must reach ASSU, Sidney Smith Hall, Rm 1068, by Friday, March 4, 2011, 5 p.m.

'UTSU' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

right now is disturbing things."

"This isn't open to anybody but the candidates," said ERC Chair Maria Galvez, who joined the discussion between Teddy, Cardoso, and Rusk. "It's within our elections process."

> **...a lot of the elections that go on at [UTSU] are not fair and they are not as open as people assume them to be.**
> — *Rohail Tanoli*

The UTSU Election Procedure Code makes no mention of either the media or other students being barred from the all-candidates meeting.

Shortly after the meeting, the StudentsFirst slate formally announced they were boycotting the election.

"The task falls to us, basically as the challenger slate, to make sure that this election is being held freely and fairly, and it is our belief that it is not," said Gray. "And so I think that by boycotting this we're drawing attention to the fact that UTSU's election processes are institutionally biased towards incumbents.

"We have no faith in the system, because it is clear that they have banned an opposition," said Gray. "They don't want us to be challenging them."

"We can send out a very strong signal to people of the University of Toronto and tell them that a lot of the elections that go on at [UTSU] are not fair and they are not as open as people assume them to be," said Tanoli.

The opposing slate, Unite For Action, refused to comment on StudentsFirst's decision to boycott. "I do not feel it is my place to comment on StudentsFirst's intention to boycott the elections process. That is a decision for that ticket to make and address with the CRO," said Danielle Sandhu, presidential candidate for Unite For Action.

CRO Daniel Lo was unavailable for comment as of press time.

CAMPUS

UTSU reaches new space agreement

Faculty of Physical Education and Health reserves exclusive space for student clubs

Jakob Tanner
VARSITY STAFF

The University of Toronto Student Union and U of T's Faculty of Physical Education and Health have successfully reached an agreement where the faculty will provide exclusive time slots of free space for UTSU student clubs and significant discounts on equipment rentals.

"As it becomes more difficult and expensive for students to use space on campus, it is increasingly important for the Students' Union and university faculties to work together to ensure student access to space is protected," says Corey Scott, UTSU VP Campus Life.

The agreement includes a 30 per cent discount on equipment and facility rentals at the Varsity Athletic Centre; exclusive time slots in the Varsity Dome on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and reserved courts in the Athletic Centre field house every weekend from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"A lot of clubs will use the space depending on the kind of programming they wish to do," Scott said. "There has been a huge response with the cultural clubs on campus ... Organizing an event with ten to fifteen clubs on campus can be a very hard thing to do. Culturally and socially based clubs will use this space a lot more rather than going to community centers an hour or so away from campus."

To book some facilities on campus, clubs have to pay for extra costs including caretaking services, catering, parking, and security. Scott suggested that these extra costs all deter students from booking space. "Such exorbitant rates force students to go off campus rather than stay on campus."

Scott is particularly excited about the new exclusive space in the Varsity Dome as an alternative to Con Hall field. "Having a space that is not always weather dependent will help a lot of clubs."

Negotiations on this agreement began a year ago between UTSU and FPEH's assistant dean of co-curricular physical activity and sport, Anita Comella.

"Anita, who is new to the position, wanted to do these new initiatives and think creatively. It was this eagerness and fresh blood that was kind enough to sit down with us in a respectful manner," Scott said.

"The initiative has shown that UTSU is not trying to work against the university administration. [It] proves that we're working with the university, that we are working with these great people and great offices, and that we want to continue to work with Hart House, Office of Student Life, and Varsity and Athletic Centres."

The development comes after recent changes to the policy of temporary use of space at the University of Toronto, which after changes in October include provisions to charge security costs at events and limit a club's ability to attach "University of Toronto" to its name.

SCARBOROUGH

UTSC concludes least attended election yet

New student leaders announced

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY STAFF

Ballots have been counted and results are in. UTSC has new student leaders from what appears to be its least participatory election.

Though still awaiting ratification, a landslide victory declared Pagalavan Thavarajah the winner of the Scarborough Students' Union presidency while the positions of VP academics, VP external, and VP students and equity went to by Carl Bagot, Abdalla Al-Baalawy, and Zahra Murji respectively.

Attracting a mere nine per cent of the University's 10,000 students, the February 16–18 election did not match last year's record-breaking 23 per cent.

"Student participation was admittedly low compared to last year's numbers," explains John Aruldason, the current SCSU president and elections liaison. "But we have to keep in mind that it's because the previous election carried quite a bit of controversy."

It seems that lack of controversy was not the sole reason why students neglected to vote. Some like Krista Harrison, a human geography major, were unsure of the election's details.

"There wasn't enough publicity, I saw posters about it but had no idea when or where it was happening," she says.

SEE 'SCSU' – PG 8

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WATERLOO ENGINEERING

THE FACES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL

photos by David Pike

*See candidate statements on page 10.

*Not all GC candidates had responded to requests for photographs as of press time.

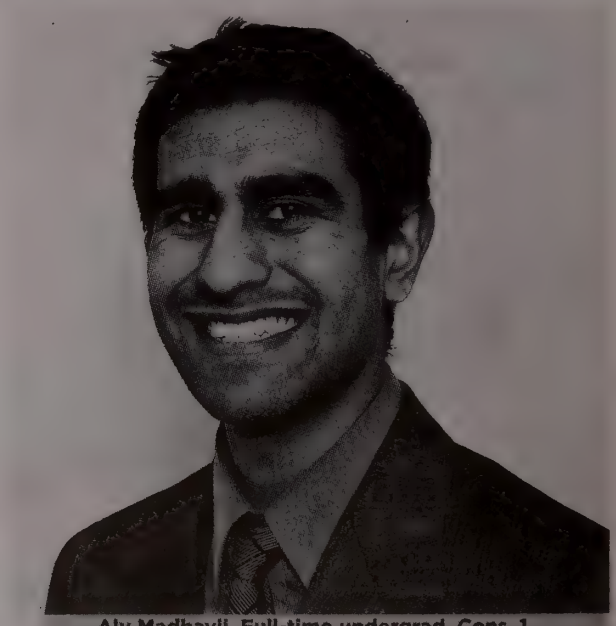

Frank Samuels, Graduate, Cons. 1


Azadeh Mostaghel, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2


Manisha Verma, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2


Chirag Variawa, Graduate, Cons. 2

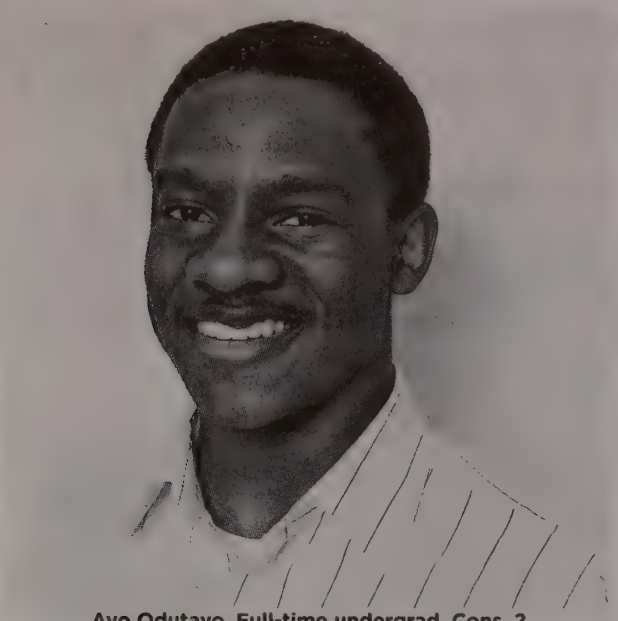

Morgan Vanek, Graduate, Cons. 1


Aly Madhavji, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1


Oliver K. Sorin, Graduate, Cons. 1


Nicholas Gan, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1


Erik Bracciodieta, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1


Ayo Odutayo, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2


Dustin Hiles, Part-time undergrad


Mu-Qing Huang, Graduate, Cons. 2


Manveen Puri, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2

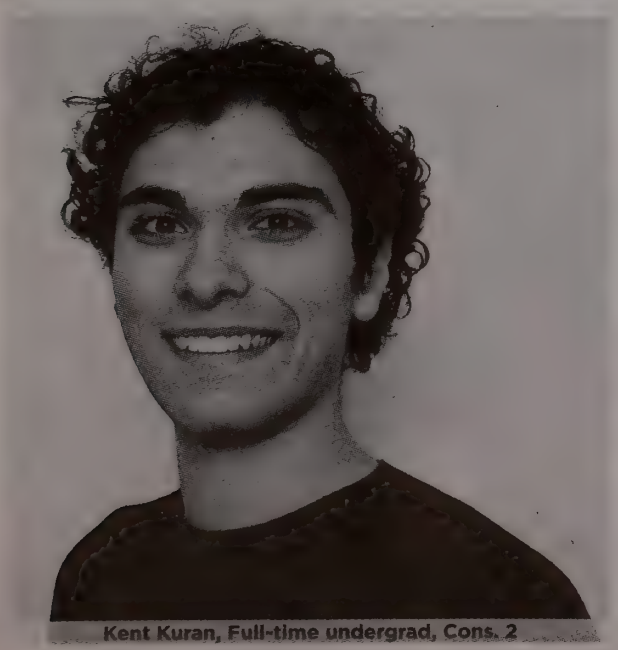

Maria Pilar Galvez, Part-time undergrad


Bill Zhao, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1

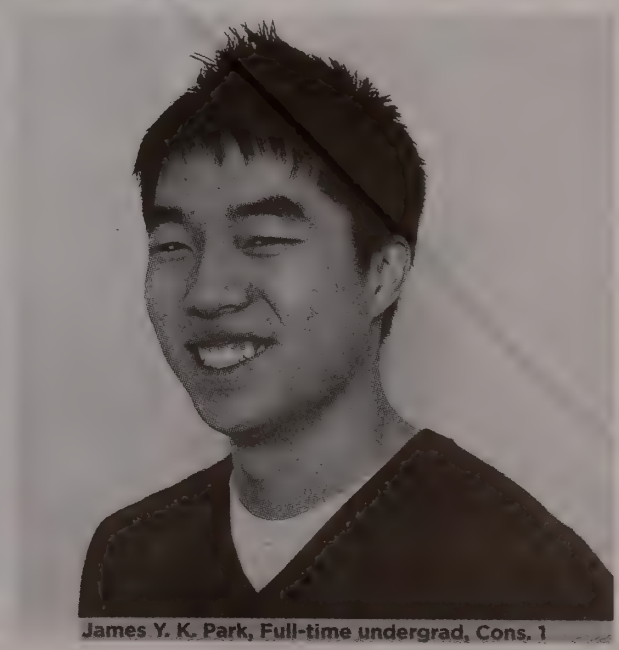

Nicole Fogel, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1


Cary Ferguson, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2


Ron Leung, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1


Kent Kuran, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 2


Keven Roy, Graduate, Cons. 2


James Y. K. Park, Full-time undergrad, Cons. 1

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FACULTY

What can you do with a BA in English?

Professor Greig Henderson made a career out of combining Law and English disciplines



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Professor Henderson encourages students interested in this career option to pursue a background in rhetoric and composition.

Ioana Pantis
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Greig Henderson has proven that English graduates can put their effective writing skills to use helping judges and lawyers improve their judgement and brief writing.

An associate professor in the Department of English, Henderson teaches Canadian judges and lawyers the value of storytelling in writing judgements and briefs. Along with his colleagues, he conducts seminars and workshops in Canada that help recent legal graduates improve the succinctness of their writing.

"Judgements can be like short stories with logical demonstrations of characters, a plot, and a climax," said Henderson, who predominately teaches rhetoric and critical theory. He believes there is a need for seminars mainly because professional prose is so jargon-ridden that it can be difficult to understand the issues. Not only does this obscurity detract from strengthening arguments, but so do the amount of details and lack of context.

The demand is also present for businesses wanting employees to be able to write short and effective memoranda. Firms and businesses want employees to have critical interpretative skills and flexible analytical skills.

"Effective writing takes away abstractions and keeps the grammatical core intact. Keep the subject, verb, and object together to make the sentence easy to understand, and add modifiers at end or beginning of the sentence," said Henderson. "This is not to say that you should use plain prose, because a certain elevation is necessary, but use plain style with regard to the grammatical core."

The importance of effective writing is clear when lawyers in the Ontario Court of Appeal only have 20 minutes to make their case and answer questions orally. That is when effective writing can make for winning factums because the lawyer will use focused writing and ask the judge to decide by the first paragraph, rather than flooding the page with every argument possible. Judges also participate in writing programs because of their need to provide sufficient reasoning for judgements to the public, using both simplification and gender-neutral language.

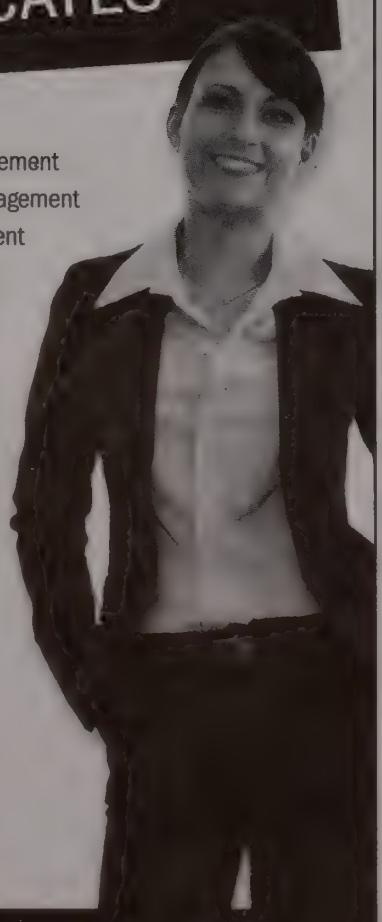
Henderson also advises students to place context before details; manage transitions by foreshadowing; and also keep in mind the reader, appealing specifically to ethos, pathos, and logos.

Professor Henderson encourages students interested in this career option to pursue a background in rhetoric and composition. In particular, an undergraduate course on law and literature may be available next year and Innis College offers a minor in the Writing and Rhetoric Program. At a graduate level, Professor Henderson teaches a master's course on law as literature, and a joint law and english program is available.

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

'SCSU' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

Cell and molecular biology major Lauren Chan admits to simply not being interested in voting. "I was busy during the voting period and,to be honest, I'm not really into politics."

When told about this year's low voter turnout, Harrison and Chan said they were not surprised.

"Personally, I don't feel affected by the elections," Chan said. "It's possible that others feel the same way too."

Harrison agrees. "I don't really know what exactly [the SCSU] does ... They definitely need to expand their reach."

Newly elected SCSU President Pagalavan Thavarajah admits that he is no stranger to this issue.

"Most SCSU events are always filled with the same people and if we in [the union] who are suppose to represent 10,000 students [are] only catering to a thousand, then are we really doing our jobs? I don't think so."

Thavarajah is in the process of developing several programs including "Dream Jobs," which aims to reach out to students like Harrison and Chan by exposing them to a career-oriented environment through conversations with different industry professionals.

"As president, my goal is to increase communication with students — I want to bring out new faces and really get to know the student body."

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Protest erupts during GC meeting

Recent Munk contributions stated as source of controversy

Shonith Rajendran
VARSITY STAFF

A brief demonstration broke out inside council chambers during the February meeting of the governing council after a presentation from a student group. The protestors wore mock clown noses and chanted "Munk out of U of T" for several minutes, causing the chair to adjourn the meeting. The group's apparent leader said she was not a student at U of T.

The February 17 meeting focused largely on issues surrounding Peter Munk's donation to the university establishing the Munk School of Global Affairs, and philanthropy at U of T in general. The president's address at the beginning of the meeting was devoted almost exclusively to the subject of U of T President Naylor's response to a number of criticisms raised against the deal. Naylor also released an open letter on philanthropy at U of T this Friday in which he defended Peter Munk against what he called "repeated personal attacks on one of our most generous donors and best-known alumni."

A press release circulated by one student governor before the meeting stated that the protest was largely in reaction to the fact that Barrick Gold, the mining giant of which Peter Munk is founder and chairman, has been accused of human rights violations abroad.

Joeita Gupta, a student governor representing part-time undergraduates, reiterated several criticisms of the donor agreement that critics have made over the past several months. "It's quite baffling to me frankly — some of the more absurd provisions such as having a separate entrance for CIC members ... and a secondary entrance for everybody else," she said. "This is so archaic and so out of sync with the mores of this university. You have the lords and the ladies through one entrance and the little people through the other."

Gupta also criticized the donor agreement for allowing $15 million of the $35-million donation to be paid in increments until 2017, subject to review by a blue-ribbon panel. She said that this would allow Munk charity's to potentially influence the school's academic direction.

Naylor replied that the panel would do nothing more than "measure the school against its self-directed, self-proclaimed plans and priorities."

He said the university went through these kinds of reviews on a daily basis. "This is not some capricious decision by a bunch of corporate individuals coming in to review the academic program. This is a blue-ribbon external academic review that informs the final decision to release the funds. In that sense I really don't understand the distinction between this approach and that which we follow every single day in the academy."

He also added that "for obvious reasons," the university would be unlikely to take a donor to court for not paying.

Naylor replied to the issue of the door by calling it a "drafting glitch," and said that critics were turning it into a willful misinterpretation of the intent of the university. "Anyone who knows this place knows that anyone will go wherever they want in terms of going through doorways ... The notion that there could be some exclusionary right is simply not on, and I have no question that no one expects that there will be some test as to who can get in and out of the front door."

GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:
2011 GSU Elections March 22, 23 & 24

Candidates (alphabetical order):

Internal and Finance Commissioner
Ann McPherson
Robert Spencer

University Affairs Commissioner
Keith Ho
Anton Neschadim

Candidates' Debate: Wednesday, March 16, 4 to 6 pm.
Room 2118 Sidney Smith building

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Members must have a valid U of T student card in order to vote.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

2011 Governing Council Elections: Student Candidates' Statements

Please visit http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/elections.htm

Voting Period: Monday, February 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, March 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.
Online voting will take place on ROSI (www.rosi.utoronto.ca), and paper ballots will be mailed to post-graduate medical trainees.

Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I
(Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto Mississauga, University of Toronto at Scarborough)

Erik Bracciodieta
My name is Erik Bracciodieta and I am asking for your vote. I am in third year and have had it up to here with governance. Do you know who your current representatives are? Thought so. If you elect me, I will promise to be open and listen to your ideas and concerns. I stand for greening our campus (like banning the sale of bottled water), reducing corporate influence, speaking up for the university's largest group (undergrads!) and wise, ethical spending of our tuition

Nicole Fogel
Hello! I am from the United States and I like to travel and ski. I would describe myself as being understanding, punctual, and dependable. Throughout high school, I was involved in Disability Walks, National Honor Society (Secretary), and had work experience at an Ophthalmologist's office. Here at the University of Toronto, I have further enhanced my capacity to effectively guide others by becoming involved in the Faculty of Arts and Science Council, French Club, and Eyes of Hope Volunteer Club during my first year. With your help, I hope to make a memorable difference for the University of Toronto community. URL: nicole.fogel@utoronto.ca

Sowmya Kshatriya
Sowmya Kshatriya is a second year student in the Faculty of Arts and Science at University of Toronto, St. George Campus working in a Genes, Genetics and Biotechnology specialist program. She has displayed tremendous leadership qualities during her high school years and received many awards and certificates as a School House Leader, Class President, Class Prefect, Student of the Month and Student of the year. Her motivation to run in the elections is to serve as a sincere member of the Governing Council helping to support the University's mission and all its concerns zealously with all dedication. http://www.utsu.ca/index.php/section/5

Ron Leung
As a student who passionately believes in student activism and bettering campus life, I thank you for taking the time to contribute toward shaping your university experience by partaking in this year's Governing Council elections. Listening equally to all three campuses is imperative and as a candidate from UTSC, I promise you that all campuses' concerns and ideas will be voiced. Please feel free to express your own addendum towards my proposed platform. And needless to say, please express the changes you would like to see happen within our university that can be affected by my candidacy. Best, Ron Leung.

Aly Madhavji
Together, we can improve our University. I understand and relate to the many difficulties surrounding academics, social life, and diversity experienced by domestic and international students. With an understanding of the financial burden we students face, I promise to strive for lower tuition fees or tuition freeze and will work towards reducing parking and residence rates across all campuses. I hope to work with you and will always be open to each of your concerns and suggestions. You can contact me at aly.madhavji@utoronto.ca and join the Facebook Group: 'Vote Aly Madhavji for Governing Council'. Together, We Can Make a Difference!

James Y.K. Park
My name is James Yong Kyun Park, and I'm a third year student studying English and Sociology. As a current member of the Governing Council, I would love the opportunity to continue the work that I've been involved in this past year. Such items include removing the costs associated with reviewing a past written exam, offering students who are currently paying tuition on a course by course basis the option of program fees, and advocating for the implementation of a self-declaration of illness. I promise to continue working with the students' best interest in mind. Vote James Yong Kyun Park.

Jorge Prieto
Hello. My name is Jorge Prieto and I am excited to run for Governing Council. I propose practical but important changes to make our lives at university better, no matter what academic year or background we may come from. We can reduce tuition by paying only for classes we are taking (abolish flat fees). We can improve course selection (no more worrying about ROSI waiting lists). We can empower clubs and societies. In general, we can alleviate unnecessary burdens to enhance our experience. Because, as a wise man once said: we cannot let our schooling interfere with our education.

Lindsay Tegler
"Vote Lindsay Tegler! The University of Toronto is a network of students, staff, and faculty who work together to create our experience here. Together, we have interests and aspirations for the university that overlap and diverge, bringing us to debate and negotiation. The Governing Council has an important role in realizing this by making sensible decisions with this notion of interdependence. I intend to work on behalf of students and our organizations to promote communication and mutual understanding between students and the Governing Council. My hope is to facilitate sincere communication between all affected by governing policies. Vote TEGLER."

Dean (Di) Wu
Dean is currently finishing his second year at University of Toronto at Scarborough. Having lived in parts of China, New York, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Ontario, Dean loves exploring different cultures, especially when it comes to international cuisines! Regardless of the various locations he has lived in, Dean has been consistently involved in his community as he has served as the Vice-president during high school years and worked as an assistant program supervisor for his community centre. Dean is running for this position because of his desire to continue to contribute to his community and make friends along the way.

Bill Zhao
Dear fellow students: the time has come. Cast your ballot for Bill. For I will listen to your voices, fight for your rights, and make sure you get what you deserve. It's your university, it's our university. And united, we have the power to shape our tomorrow. Together, we will make U of T an even better place for all!

Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency II
(Professional Faculties)

Cary Ferguson
During his undergraduate studies, Cary researched student advocacy issues for the Vice President (Education) of the McMaster Students Union. Cary also helped set policy at three general assemblies of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. As a law student, Cary spends many of his days discussing policy and the law. Cary's experience with student advocacy and the law make him uniquely suited to ensure that student needs and concerns are taken into consideration by the Governing Council. When he's not promoting student issues, Cary enjoys photography, losing at squash, and naps in the library. For more information, please see www.about.me/caryferguson

Nicholas Gan
Hello fellow students! My name is Nicholas Gan and I am a 2nd year undergraduate student currently enrolled in chemical engineering. I want to become a member of the Governing Council because I want to be the voice for the U of T community. I want to be the person that everyone can come to when there is a problem. I want to make sure that every person has their voice heard. Most of all, I want everyone at U of T to experience the best university life of their lives. Vote Nicholas Gan for member of Governing Council!

Kent Kuran
www.KentKuran.com. As an active 3rd Year Engineering Student and your returning Student Governor, I will strive to represent the professional faculty students. I believe that all disciplines should be equal at UofT, including Engineering and the other professional programs. Not only do we unjustly pay more and get less, but we are also excluded from the wider UofT community. We should have equal access to Courses, Colleges and Residences. If re-elected, I will continue to work in these areas while reaching out to the student body. Vote Kent Kuran again! kent.kuran@utoronto.ca

Azadeh Mostaghel
I believe we need to work for a better tomorrow. We have to govern our university not only for building our future, but also for shaping the future of our nation. Some believe "the future is not a gift, it is an achievement." University of Toronto has to take the lead to out-educate its students so that they can out-innovate others in a very competitive world. University of Toronto is a world-class institution and it should contribute to training the leaders of tomorrow not just for Canada but also for the world in many fields and locations.

Ayo Odutayo
Ayodele Odutayo is a 2nd year medical student at UofT. He currently serves as the medical director of the UofT International Health Program (UTIHP): A role in which he oversees over 20 campus-wide global health initiatives and advocates for increased global health opportunities for students. Ayodele is also a member of the Faculty of Medicine Appeals Committee and has worked as an intern at the World Health Organization to conduct a study on knowledge management. If selected to the governing council, he will place a specific focus on financial support for students and the appropriate distribution of funds among Faculties.

Manveen Puri
I graduated from New College in 2009 and am now in my second year of medicine. With six years of experience in student leadership at UofT, I bring a mature yet fresh perspective to Governing Council. Students are ultimately UofT's raison d'être, and I believe we can achieve practical results if we approach issues with reason rather than passion. I will keep the interests of professional students in mind on each vote, and as your representative will advocate for affordable tuition fees, greater links between professional faculties, a more sustainable UofT, and open communication with the administration. Vote Manveen Puri! www.manveenpuri.ca

Manisha Verma
I am a recent graduate from University of Toronto's Medical Doctorate program. I am currently pursuing a residency in Family Medicine at University of Toronto. Over the years, I have developed a keen interest in becoming involved with academia in ways that make a difference. Building on this, I now have a desire to help shape the university's strategic direction. I believe that my passion for education, strengths, and sincere aspiration to contribute to the institution that has provided me with such a thoughtful and quality education, make me an ideal candidate for a position on the 2011/2012 Governing Council.

Part-Time Undergraduate Students

Ken Davy
The need for financial support. The need for classroom availability and accessibility. The need for experienced representation at the Governing Council level. These are all challenges facing part-time students. I'm Ken Davy and a fourth year student with three years of Governing Council experience. As a part-time student, parent, and small business owner, I understand the challenges we face. I'm asking for your vote this year to become the voice of part-time students on Governing Council. I've worked hard to expand the financial resources available to part time students, and plan to continue this effort. Read more at kendavy.wordpress.com.

Maria Pilar Galvez
Vote Maria Pilar GALVEZ to be your part-time undergraduate representative on the Governing Council. As an executive of two UofT unions, I recognized issues students face in accessing post-secondary education and acknowledged systemic barriers our own University holds. I sit on the Erindale College Council as a part-time representative, articulating that needs of part-time students differ from those full-time. I want to keep part-time student interests a priority and to communicate with all students, faculty, and staff so that we may work together to achieve affordability and accessibility, and to create the University experience our current governance withholds. Vote GALVEZ!

Dustin Hiles
Dustin Hiles is dedicated to bringing a students-first policy to his Governorship at U of T. By engaging students through monthly town halls and round tables, Dustin will be an advocate for accountability to the student body, making his vote yours! ALL policy decisions will be based solely on the wants and needs of his constituents allowing for a real student voice on the Governing Council. Dustinhiles.blog.com.

Brian Kerr
I am running for the Governing Council because I feel that I can offer a unique and essential perspective to the Council. I was a full-time student of the University of Toronto in the 1970's; I am now a part-time student completing my degree. I am also the father of a current University of Toronto student, a Certified General Accountant and an employee of the students of The University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (as the Chief Account for the Scarborough Campus Students' Union.) I expect to be able to use these to represent all the part-time students at the University.

Graduate Students, Constituency I
(Humanities and Social Sciences)

Jessica Anania
Holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Ryerson University and is currently enrolled to complete her MBA at the Rotman School of Management. Prior to her MBA, Jessica worked on a political campaign for the 2008 Federal Election. From there she went to work in an entrepreneurial setting in a family company, learning the fundamentals of business.

Frank Samuels
Frank Samuels – I am a part-time MEd student in TPS at OISE, with a full time commitment to listen to, discuss with and work with you as we continue to build our university. I stand for integrity, honesty, building trust and establishing safe comfortable environments of and for exceptional teaching and learning. Let's work together! URL: http://www.youandme4uoft.org

Oliver K. Sorin
As representative on Governing Council, I will continue to push the University to upgrade its academic infrastructure for graduate students (the number of professors in departments, accessible resources, space and equipment, and better email services). I will also press for an increase in the funding package so that students in humanities and social sciences can be on equal footing with their colleagues in divisions 3 and 4. Furthermore, I will ensure that there are more services and campus space for graduate students to help us interact and learn outside of the classroom. Thank you in advance for your support.

Morgan Vanek
An outspoken advocate for an equitable, accessible, and publicly accountable university both within the English department and as Chief Steward for CUPE 3902, I've worked hard this year to critique and diminish barriers to engagement in the important work of governing this institution. While organizing TAs across campus in pursuit of better working and learning conditions, I've also come to appreciate the many concerns we share for the future and direction of our diverse degree programs, our funding, and our academic freedom, and I remain committed to reminding our Governing Council that these should be its priorities, too.

Graduate Students, Constituency II
(Physical Sciences and Life Sciences)

Jenny Hong
As your representative, I aim to push for an increase in our sources of financial support, particularly for students who are in their sixth year (or above) of PhD studies. I also aim to push for an expansion in student services (such as housing, career and academic counseling), student benefits/discounts, and campus space available for graduate students. Previously, I was a member of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, accessing and evaluating new curriculum proposals in order to create a better learning environment for the students. Similarly, I commit to being a strong voice for all graduate students. Vote for Jenny Hong.

Mu-Qing Huang
More SUSTAINABLE university policies and practices? More Teaching Assistant positions? More professional networking opportunities? More academic support? We deserve them all. As an M.Sc. student in Forestry Economics, I bring a GREEN and FRESH perspective into practical issues that matter the most to my fellow students. I have been serving the various U of T student groups since 2006; my familiarity with the campus operates as a loyal bridge between you and your university. Genuine, experienced, passionate, strategic and dedicated, Mu-Qing has a strong voice that speaks YOUR concerns. Cast your vote, and expect a change next year!

Keven Roy
Graduate students fulfill a crucial part of the University's mission, and representation of our interests is crucial. As a Ph.D. student in the Physics Department, I have been involved with the departmental student union, as well as in various initiatives and clubs around campus. I will be a strong voice for graduate student interests, and I will make sure I am always available to hear and voice your concerns as a graduate student and member of the University of Toronto community, as well as being proactive in its improvement and development.

Chirag Variawa
Thank you for choosing to make an educated vote – I represent being clear, concise and credible. I have a fulfilling history with this university and city, am a member of several successful clubs, and value this learning experience enough to pursue a Ph.D. degree. I've seen and helped UofT grow, and know we can become even better with strong leadership and well-defined core values. I value honesty, transparency, accessibility, and respect for others. By voting for Chirag Variawa, you are voting for realistic progressive action that will help all learners be the best they can be. For specifics visit, www.chiragvariawa.com

Questions about the Governing Council elections process may be directed to the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Anwar Kazimi (416-978-8427; anwar.kazimi@utoronto.ca), or the Deputy Returning Officer, Ms Mae-Yu Tan (416-978-8794; maeyu.tan@utoronto.ca).

LOOKING FORWARD/LOOKING BACK

THE UTSU ELECTIONS

The Varsity searches through the archives to discover what's shaped our current political landscape

by **ALEX ROSS** and **ABDI AIDID**

On February 28, the UTSU election campaign will officially be upon us. For students, this not only means finding creative ways to enter Sid Smith to avoid campaigners — it means making important decisions about their representatives in the student government. Despite consistently low turnout, election season is never without its share of controversy, and in recent years we've seen campaigns become more bitterly partisan.

Henry Kissinger's oft-quoted maxim about the viciousness of student politics is not far from lips this time of year, and others look at the low voter turnout — 16 per cent last year, one of the highest turnouts ever — and wonder if any of it was worth it. Between midterms and essays, many wonder how we even have the time to run what is supposed to be a participatory democracy.

The Varsity has covered elections extensively in some years and in others more sparingly. Generally, our coverage reflected the tone of each year's election — in some years unexcitable and matter-of-factly, in others, feverish and fired up. In this feature, The Varsity takes a look back at some of our coverage of past elections, hoping to provide some context for first-time voters and returning students alike.

In these articles there is enough drama, joy, excitement, and pathos to make for a good Hollywood movie. However, we hope this year the script will be written by Orson Welles and not George Lucas. All kidding aside, during this time of year there can be a great deal of pessimism – especially about the state of student democracy. Unresolved questions about the nature of student advocacy and of the overall efficacy of our student union are sure to reemerge.

(To read these stories, visit The Varsity's Looking Forward/Looking Back blog at thevarsity.ca/blogs)

photos by Tom Cardoso and Alex Nursall

2007 ELECTIONS

February 27, 2007 — The Varsity speaks to three leading candidates for SAC chair. Notable is the presence of an independent, Andrew Mackay, who bills himself as a "third way" to the two polarized candidates.

Read: A three horse race

March 5, 2007 — Mud-slinging starts between candidates in the elections. Trinity college director Gabe de Roche complains about the removal of a polling station within The Buttery and claims disenfranchisement. The same issue featured a detailed discussion of the VP internal platforms. Also, student politicians Dave Scrivener and Emily Shelton falsely identified themselves as Varsity reporters to gain access to a talk by the Minister of training, colleges, and universities. Scrivener apologizes and admits it was a "rash decision." In an unsigned editorial, The Varsity explains why the matter went unreported in the paper and how it accepted the apology of SAC chairperson Jen Hassum.

Read: New deals, familiar foes and "the contenders"; vp internal race

Winner: *Your Team*

2008 ELECTIONS

March 6, 2008 — Sandy Hudson and her Unite U of T slate wins the 2008 election. Interestingly, the only contested position is UTSU president. The other VP positions are acclaimed with the Unite U of T candidates only having to go through a Yes/No vote. This is a notable article as it brings up some themes that would be the central focus of future UTSU elections: voting accessibility, accusations of a higher than normal incumbency rate, and concerns over student political engagement.

Read: Heads up: It's Hudson

March 20, 2008 — Some students hold an event called "Take Back Your Student Union" pressuring the union to take sides on issues of social justice. Before that the union was criticized for engaging in what was referred to as a "balancing act."

Read: Breaking up UTSU's balancing act

Winner: *Unite U of T*

2009 ELECTIONS

March 2, 2009 — In this issue The Varsity runs a front page article breaking down the platforms of the two UTSU slates: Demand Access and Change. Demand Access included Sandy Hudson, current chair of CFS-Ontario and Adam Awad, UTSU's current president. The article broke down their stances on various campaign issues, most vitally clubs, UTSU services, and CFS membership.

Read: Slates battle for UTSU

March 5 — The Varsity reports on the UTSU elections forum, which was noted for its unusually high attendance with students spilling onto the stairs and the hallway. Highlights include Jason Marin's response to the accusation Change was not diverse ("I'm a gay Costa Rican Jew. I think that's pretty diverse."), which garnered booming applause, and also controversies over UTSU's CFS involvement.

Read: Exec hopefuls duke it out at candidates' forum

March 9, 2009 — The Varsity invites members of the Hart House debate club to comment on and analyze the debate between presidential candidates Jason Marin and Sandy Hudson. They deemed Hudson the winner of the debate though they noted she had a difficult time defending UTSU's membership in the CFS.

Read: Analysis: Presidential debate

March 12, 2009 — The Varsity reports that Change presidential candidate Jason Marin has been given too many demerit points to continue running. Change challenged the decision and the CRO's decision was overruled. It set a precedent for rulings concerning arms-length campaigners.

Read: CRO decisions challenged, overruled

Winner: *Demand Access*

2010 ELECTIONS

February 16, 2010 — Nearly a month before the election, the Varsity reports that the Election Procedures Code has been amended to include a new ruling stating that candidates can be punished for criticizing the CRO. UTSU president Sandy Hudson and presidential hopeful Adam Awad resign from the Election Procedures Committee stating they are unable to be impartial. Steve Masse says that the change was undemocratic, but conceded it wasn't "malicious."

Read: UTSU elections jostling begins

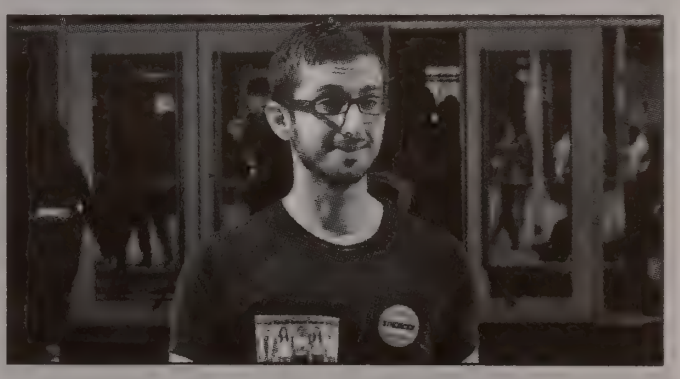
March 11, 2010 — The Varsity runs an above the fold photo with a caption that reads "Orange You Glad It's Election Season" with 100 word blurb underneath discussing the debate that took place on March 10. The blurb became controversial generating nearly 100 comments online some of which criticize The Varsity for alleged bias. The picture referred to the orange worn by supporters of that year's Change slate.

Read: Orange You Glad It's Election Season



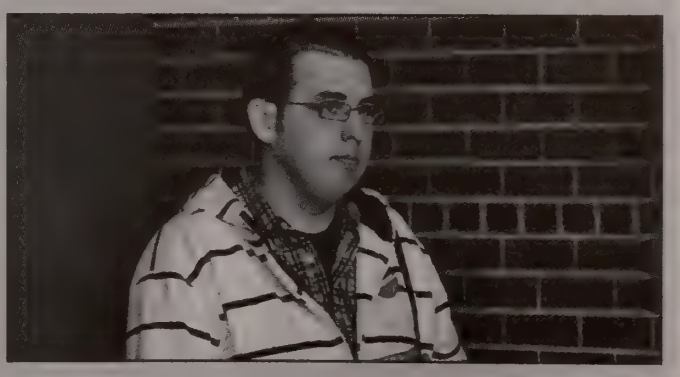
March 15, 2010 — The following week, The Varsity reports on the hostile atmosphere at the candidates debate which took place on March 10, including a detailed recount of the most pertinent debate points. Highlights included Change supporter Gabe de Roche shouting "Lies!" after then VP External Hadia Ahktar accused Change presidential candidate Steve Masse of not being present during the Drop Fees meetings and Towards 2030 campaign, debate moderator Dave Meslin's inability to enforce the ground rules set earlier for the debate, and one Change supporter's call for "reality-based questions" from the opposition.

Read: Fur flies at UTSU forum



March 18, 2010 — The Varsity publishes a feature-length news article summarizing some of the campaign's defining moments including the presence of then RSU president-elect Toby Whitfield, who was campaigning on behalf of the Stronger Together slate and the high number of demerits handed out to both sides. Whitfield attempted to avoid The Varsity and refused to identify himself when approached.

Read: Eye on the election



Winner: *Stronger Together*

Working democracies?

Meghan McCabe analyzes the hopes and fears behind popular revolutions

Meghan McCabe
VARSITY STAFF



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

"It's been a long time comin', but I know a change is gonna come." This sentiment, sung by The Fugees in 1996, has been a constant theme in people-powered revolutions throughout history. Decades of oppression and living in fear under authoritarian, often diabolical, dictators and military rule can probably only be survived with a seed of hope a better future, for the change to come. Fortunately, there are many of us in this world who know nothing of that reality and have never had to survive it. We take freedom for granted to an almost embarrassing extent.

For 18 days, millions of protestors in Egypt occupied the streets calling for the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, to end his 30 years of one party rule and emergency law. The act of protesting against the government alone was an incredibly dangerous one. But, like Egypt's counterparts in the Arab world — Tunisia, then Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, and Libya — the people demonstrated to have their demands met. They are only asking for rights they are entitled to: the end of police brutality, free elections, freedom of speech, and an end to rampant corruption. All of these constitute a quality of life that the UN Declaration of Human Rights has held as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations" since 1948.

After 18 difficult days of protest, the people of Egypt were rewarded with the resignation of Mubarak. More of their demands have been met or are in process of being met, and the military is the ruling power until elections can be held in six months. We have had the privilege of witnessing it all through mainstream and social media, both of which have been quite effective in aiding protests. As Paul Mason of the BBC put it, "technology has expanded the space and power of the individual." The world is watching, there are billions of us, and we're cheering for the protestors. But will we be there in six months, or a year, or five years, as the nation moves forward on the path to democracy?

Those in the American right warn that the fall of Mubarak will lead to the spread of Islamism in Egypt and increased power for the Muslim Brotherhood. How this revolution will affect the peace between Israel and Egypt is of course unknown, and an important issue for consideration. The warning is not without merit, but fear of an Islamist takeover in Egypt was not strong enough to mobilize support for Mubarak from the U.S. and others. It is true that in other countries the transition from authoritarian to democratic rule has not been completely successful. Critics say these revolutions in the Arab world will not yield working democracies.

In the Philippines, the People Power Revolution of 1986 marked the return to democracy — albeit a tenuous one — characterized by political clans, instability, corruption, and violence against the media (despite its freedom being guaranteed in the constitution). But the democratic institutions in place work to combat those difficulties, which are lacking in dictatorial times. In Nigeria, military dictatorship ended in 1998. The government is still dominated by elites and patronage networks, just as it was prior to colonial rule, and following independence. This is so entrenched in Nigerian society that it may very well be impossible to eliminate. Corruption and security continue to be major obstacles in the quest to free and fair elections. Politics is ruled by money as it can benefit the elites, not as it can benefit the best interests of Nigerian citizens. The religious and regional divisions in all of these nations are volatile and complex in ways we may never properly understand.

Ghana could be a beacon of hope, in terms of the potential for authoritarian states to reach successful democracy. Constitutional rule was restored in 1992 and in comparison to other countries in the region, it is well-administered, has a strong economy, and a free press. There is no prescription for a working democracy, no matter how much the western world may like to think there is. The difference in Ghana's popular revolt may simply come down to the personality of its leaders, but it also goes deeper than that. There are bound to be innumerable flaws in the establishment of democracy, and life will not suddenly be sunshine and lollipops for Egyptians or their fellow revolutionaries. A quote from the novel Random Passage is metaphorically apt: "Men lack imagination. They see only ice and the seals, whereas women see the fathoms of black water below, visualize the frozen seaweed swirling and clutching." Working democracy is not ice and seals, it is fathoms of black water in which even the dominant authoritarian family structure in nations requires adjustment. It's been a long time coming, but change is going to come. Keep watching.

Creating criminals

Why Bill S-10 will do more harm than good

Maria Cichosz
ASSOCIATE COMMENT EDITOR



On December 13, 2010, the Canadian Senate quietly passed Bill S-10, a proposed amendment to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The bill — currently under debate in the House of Commons — will introduce mandatory minimum sentences for minor drug-related offences for the first time in Canada if it becomes law. Interestingly, no major mainstream news outlets reported the passing of the bill, with the exception of a small article that appeared in the Vancouver Metro. The silence of the Canadian press concerning a bill that holds serious consequences for this country's judicial processes, prison systems, and drug policy is disturbing. Canadians should be aware of the reasons that Bill S-10 should not become law, especially in the context of the increasingly conservative political climate fostered by Stephen Harper's "tough on crime" policies.

Most contentious are the amendments Bill S-10 would make to existing laws concerning marijuana, which currently include only maximum sentences. If passed, S-10 would introduce a mandatory minimum sentence of six to nine months for growing as few as six cannabis plants, a maximum of 18 months imprisonment for producing edibles made with cannabis oil or resin, and a doubling of the maximum possible term for imprisonment for such offences from seven to 14 years. The introduction of such policies signals a shift away from harm-reduction-oriented approaches to drug policy and a move towards the incarceration-based model currently in use in the United States as part of its extensive "war on drugs." The Harper government's attempt to introduce such approaches to non-violent drug offences is surprising, especially given Statistics Canada's recent report of falling police-reported crime rates.

Policiies enforcing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offences simply do not work, as evidenced by a 2002 study prepared for the Department of Justice Canada that found mandatory minimums do not appear to deter crime. It is interesting that the Conservative government's push to introduce such laws comes at a time when officials in the United States, the world's foremost proponent of mandatory minimums, are questioning the effectiveness of these sentencing measures. Recently Gil Kerlikowske, Obama's drug czar, stated that lawmakers in "almost every single state" in the U.S. are looking to reduce mandatory minimum penalties because prison populations have exploded with non-violent drug offenders. According to Kerlikowske, "the focus of the sentencing [...] should be as much treatment as any punishment," and policies that emphasize incarceration are "dumb on drugs." Though American courts give sentences that are double that of British courts and three times that of Canadian courts, the U.S. violent crime rate is higher than in those two countries. Furthermore, 25 years of punitive mandatory minimums have done little to impact the drug business, which has flourished despite tough sentencing measures. Introducing a bill that mirrors ineffective American approaches to drug offences and promotes incarceration instead of harm-reduction and treatment is a regressive measure for Canadian drug policy.

The mandatory minimum sentences proposed by S-10 will also exacerbate problems in Canada's already overcrowded prisons, where the current practice of placing up to four prisoners in a single cell contravenes United Nations minimum standards. Placing minor drug offenders in prisons rather than working to fix the social structures underlying drug use serves to create a prison system that "simply warehouses people," similar to that characterized by the U.S. prison-industrial complex. According to Joseph Di Luca, vice-president of Canada's Criminal Lawyers' Association, such warehousing is most detrimental to already vulnerable groups such as women, racialized peoples, and Aboriginal women in particular, whose population in prisons has increased by almost 90 per cent since 2000. Overcrowding in prisons ensures that these groups have even less access to already sparse resources. It also leads to higher rates of HIV and AIDS in prison populations, increases inmate violence, and makes it more difficult for correctional officers to do their jobs.

The growth in prison populations resulting from mandatory minimum sentences also increases costs to taxpayers for expenses such as building or expanding prisons and hiring more prison staff. The cost of housing a prisoner is about $88,000 per year in the federal system. The Harper government has already announced building plans for 634 new prison beds in several provinces, costing $158 million. Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page believes that if passed, new "tough on crime" policies will put 4,200 new prisoners in jail, costing taxpayers 4 billion dollars. He also fears that Correctional Services of Canada's annual budget of $4.3 billion will jump to $9.3 billion by 2015. Such expenses channel taxpayers' money into supporting an ineffective drug policy that targets non-violent offenders while simultaneously reducing the amount of funds available for necessary social programs such as education, healthcare, and successful harm-reduction-based drug treatment programs such as those in effect in the Netherlands. Incarceration stemming from mandatory minimum sentences is a misuse of both Canadian money and human resources.

Overall, mandatory minimum sentences contradict the guidelines created by the Vienna Declaration, which is a call from international experts prompting the United Nations to support drug reform measures such as decriminalization, harm-reduction, and treatment rather than incarceration and punishment. Like all legislation that supports drug prohibition, Bill S-10 promises to be costly, ineffective, create unsafe conditions for already vulnerable drug users, and encourage the continued presence of the very organized crime that it seeks to target. It is counterintuitive and regressive for Canadian policymakers to support this bill and attempt to pass it into law. Concerned citizens should contact their Member of Parliament to let them know that they oppose Bill S-10, or visit www.whyprohibition.ca to receive regular updates about the status of S-10 and similar drug policy-related legislation in Canada.

The centre can hold

Facing its biggest challenge yet, the Liberals need a leader with true vision.

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

It's a tough time to be a Liberal in Canada. The most recent polls show that if a federal election, which many anticipate for the spring, were held today, the Conservatives would edge closer to a majority, largely at the expense of the Liberals. The prime minister's approval rating has steadily risen, while Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff has continued his downward slide in the polls. The Conservatives are out-fundraising the Liberals four to one and have more than enough cash in their campaign war-chest to pump out anti-Ignatieff attack ads by the dozen. Aside from Maxime Bernier's occasional libertarian outbursts, there are no cracks showing in the Tory caucus.

What's becoming clear is that it's time for a serious realignment in Liberal politics in Canada. No longer can the Liberals simply be contented with the expectation that they will eventually win again. It's time that they build a strategy that can deliver. Successful Liberal campaigns in Canada since the end of the Second World War have been built on three elements: leadership, money, and vision. Paul Martin and Stéphane Dion lost the 2006 and 2008 elections, respectively; because they lacked both money, due to Jean Chrétien's campaign finance reforms banning corporate donations; and leadership, due to negative public perceptions of their resolve.

Michael Ignatieff lacks all three. If he can't deliver a significant boost in the Liberal seat count after the next election, then he'll likely be shown the door. Even if he were to get two dozen more Liberals to Ottawa, it's unclear whether he'd be able to chip away at Stephen Harper's lead to make the Liberals viable again. It seems inevitable that the Liberals will be forced to look for a new leader.

What's not clear is who that would be — there are no leaders-in-waiting in the shadow cabinet. While there will undoubtedly be a number of caucus insiders who will put their names forward and others who will come out of the political woodwork, it's unclear that they would be any more effective as leaders than were Dion, Ignatieff, or Martin. The Liberals need someone who's not just capable, but captivating. They need someone who can look and sound more prime ministerial than the prime minister, but who can and will hit hard during question period and in the media. These leaders are rare, skeptics will say, but the challenge that the official opposition faces is deserving of someone with extraordinary talent.

Moreover, the new leader needs be able to bring out donations in a way that none have been able to since campaign finance reforms were introduced by Chrétien and extended by Harper. Public financing is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for victory. It is at least partly because of this fundraising gap that the Conservatives maintain such a substantial advantage over the Liberals. The new leader must work hard to revitalize the party fundraising machine to drive small individual donations, which have become the driving force in countries with low political contribution limits.

Furthermore, the new leader needs to persuade insiders and voters alike that he or she has strong, distinctively Liberal values that all Canadians can identify with. Fundamentally, this means a balanced compromise between moderation and progressivism. It means standing up for public services, but being eager to find a way to make them more fiscally sustainable. It means supporting tax reforms, but being careful not to halt innovation and job-creation. It means supporting an active foreign policy, but not jeopardizing our special commitments to the United States and to our NATO allies. Beyond these specific values, what is crucial for the new leader is an ability to explain how Harper is undermining them.

This not only means criticizing the Harper approach, but being able to propose credible, sensible alternatives. The fact that Ignatieff has been reluctant to do so is a response to the dire consequences that Dion faced when he proposed his visionary, if poorly timed, carbon tax strategy during the 2008 election campaign. However, if the Liberals let their fate be determined by the political environment which the prime minister creates, then they cannot hope to improve their political fortunes. The Liberals need to show that they have the vision it takes to lead.

If the super-candidate that I've described here could be found, he or she could certainly not do the job alone. The Liberal caucus has been weakened by a whole generation of experienced and talented Liberals who served as Chrétien ministers leaving Parliament. Perhaps it is time that some of them make their political comeback. The same is true of the party organization, which was eviscerated as much by the sponsorship scandal as by two electoral defeats. It is certainly a tough time to be a Liberal, but the time is ripe for someone serious to transform the party.

LETTERS

Re: What is StudentPac?, Feb. 14

I am writing in regards to an opinion/comment piece published in The Varsity by Taylor Scollon titled "What is StudentPAC?"

In the past few months or so, a group of individuals collectively known as "StudentPAC" has been issuing and publishing statements. In these statements, they make several claims which are either based on misconceptions, or to spread misinformation.

Whatever their intentions are, or whether or not such statements were issued in good or bad faith, my purpose in writing this letter is to clarify or correct these misconceptions and stop the spread of misinformation.

Scollon states "$745,000. That's how much of our student fees the University of Toronto Students' Union spent on their own salaries last year." While it is true that $745,000 was designated for salaries during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, this money is not allocated just for executive salaries. The vast majority of the money is actually designated to pay the salaries and benefits of full-time staff, and the wages of various part-time support and frontline staff. What should be remembered is that the UTSU is first and foremost a service-based organization. Without the staff, the UTSU could not operate efficiently or effectively.

On the issue of homecoming, the simple fact is that we have no homecoming. Even if homecoming existed, spending more money does not necessarily mean a better event or high levels of participation.

The primary key to a successful homecoming is alumni involvement and sponsorship, which is vibrant and strong, (for example, at Queen's) but is lacklustre and nearly non-existent at U of T. Participation at events also depends on campus culture. Kingston is a university town and Queen's has a home-away-from-home atmosphere, while we're largely commuters, and Toronto is not a community centred on the university. Under such conditions, homecoming is not possible at U of T.

Scollon also states that the UTSU has failed at lowering tuition fees. We must remember that the UTSU can only lobby on our behalf and they do not have the legal power to lower tuition fees. If someone is to be blamed for this failure, such blame should be placed on the University Administration and the Ontario Government, who ultimately have the authority to lower, freeze, or eliminate tuition fees.

I would suggest that StudentPAC get their facts straight before making claims.

NATHANIEL TANG

RE: Love & Sex Issue, February 14

Where is the (queer) love? In an issue devoted to "Love & Sex" there is virtually nothing that relates to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer populations.

In "Point/Counterpoint" there's no mention about how many queer and trans people experience Valentine's Day as a straight holiday that reinforces their marginalization. Or, alternatively, the creative ways in which LGBTQ communities celebrate the Day of Coupledom with burlesque and dancing.

How about "The psychology of Harry Potter and Twilight," with plenty of information on how "male" and "female" brains function, with no discussion of the fascinating work on hormone therapy for trans folks and its role in altering brain chemistry? No need to even mention that vampire fiction from Dracula to Anne Rice has been hailed as a vivid portrayal of queer possibilities in sexuality, highlighting the non-procreative sexiness people are capable of when left with the organs for sex but without the capacity to reproduce.

When he explains the 2004 split his Barbie in "An interview with Ken," and his patchy dating record ever since, why not ask if the all-American plastic beefcake took the time to play for another team?

Even "Let's get physical" avoided the titillating opportunity to mention that while heterosexual sex burns an average of 75–100 calories, studies show that man-on-man sex burns an average of 150–200 calories per session!

Considering queers get such a bum rap for being sexually charged hedonists, I figured there'd at least be some honourable mention of us in your newspaper.

ADAM MORRISON

The Varsity welcomes letters from our readers.
Send letters (250 words max.) with your full name & phone number to:

comment@thevarsity.ca

Opinions pitches are also welcome.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION

Spring Election

All candidates debate

March 2, 2011
Bahen 1130
6:00pm to 10:00pm

The U of T Students' Union represents all full-time undergraduates at St. George and Mississauga campuses. U.T.S.U. provides important services such as Health & Dental Plans, book bursaries, club funding and TTC student metropass and discounted tickets. Your Students' Union also represents students to the central U of T administration and government, advocates for students' rights and connects students accross all campuses to work on common goals, campaigns and social programming.

U.T.S.U.



Anti-social: pushing back on the idea that The Social Network is a generation-defining

+ Write a note

by Navi Lamba and Yaseen Ali on Monday, 28 February 2011 at 6:23

"And besides, on Social Network, I didn't really agree with the critics' praise. It interested me that Social Network was about friendships that dissolved through this thing that promised friendships, but I didn't think we were ripping the lid off anything. The movie is true to a time and a kind of person, but I was never trying to turn a mirror on a generation" — Director David Fincher, in an interview with W Magazine (February 2011)

When David Fincher's The Social Network hit theatres this past October, critics and fans alike seemed to crowd around their computer screens to relish in the notion that a movie had spoken to their lives. Reviewers heralded it as a film that defined a generation. Karina Mitchell of CBS raved, "This complex drama stylishly captures a defining moment within a generation that is unprecedented in its connectedness." Robert Dougherty of the Associated Press chimed in, "Aaron Sorkin's jam packed script, David Fincher's latest leap forward, and the story of our online generation made The Social Network 'liked' by nearly everyone." And of course, Peter Travers of Rolling Stone — the man whose livelihood depends on exaggeration — argued that the "final image of solitary Mark at his computer has to resonate for a generation of users (the drug term seems apt) sitting in front of a glowing screen pretending not to be alone."

One could suggest that these reviews mirrored, or even triggered, the responses of impressionable viewers —

Tweets:

Veronique Anderson: went to see the social network yesterday. defines our generation in a good AND bad way.
23-Oct-2010 10:38 AM

Pippy: The movie that defines our generation, The Social Network.
09-Oct-2010 16:42 PM

Keian: The Social Network was fantastic. Truly a generation defining movie.
24-Sep-2010 03:28 AM

It isn't clear what was more fascinating, the fact that professional film critics and Tweeters did not have access to a thesaurus, or that the meme went as viral as it did. Whether The Social Network was celebrated or dismissed, audiences needed to contend with this heavy baggage.

What to make of this trend that's been circulating since the film's opening? While the film has rightfully been praised for its crisp handling of multiple time-lines and razor-sharp performances, the idea that it actually has something to say about on-line social networking is puzzling. In fact, some are so keen to take even the title literally, that they miss that screenwriter Sorkin is more interested in networks of ivy-league privilege — and who they exclude — than anything else.

An issue that has been explored by a handful of critics has been the way the film depicts young women. "The Social Network doesn't include a single well-drawn female character — there's no denying that — and this kind of thing is problematic for Hollywood on the large scale," says Jef Catapang, a staff writer for Urbanology. "I think that's where the sting comes from, because it's rare to see an intelligent movie both getting raves and putting butts in theatre seats. And so here comes The Social Network, but it's the same old guard. I get why that's disappointing."

Nick McCarthy, a contributor to New York City's alternative bi-weekly L Magazine shares, "I was bothered by the depictions immediately after leaving the theatre. But, upon re-watching recently, I can't help but think that it was all deliberate. The perception these characters have of women has passed through to the medium. However, it's still rather inexcusable to either sack the lady characters with 'batshit crazy, naive catalyst' (Eduardo's girlfriend) or 'exposition and theme robotron' (Rashida Jones)."

It's exactly this dichotomy that is problematic, as women in the film are boxed into frustrating clichés. On one end, we are given Eduardo Saverin's girlfriend, Christy (Brenda Song). She is painted simply as hyper-sexualized and violently unstable. In the middle of the film, Eduardo (Andrew Garfield) laments, "Christy's crazy, she's jealous, she's irrational, and I'm frightened of her." In a subsequent scene, Christy accuses Eduardo of cheating on her and sets aflame a scarf that he has gifted her. Alternatively, we are given Erica Albright (Rooney Mara), the ex-girlfriend of Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), who, while a sympathetic figure, is cold and unforgiving. As an audience we are led to believe that men are complex and innovative, while women are either temperamental "hotties" or rational and small-breasted.

The film particularly lacks in nuance regarding depictions of racial diversity, so much so that it is almost easy to take the film at face value as one of rivalrous white characters fighting over intellectual property. While the suggestion that actors of a particular ethnicity convey more "authenticity" in representing their particular background entails an entirely different discussion, the casting of English-American Andrew Garfield as Eduardo Saverin (a Brazilian-born American) and of Max Minghella (an actor of Italian-Japanese descent, born and raised in England) as Divya Narendra (an Indian-American) is an issue worth considering. It's difficult to believe that there was a dearth of such underrepresented and willing actors in Hollywood at the time of pre-production, so much so that the filmmakers could not look beyond the recognizable names that ultimately participated.

Much of the commentary on the The Social Network suggests that Fincher and Sorkin have tapped into how Facebook has transformed the way in which Generation Y interacts with each other, perhaps ironically within a vacuum of anti-social behaviour. Indeed, the final scene depicts a solitary Zuckerberg sitting at a computer, robotically clicking his "refresh" button, waiting for a friend request to be accepted. In the eagerness to read the film as a treatise on relationships as mediated through the alienating mechanisms of technology, it is perhaps easy to overlook the basic literalism of the actual title, and to what it actually refers. From the start, as McCarthy suggests, the filmmakers use university life as a microcosm for society in general, and that "The Social Network they are most interested in is hierarchy."

Denise Brunsdon, Director of Social Media for GCI Group, agrees that the film "is most clever in juxtaposing the elitist Harvard social network, which uses and seemingly rejects Zuckerberg, against the elitism of techy start-up California, which Zuckerberg then uses to reject Harvard. Ironically, both of these realms remain dominated by white males, which leaves me wondering what exactly the majority of viewers are expected to connect with when watching this movie, ostensibly only that we all have Facebook accounts."

In the opening scene depicting Zuckerberg and his date Erica sparring over beers, he says he needs to "do something substantial" to catch the attention of the exclusive final clubs. The scene hints at much of what the audience will come to learn of the enigmatic character — that his actions are fueled by both a neurotic jealousy of and an intense rivalry with the guys who "row crew" Hence, the trajectory of the film's narrative may have to do more with Zuckerberg's ambition toward attaining a certain degree of status and privilege, rather than commenting overall upon an entire generation's fractured relationship with online social media.

In interrogating the "movie of a generation" meme, one may be inclined to ask whose generation this film defines or showcases. The characters in the film are by and large young, white, middle-to-upper-class men who squabble over the fate and proprietorship of a multi-billion dollar enterprise. The film's clinical approach to gender and race may well be intentional on the part of Fincher and Sorkin to make a commentary on the insularity of the characters' lives, but the reception by critics and audience begs a significant question — why are the lives of Harvard students made to stand in for the experiences and aspirations of an entire generation? The Social Network consciously tells the story of a very specific community of suddenly powerful young, straight, and white men.

Nick Davis, an Assistant Professor of English and Gender Studies at Northwestern University, observes that the movie of our generation claim is not a truth claim, "but a marketing discourse, tapping into the widespread appeal not only of having a movie for your generation, but of being a generation.

"I won't lie," he continues, "I do think there might be a Facebook generation. But I do think, if you look at The Social Network, it's not making anything seem all that epochal or universal except, maybe, the hoary idea of the megalomaniacal impulse that gets sparked by a lover's rejection. But what generation has the copyright on that?"

He continues by thinking through the references of "we" and "us" — to who is that actually referring when the film is discussed? "[We] have to be careful about that 'we'; even more than its perspective on race and gender, I found the film's myopia about class and location pretty irksome. By not depicting the spread of Facebook, it just implies that the whole world is sponged into it, entailing a paradigm shift for everyone, all of 'us.'"

If The Social Network triggered Internet users to closely re-evaluate their consumption of and participation in online media, that is surely another boon in the film's trove of critical citations, industry awards and to its overall place in the cultural zeitgeist. The film may well endure as "The Facebook Movie"; a rare example of a movie that enjoys credibility as a cinematic gem and as a snapshot of a generation's view of itself. However, it is also worthwhile to pause and consider that not everyone is "logged onto" the world of Facebook and Twitter. That audience must have viewed a very different film indeed.

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Sean MacKay Ur so deep
28 February at 6:28 · Like · 1 person

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The Jane Austen Ball

When was the last time you tried something new? Associate Arts Editor **ARIEL LEWIS** *attended a Jane Austen Ball at St. Barnabas Church of Danforthshire and found her delicate feminine sensibilities entering a state of delirium.*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single woman in possession of a good novel writ by the hand of Miss Jane Austen must at some point in her life enter a temporary state of delirium.

This state, once in full possession of the young lady's mind and body, will treat her most unkindly. Fortunates will be inclined to prolonged periods of self-induced solitary confinement and eye strain from exhausting their texts. Others, I dare say, may be disposed to frantic bouts of preaching and, on occasion, hallucination.

Having just recently enrolled in a class modelled on the teachings of Miss Austen, I must now confide that this exact delirium is how I found myself at the St. Barnabas Church of Danforthshire this past evening, for an extraordinary Ball in the theme of Miss Austen herself.

In what raptures I am returned! I am quite in a state of ecstasy, though I fear the excessive excitements of the evening have proven too harsh for my female constitution, as I have now come down with a most unwelcome cold.

The ball was held by Lady Karen Millyard, an eccentric woman who has dubiously chosen to work for a living and, what is more, pursue a profession in the arts. Her artistic connections are undoubtedly questionable, though I chose to ignore this aspect of her character for the sake of convenience.

Danforthshire, I fear, is quite towards the east end of town and so, coming from the west end, I dare say the travel is thirty minutes by horse drawn carriage but thirty minutes and one hour if travelling by the public transportation services offered by the county. (Though the public transport operates with no horses to stop or tend to, this does not seem to keep it from frequent delays.)

Lady Karen took all measures to ensure an evening of great propriety by providing etiquette tutorials, which began in the early afternoon. As most persons present were, like I, foreign to the area and its customs, a brief presentation and instruction were given to those who were not entirely confident in their fashionability.



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

I was most pleased to hear news that Lady Caroline Lamb, a Lady of notable aristocracy and in close relations with Lord Byron, had recently cut her hair out of hysteria, and thus the cropped fashioning of my own hair is, at the moment, quite in vogue. The gentlemen present were directed under the teachings of Mister Beau Brummel, a gentleman whose influence on the fashions in this region are respected without hesitation. I dare say it was not five and forty minutes before each person in the room was properly Londonized and prepared for an evening of the most agreeable sort.

The dance instruction, which took up much of the afternoon, proceeded with much ease. I falsely believed this to be a truthful indication of my abilities for the evening. My, how wrong I was.

The ball finally began at a quarter past the hour of eight, a fifteen-minute delay due wholly to the long and particular dressing preparations of the women. The men, at this point, took to playing a game of whist while waiting on our attendance.

As it was, the men were greatly outnumbered by women for reasons I cannot possibly fathom. Perhaps a sporting event of some kind took them to the country that night, away from such a fine evening in town.

Of the few gentlemen present, I conversed with many whose manners were amiable and charming, which I found quite disappointing. From all I have previously learned from Miss Austen, no woman of a sensible disposition would foolishly trust a man who displays any approbation or gentlemanlike behaviour. In fact there was one gentleman whose manners were so generally pleasing that I did not even bother to enquire after the sum of his annuity, for I knew no good could ever come from his kind spirit. As I humbly awaited the presence of a gentleman whose manners were less civil, I occupied my time with the most enjoyable dancing.

The first dance of the evening was Auretti's Dutch Skipper and the quartet that serenaded the room was of the highest skill. When one took pause to watch their surroundings, the delicate symmetry of the dances coupled with the extraordinary materials that were worn that evening made quite a beautiful spectacle.

Some ladies of Hamilton were fashioned in beautiful country wear, while others had beautiful gowns of satin and feather attachments that were quite grand. Some gentlemen appeared to be from the military and dressed in uniform. An older gentleman, Sir Hans of Denmark, not only wore a most respectable cravat and jacket but also proved to be a most agreeable dance partner for Hole in the Wall.

One party present were clearly well versed in the dancing from this region, as they exhibited much grace and such a thorough knowledge of the dance steps that hardly any blunders were made on their part.

However, I must divulge that the gentleman of this party made his superior knowledge quite known to us all by huffing and rolling his eyes at our smallest mistakes. His slight was unconscionable and what is more, even with such a shortage of men he refused to dance with any outside of his own party. In fact, I found his general snobbery and ill manners so insufferable that I am quite sure we shall be married within the fortnight.

The regret in my dancing, to which I have previously alluded, did not come until later in the evening. The partner with whom I danced Juice of Barley made such an egregious mistake that his misstep echoed through the entire line until Lady Karen had to come over and personally assist our recovery. As I was at the centre of such an irreconcilable embarrassment, I am grateful that no word seems to have yet passed through any respected social connections.

The Ball by all measures was an enjoyable one, and I was left with a most cheerful countenance and satisfaction at half past ten when the evening came to a close. It is my full intention to return to Danforthshire for the Ball this April, where I am hopeful that no such dreaded embarrassments await me and I may perhaps have better luck finding an esteemed suitor.

Until then I can now only hope that the illness, which presently confines itself to a bearable cold, may soon develop into a fever of more heightened danger, after which I am sure that a chivalrous gentleman may then ardently come to my care.

Humbly,

I am &c-

The *Lion* kings

Jihadist comedy Four Lions *humanizes its terrorist protagonists. And it's very funny.*



One of the Four Lions, failing to fail to arouse suspicion.

Alan Jones
VARSITY STAFF

By now, much ink has been spilled on the "controversial" nature of Chris Morris' *Four Lions*, which is a slapstick comedy about five Muslim suicide bombers in Britain. That much is true. The suicide bombers are humanized — this is true also. But why shouldn't suicide bombers be humanized? They are, after all, human. They have families, friends, and menial jobs, and while much of the humour in *Four Lions* is derived from every manner in which these idiots arouse suspicion (primarily by trying to avoid doing so), the parts I found most interesting had to do with their daily lives.

The de facto leader of the group, Omar (Riz Ahmed), is a security guard. He's friendly with his clueless non-Muslim boss, he has a supportive wife who has a stable job as a nurse, and he lets his son play with water pistols and watch Disney films. In fact, his life seems far more functional than that of his brother, who refuses to be in the same room as another woman, and keeps his wife in a closet when company is over. One gets the feeling that Omar has to lead the group not so much because he believes in the cause, but because if he doesn't, the plan will be hijacked by Barry — a native British convert whose views are so radical he thinks it would be a good idea to blow up a Mosque to "radicalize the moderates." Omar tells him that this would be like punching himself in the face to win a fight.

Some might feel uncomfortable with being asked to empathize with people whose intention is to kill the innocent, but despite the fact that I never felt like I supported their cause, I definitely did feel for their friendship, which is always on the brink of being torn apart by opposing ideologies. Sadly, it's the pragmatic intelligent ideology that seems most efficient in bringing about harm, not of its own will, but by trying to appease that of the irrational radical in the group. This group doesn't seem malicious, but confused and aimless. The film doesn't pull any punches and it doesn't moralize, but to me, that makes it less offensive. What it does is launch a vicious satirical attack on a media that emphasizes the differences between cultures and fails to address the similarities. While this is a film that deals with "very serious issues," it's also a very funny — and very British – film about idiots. And as we all know, no one makes films about idiots better than the British.

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW /DAVID HENRY HWANG

The Tony-winning playwrite behind Hart House's Yellow Face *talks to* **ASSUNTA ALEGIANI** *about being "the Asian-American playwright."*

David Henry Hwang, a New York-based playwright and Tony Award-winner, started his career over 30 years ago with his first play *FOB* (stands for "fresh off the boat"), in which he explored questions of Asian-American identity and assimilation. He has since worked in various media, from TV and film to opera and musical. His latest play, *Yellow Face*, a comedy based on his own experience as the leading protestor against the casting of a Caucasian actor for an Asian role in the 1990s, returns to the subject of race and ethnic identity in a growing multicultural society. At a time in which, according to *Maclean's*, U of T is "Too Asian," an investigation of these issues remains as relevant as it was 30 years ago.

Yellow Face is scheduled to play at Hart House from March 4-12 and you can catch him for an onstage talk on March 8 and for a post-performance Q&A on March 9.

THE VARSITY: *It being a semi-autobiographic piece, what is your relationship with* Yellow Face*? Do you feel exposed when you watch it, like you are reading a part of your diary to the public over and over again?*

DAVID HENRY HWANG: It does and it doesn't, but I don't feel so exposed when I watch it now. Many artists write autobiographical work and the difference here is that I chose to name the main character after myself. Paradoxically, once I decided to do that I started to be able to write him as a character and I could make up things that were not true. Therefore, I'm not really exposed because nobody actually knows what is true and what is not. I mean, some things are obviously true because you can find them in the paper but a lot of things the audience does not know for sure about.

TV: *It's interesting that once you named the character after yourself it became a character of its own. Why do you think that is?*

DHH: I don't know — it is kind of counterintuitive. One would expect that once I named the character after myself I would feel more obliged to make it truthful, but I guess there is some sort of perverse impulse in me. Once I made a character out of myself it was really fun to kind of tear the character down and make him the butt of the joke in a lot of the scenes; to make him to some extent the most foolish character in the play.

TV: Yellow Face *premiered in 2007 in Los Angeles. Do you think that since then the main issue you are addressing, that of Asian representation in the Western media, has changed?*

DHH: Yes, I think there are things that continued to change and there are things that continue to need addressing. For instance, since 2007, at least in America, we have had the experience of an Asian-American pop band, Far East Movement, having the number one song in the country. I didn't necessarily think I would live to see the day that would happen, so there are things that continue to change. There is a tendency that developed over the last couple of years to cast Asians in a lot of comic roles, and you can argue whether that is a good thing, but in terms of there being more roles in the mainstream media, yes, there are more roles out there. Now we can argue about a) the quality of the roles, and b) does that mean that the mainstream media represents the ethnic diversity of America? The answer to that is no, it still clearly does not, but it is moving in that direction.

TV: *You seem to be coming back to this issue of ethnic identity throughout your career. What notions have changed for you? For example, would your first piece* FOB *look the same as it did when it premiered in 1978?*

DHH: I do think things have changed and I think the reason I went back to ethnic identity issues in *Yellow Face* is because I wanted to look back on the last 20 years and the development of multiculturalism in North America; to look at some things that have changed, some of the excesses and the comic, absurd things about the multicultural movement. So that is why I think I needed to write *Yellow Face* at this point of my life. Having done that, I am not that interested in Asian-American identity issues at the moment. I feel like *Yellow Face* was sort of my statement, at least for now. My new play is more about U.S.-China relations, which is not about ethnic identity.



JENNY KIM/THE VARSITY

TV: *Does it bother you that, due to your gravitation around that topic, you are labeled as "the Asian-American playwright"?*

DHH: I have kind of gone back and forth on that. There have been times when it bothered me and times where I really embraced it. At this point I see it like this: the reality is I am Asian-American and I am a playwright, so saying I am an Asian-American playwright is literally true. And I think that everybody who is fortunate enough to have some success gets labeled in one way or another. So you know I get labeled as an Asian-American writer, and that is okay.

TV: *Are there topics you are concerned with that you have not yet explored in your work?*

DHH: I am sort of fascinated by what is going on right now between the West and China; the prospect of China as an economic power, as a political power and how that shift of power balance between Asia and the West is going to play out. You know, how do I feel about China becoming a world power and what is going to happen to its relationship with the West? I have a lot of questions in that area, which does happen to be one of the critical world issues of the moment. So that is kind of a big issue and fortunately for me as an artist it is one that I find very interesting.

TV: *You will be speaking onstage at Hart House about your career. What advice do you have for young people wanting to get involved with theatre professionally?*

DHH: I think the really important thing to realize is nobody knows what is going to be successful and what is not. And if people are trying to tell you that they know then they

are fooling themselves and they are fooling you. What that means is that if you're starting out as an artist, or really at any point in your career, you have to do something that excites you, you have to do something that you love. It is just as likely that something you love is going to be a commercial or critical success as something that you try to do to only to be successful. If you try to do something for yourself that you need to explore then have that satisfaction, you will always have that achievement. If it is successful, that is like icing on the cake, but if you're only hoping that it's going to be successful and it's not, then you really have not gotten anything. So if you do the art you really care about, it is just as likely to be successful as if you try to do it for commercial reasons.

TV: *Were you always this certain about the path you chose? Because I read that initially you wanted to go into law.*

DHH: Well, when I went to college I had no idea what I wanted to do (laughs). All I knew is that I was not good at math and science, so I was not going to become a doctor. And I was pretty verbal so I thought "Okay, I could go to law school." It was just something I thought I could do if I could not think of anything else. And then fortunately I discovered playwriting in college and felt strongly about it. I did not know if I was going to be able to make a living out of it, I did not know if I was going to be a successful "playwright." I just knew that I wanted to do it and I was going to try to do it and luckily things worked out.



Dan Vyleta: Through the past, darkly

The author of The Quiet Twin *discusses the challenges of historical fiction*

Jade Colbert
VARSITY STAFF

Dan Vyleta, whose stories prod our notions of human decency for weakness and decay, has a talent for starting in the absurd. His latest novel, *The Quiet Twin*, opens with a murder case that wasn't. Anton Beer is a house doctor called upon one night to attend to a tenant in his apartment block, a young woman in the habit of watching the people across the yard. Soon Beer is brought into the orbit of his patient's uncle, with whom she is boarding, the former professor Speckstein, whose reputation remains under the long shadow of a sexual abuse scandal from several years back. There's been a rash of unsolved murders in the area and Speckstein is convinced that whoever's been killing people also killed his dog, for whom he had a special fondness. Beer reluctantly takes up "the case" for the old man.

So far, so harmless, except the scene is Vienna, 1939, the Nazis have just annexed Austria, and Speckstein is the local Zellenwart, a party official charged with spying on his jurisdiction's residents on behalf of the Gestapo. Beer is asked to aid the investigation because he has been trained in the recently forbidden "Jewish science" — that would be psychiatry — an area of expertise that makes him useful even as the investigators hold it over him like a guillotine blade. Beer is yoked to one especially nasty piece of work, Inspector Teuben, a sadist motivated less by Nazi ideology than by the newfound powers granted him under the new regime. Beer wants to do good, but like the other tenants of the house, he has his own secrets. And so the novel is set in motion.

Born in 1974 in the Ruhr Valley in northwest Germany, Vyleta is the son of Czech refugees from Prague. As he was growing up in Germany, his remained "a very Czech family," he says. After graduating from high school, he pursued his post-secondary education in the U.K., eventually earning his PhD in history from Cambridge.

In 2007, he and his wife moved to Edmonton, where she had been offered a job lecturing on German literature and translation studies at the University of Alberta, followed by a similar stint in Sackville, NB. They now call Guelph home. Dan Vyleta spoke to The Varsity earlier this month shortly after the release of his new book.

THE VARSITY: *I read that the first chapter came to you very quickly, but that you struggled after that to not place the story in 1939 Vienna. What was it about the story that eventually convinced you the setting had to be then and there?*

DAN VYLETA: Writing a book for me is a strange process. There are certain things you think long and hard about and certain things that just spill out. I feel it's a good sign at

SEE **'VYLETA'** - PG 19

The Tao of Farrelly

Just in time for the release of Hall Pass, *Peter and Bobby Farrelly superfan* **CHANDLER LEVACK** *considers the method behind the Brother's penis-joke-heavy madness*



The latest specimins of masculinity and femininity from the creators of *Dumb & Dumber.*

Fassbinder. Fellini. Farrelly Brothers. While critics everywhere this week demean the exposed penises, explosive vomititusness, and general boobery that exemplifies the auteurs' lesser work, *Hall Pass*, out in theatres this past weekend, I ponder a bigger question: why is *There's Something About Mary* not part of the Criterion Collection?

The Rhode Island-born brothers make movies that revel in the uncanny humiliation of being human. In the Farrelly Brothers' universe, your penis never stays in your pants for long. Breasts are presented as tan, flapping, cruel surprises you didn't ask for. People get unexpectedly punched in the face a lot. Their protagonists, either shy repressed everymen (Ben Stiller in *There's Something About Mary*; Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear in *Stuck On You*), or wild, blathering blowhards (Jim Carrey in *Dumb & Dumber* and *Me, Myself & Irene*, Jack Black in *Shallow Hal*) set off on a course to get what they deserve, but the universe ignores this. The Farrelly Brothers assume that you can't receive the American Dream until you are sufficiently humiliated. And that's an authorial value that's certainly on par with anything Woody Allen or Pedro Almodovar ever put out.

Their next project is an adaptation of the Three Stooges; three short films reveling in all of the slapstick and less of the confused moral ambiguities that make a film like *Hall Pass* so unnerving. *Hall Pass* is a watchable film (I sat next to a woman who told me, "The universe is hagiographic, which means the cells of your heart are also in your butt") and she laughed and cooed all the way through. But for more sentient beings, this bizarre romantic comedy, about two dorks who get a week off from marriage, tries to play it safe while the uncanny seeps in. The most memorable scene of the film features Owen Wilson falling asleep in a spa hot tub, only to be rescued by two naked men — one with a giant African-American penis and one with a tiny Caucasian penis. The penises are not acknowledged, simply hanging. This is Wilson's moral reward for trying to sleep with a super tanned Australian barista who is not his wife.

I love Farrelly, will always love Farrelly, so much that when they make *Hall Pass 2: Just Goin' To The Bathroom*, I'll be there just to see what they'll do next. Critics bemoan the brothers for the de-evolution of comedy, but people forget that the 1998 release of *There's Something About Mary* pioneered the "gross-out comedy" for a reason. Before the Farrellys, no one in comedy masturbated with such high stakes. Somehow they managed to connect all the painful fragilities of our bodies to our souls.

There is a scene in *Dumb & Dumber* that executes this elegantly. Lloyd (Jim Carrey) has managed to get himself and his buddy to Vermont to hand off a mysterious suitcase full of cash to his dream girl, not knowing that the suitcase was a ransom reward. They end up spending all of the money, essentially on hideous bolo ties. On the slopes and during a trying period, Lloyd sees his best friend on a date with his dreamgirl. Inadvertently he throws up, just a little, in his mouth. Who hasn't been there?

To be Farrelly is to err human. To be cruel without realizing it. To make a mistake you want to condone but you are basically an idiot. The Farrellys understand how to write men (female copycat *The Sweetest Thing* did not understand how to write women) — the mix of clueless ineptitude and bravado that comes with trying to please your equally retarded friends. Other, weaker gross-out comedies have been attempted (Farrelly begat the *Scary Movie* franchise, which took gross-out to the extreme), but never with the satisfying longing the protagonists of *Mary* and *Dumb & Dumber* have for a world that won't make itself in their image.

The question is, do the Farrelly Brothers think that they're auteurs? At a round table, Bobby Farrelly says:

"When we've come in and talked to people, sometimes that's pointed out to us — but whatever we're doing, we're doing unconsciously. We're always just thinking, what's our next movie, how can we make it funny? We do the same sort of things over and over, but each movie is a little bit different and we just want to make people laugh."

Whatever, Farrelly.

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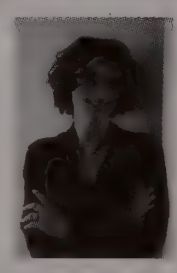
Just when you thought summer couldn't get any better, a London (England) ice cream parlour has announced that they are launching a breast milk ice cream. Called the "Baby Gaga," the desert mixes Madagascan vanilla pods and lemon zest with the breast milk of 15 women who replied to an advert. I wouldn't normally recommend pairing wine with ice cream, but if you're willing to drink ice cream from a human breast, you may as well wash it down with Naked Grape Pinot Grigio.

Pinot Gris is a truly fascinating grape because of the different flavours it can develop depending on the region and wine-making style of the winery. For example, while in Alsace the grape normally produces a full bodied floral nose with a lingering spice, a California variety is significantly lighter and more crisp. Alas, considering this grape's potential, the wine in question is a bitter disappointment. The description on the bottle suggests that the wine is "fruit driven wine with tropical fruit and citrus flavours." If these flavours are in the wine, I certainly cannot taste them. The bouquet is muddled and uninteresting, resembling the wine you're poured in a student dive along College Street.

Now don't get me wrong: I've consumed many a bottle of Naked Grape largely due to the Wine Rack's later opening hours. But in general, try to avoid the large brand wines in favour of something less well-known. A bottle of wine should be a treasured adventure where you experience the wine, like finding a new restaurant in Little Italy. Buying this wine is similar to taking your partner to Swiss Chalet for the Festive Special on your anniversary. Honestly, drinking this stuff makes Eliza Doolittle look sophisticated.

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BATA SHOE MUSEUM



Join Joanna Birenbaum for an exiciting events at the Bata Shoe Museum. Joanna Birenbaum is the Legal Director of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), a national organization committed to achieving substantive equality for women and girls in Canada. Joanna is a lawyer with diverse human rights advocacy and litigation experience. She has appeared as counsel for LEAF at the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada and before legislative standing committees. Joanna's human rights expertise also includes appearances before United Nations human rights bodies in Geneva and New York.

Monday, March 1, 6 – 7 pm

International Women's Day Lecture
The Niqab in Canada: Should the State Regulate How Women Dress?
Talk by Joanna Birenbaum

The practice of wearing the niqab in Canada has recently received significant public attention. Joanna Birenbaum, Legal Director of LEAF – Women's Legal Education and Action Fund – will talk about Canadian law's response to women who wear the niqab, and whether women's equality can be advanced by legislating how women dress.

The lecture will be followed by a short tour of Islamic footwear.

$16 per person
Free for Bata Shoe Museum members
Pre-registration required: 416.979.7799 x242 or programs@batahshoemuseum.ca

'VYLETA' – CONTINUED FROM PG 17

the beginning if it spills out because it's not based on if you think it's a good idea but it just flows organically out of you. As I wrote it, I must have been thinking Vienna, because there's something about this apartment. So the setting, in terms of space, wasn't a problem. It was clear to me it had a certain Old World feel, but that can mean many things. For instance, it could have been within 40, 50 years. I wasn't sure for a long time, so I just waited for the next thing to happen and spill out.

I think my resistance to the Nazi era was partially [that] there's a lot of clichés these days around it. Many of them belittle what happened there, and I didn't want to write something that felt exploitative of the period. … I ended up trying to write a book about Nazi Austria, that is not like the movie version... It's not about flags and it's not about famous politicians. It's actually about people trying to close their door on this and live as they have always lived — but they can't.

TV: *Did you know going in that you wanted to set limits for the novel? Saying, "We're not going to get into the politicians."*

DV: I don't think I spelled it out in my mind, but I find it's a very different task. I didn't want to write with my head so much and with a system, saying, "This person did this historically, so they must..." For me, it became much more interesting to explore what it might mean to live there, precisely because it was open-ended for me, I had no preconceived "It has to go to this event." The characters were free to breathe — or as far as anybody was free to breathe at that point — in terms of my own creating them.

TV: *A question often asked of writers of historical novels is "How do you not let the research take over the project?" But the subject matter of this book is closely related to your non-fiction work. Were there questions you had, entering this novel, that you didn't have the answers to from your research?*

DV: The advantage that I already knew something about the time was that I didn't feel I had to read all this stuff to start the novel. I think there would be the danger of it burying and killing the book. Questions come up, and you wonder how this would work. The interesting thing is, when you are a writer, is your responsibility to write the typical, or are certain things best explored by taking something actually kind of unusual or remarkable? Because if you go into the individual biographies of people, there's often quite remarkable stuff. … The past is hard to get a fix on sometimes…

TV: *What was your aim with introducing chapters with the short snippets on various psychopaths, the paranormal, the Nazi crimes against the mentally ill?*

DV: For me, it's the ironic counterpoint. The 1920s, particularly in Germany, experienced these incredible, absurd serial murders, which all seemed to revolve around people eating other people. There's a tremendous amount of cannibalism, weirdly. And then, for various reasons, there are not that many reported serial killings in the late 1930s to the mid '40s — apart from what the regime perpetrates.

TV: *That counterpoint put me in mind of Hannah Arendt's description of the banality of evil, because in Arendt's description, Eichmann is no psychopath, he's very rational, very* normal. *It made me wonder whether you would use a different word to describe evil as it's depicted in the book, or even whether you think you* are *describing evil, or something else.*

DV: There's something about abuse, abuse of authority, abuse of the badge. Abuse is an interesting type of evil, right? Because it questions, what would you do if there's no consequence? It's a temptational logic of evil. It's not a model of "This person grew up bad." It's a model saying "This person has unruly, unappetizing desires, and now they can act on them, and they're slowly, increasingly realizing that nobody will stop them, they will be commended for this abuse." The book seems to concentrate more on the opportunist than on hardcore ideologues…

On the other hand, you have in the doctor, and some of the other characters, people who want to be good people, but then the question is, how far will they go? You will either bend, or you are willing to throw your life away, and that's a very crushing insight…

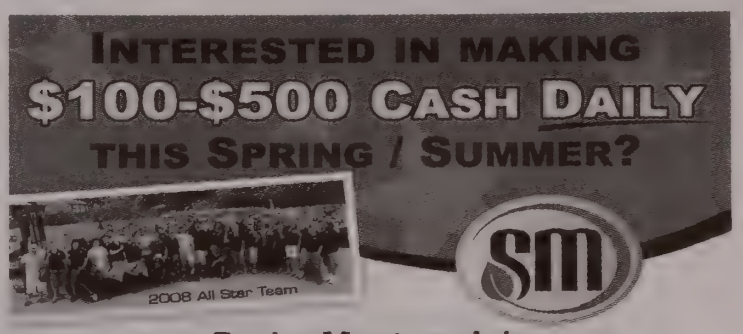
TV: *It's not a book of villains, but it's not a book of saints either.*

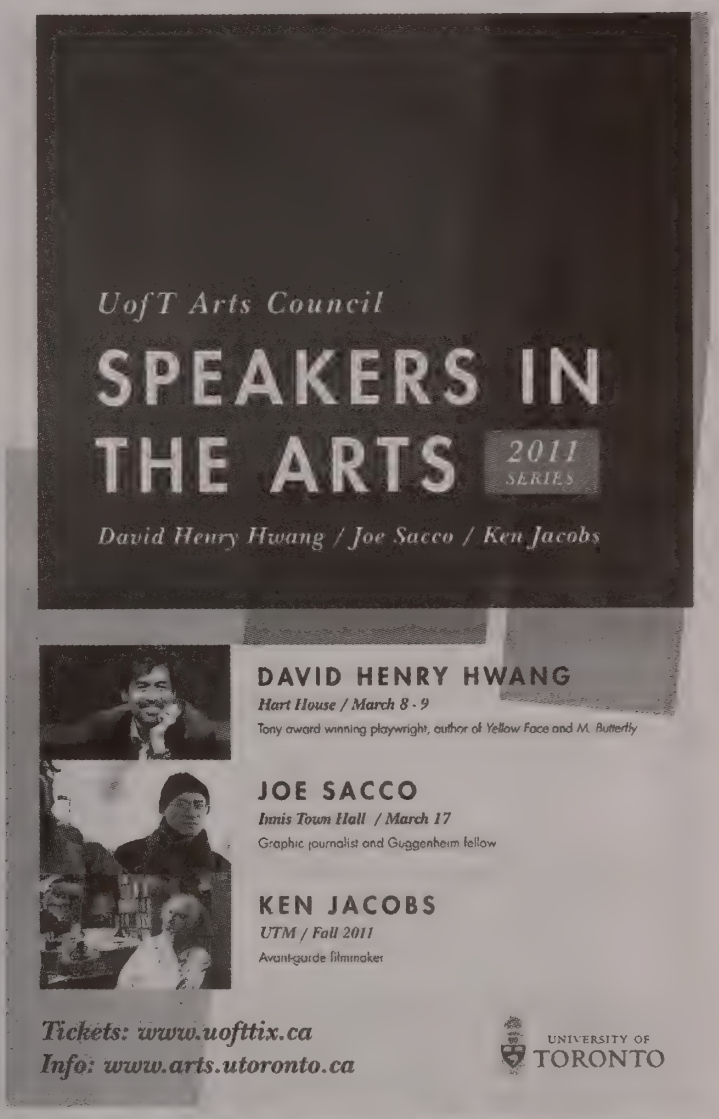
DV: Yeah, definitely not. And some of the villains turn out — like the professor, the housekeeper: they're not loveable, but by the end you have, I certainly had, an amount of understanding. I didn't want to slide into apology, and it's also wrong to say "It's all forgiven through circumstance." But there *is* a complexity in each of these biographies, and I think the novel is actually formed to explore it.

TV: *Do you think that is something that can be explored only in a novel?*

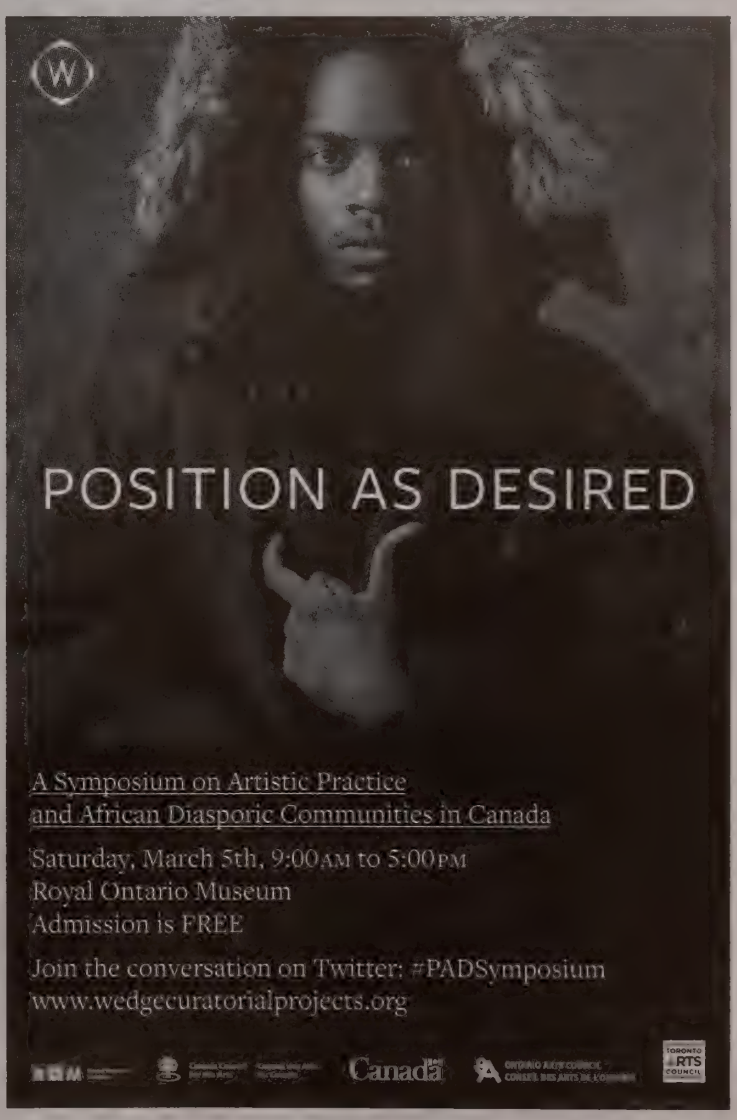
DV: I'm a big believer in the novel. I think the novel has patience. It's very intimate between writer, reader, book. It creates identification much stronger than other media create. … The thing is, you can't explain certain things without having an emotional content, you can't understand them without any emotional involvement. In a novel, you are announcing to a reader upfront, "This is one version. This is a work of imagination," and it does open up an understanding that's very different from a factual understanding of the situation. So I actually do believe that the novel is a very unique form. It's not just a long short story, and it's not a written film. There's something going on also in the fact that as you read it, you're doing so by yourself. There, too, is a quietness. So I think it implicates you differently. It gives your humanity a different canvas, there's more space in it than a purely visual medium — a film, or something — there's more space for you to take yourself into it, and I think that has to happen for understanding to some degree.

For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca/arts











Kanish&Partners LLP
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors

Kanish A. Thevarasa CA
Julian A. Emmanuel CA
Timothy Arutappa CA

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of
Varsity Publications Inc.

We have audited the statement of financial position of Varsity Publications Inc. as at April 30, 2010 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Varsity Publications Inc. as at April 30, 2010, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Kanish & Partners

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Toronto, Canada
November 16, 2010

VARSITY PUBLICATIONS INC.
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2010

	2010	2009
REVENUE		
Advertising	$ 170,203	$ 259,499
Student levy	143,753	137,116
Interest income	555	1,006
	314,511	397,621
EXPENSES		
Bad debts	34,802	764
Bank charges and interest	3,834	3,995
Bookkeeping	6,189	8,204
Capital assets	11,389	18,055
Delivery and postage	16,328	18,440
Insurance	1,966	1,663
Office and general	10,255	12,582
Photography	131	1,791
Printing	114,565	123,522
Professional fees	9,489	6,805
Salaries,commissions and benefits	256,342	254,611
Telephone	6,775	10,849
Travel and promotion	18,668	22,984
	490,733	484,265
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	$(176,222)	$(86,644)

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)

VARSITY PUBLICATIONS INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
APRIL 30, 2010

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	$ 13,372	$ 53,427
Short term deposit	15,000	15,000
Accounts receivable	81,595	158,232
Prepaid expenses	604	604
	$ 110,571	$ 227,263
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 123,686	$ 64,156
NET ASSETS (DEFICIENCY)		
Unrestricted net assets (deficiency)	(13,115)	163,107
	$ 110,571	$ 227,263

Approved on Behalf of the Board:

Director .....

Director .....

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)

VARSITY PUBLICATIONS INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (DEFICIENCY)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2010

	2010	2009
BALANCE - beginning of year	$ 163,107	$ 249,751
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(176,222)	(86,644)
BALANCE - end of year	$(13,115)	$ 163,107

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)

VARSITY PUBLICATIONS INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2010

	2010	2009
CASH FLOWS FROM (FOR) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	$(176,222)	$(86,645)
Net changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	76,637	93,482
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	59,530	41,589
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(40,055)	48,426
CASH - beginning of year	53,427	20,003
CASH - end of year	$ 13,372	$ 53,427

(The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements)

VARSITY PUBLICATIONS INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
APRIL 30, 2010

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Varsity Publications Inc. publishes "The Varsity", University of Toronto (U of T) students' newspaper twice a week during the school year covering the U of T Campus, environs and issues important to the students and citizens.

Varsity Publications Inc. is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income tax under Canadian Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations and reflect the following policies:

a) Revenue Recognition

Advertising revenue is recognized upon the print completion date.

The student levy is invoiced annually and recognized as revenue in the period to which it relates.

b) Capital Assets

Capital assets consist of furniture and computer equipment and are recorded at cost and charged to operations in the year of acquisition.

c) Donated Services

The Organization derives significant benefits from the voluntary services of its members. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Organization and because it is not possible to determine their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these financial statements.

d) Financial assets and liabilities - Classification

The Organization classified its cash and short-term deposit as held for trading. Accounts receivable is classified as loans and receivables and accounts payable and accrued liabilities is classified as other liabilities.

Assets or liabilities held for trading
Financial instruments classified as assets or liabilities held for trading are reported at fair value at each balance sheet date, and any change in fair value is recognized in the statement of operations in the period during which the change occurs.

Loans and receivables and other liabilities
Financial instruments classified as loans and receivables and other liabilities are initially recorded at fair value and then at amortized cost in subsequent periods.

e) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions based on currently available information. Such estimates and assumptions may affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the current period. Actual results could differ from the estimates and assumptions used.

4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The fair value of cash, short term deposit, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their carrying value due to their short-term maturity.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency or credit risk arising from its financial instruments.

5. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year's financial statement presentation.

The escape into reality

ALEX ROSS *explores "hard" science-fiction and the development of sci-fi that respects both science and story*

Hard science fiction is a genre that attempts to construct a plausible vision of the near or far future. It works out the social, economic, political, scientific, and even philosophical implications of advances in technology and scientific understanding. Hard SF can be distinguished from "space opera" (think *Star Wars*) in that the physical laws of the universe are respected. Even when they are stretched — in the case of faster-than-light travel, or devices that replicate matter — the author makes an effort to provide a plausible explanation.

For the longest time, sci-fi only came in two modes. Space opera, which was popularized by Edgar Rice Burroughs and E.E. "Doc" Smith, described epic space adventures where the light years and alien races were knocked back with wild abandon. On the other side, the dreadful "scientifiction" was promoted by Hugo Gernsback, editor of the first sci-fi pulp magazine, *Amazing Stories*.

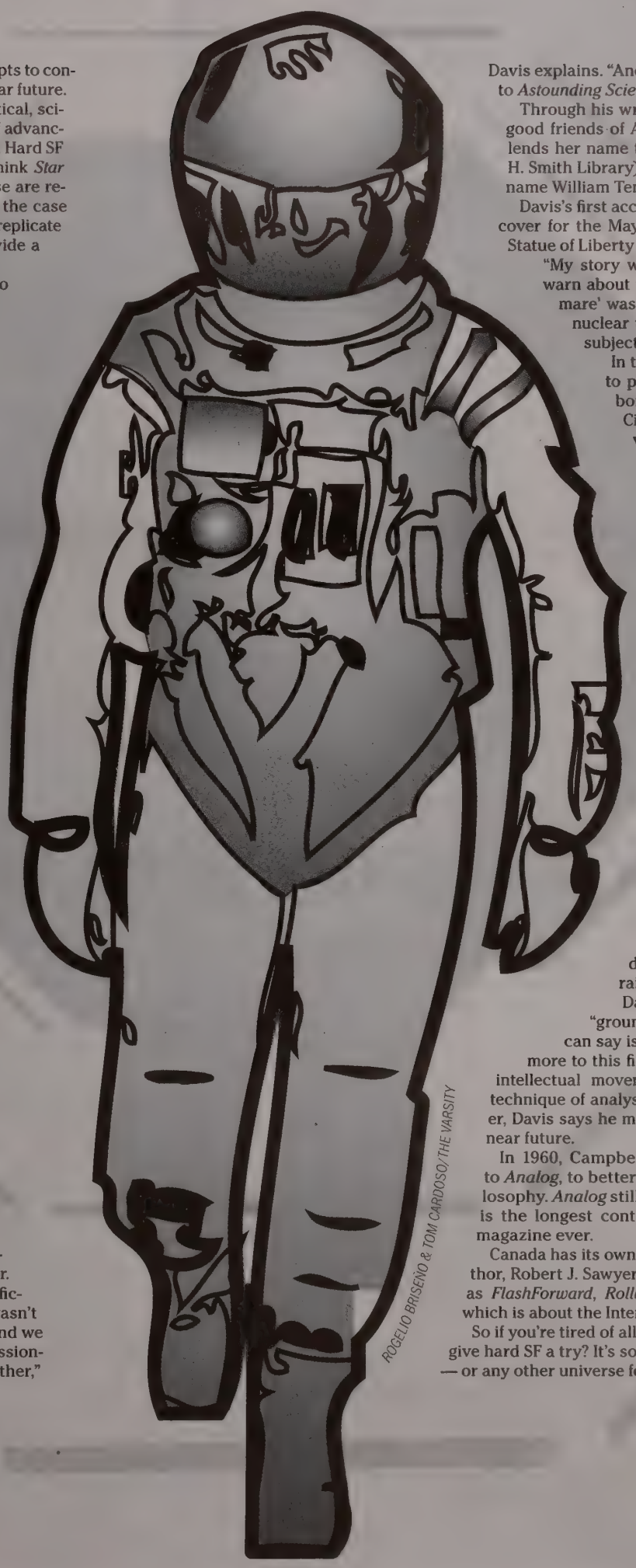
That all changed in 1938, when John W. Campbell Jr. became the editor of *Astounding Science Fiction*. Campbell insisted that those who sold stories to the magazine should respect actual science, and should also work out the implications of any speculative technologies or concepts they developed. Through his insistence on both scientific plausibility and literary quality, Campbell matured the genre of science fiction, setting the standard far above stories that read like juvenile fantasies or engineering blueprints. He nurtured and promoted such talents as Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Lester del Rey, and Theodore Sturgeon. One of those talents was U of T Emeritus Professor of Mathematics Chandler Davis, who wrote half a dozen stories for *Astounding Science Fiction* between 1946 and 1953.

"I think one thing that distinguishes real science fiction — what you call "hard" science fiction — from the irresponsible stuff is the attempt to show a society that is credible, a society that works, that has structure and people living in it" says Davis.

Many of the stories made a concerted effort to be both entertaining and realistic. This was possible since many of the writers like Heinlein, Asimov, and Clarke, had training in physics and engineering. Atomic power, rocket travel, robotics, genetic engineering, and bioethics were primary concerns of *Astounding*'s writers before they were concerns of the general public.

Like many science fiction writers, Davis started as a fan and then quickly became a contributor.

"A lot of us had this passion for science fiction and we didn't get enough. Reading wasn't enough. [...] What we did is form a fan club and we made the acquaintance of some of the professionals [...] and tried out story ideas on each other," Davis explains. "And this led some of us to submit stories to *Astounding Science Fiction*."



ROGELIO BRISEÑO & TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

Through his writing and the fan club, Davis became good friends of Asimov, Sturgeon, Judith Merril (who lends her name to the Merril Collection at the Lillian H. Smith Library) and Phil Klass, who wrote under the name William Tenn.

Davis's first accepted story, "The Nightmare," got the cover for the May 1946 issue. The cover featured the Statue of Liberty being obliterated by an atomic bomb.

"My story was not the first in science fiction to warn about the danger of nuclear war. [...] 'Nightmare' was the first to deal with the question of nuclear terrorism. That's of course still a live subject today," Davis explains.

In the story, scientist Robert Ciccone has to prevent the construction of an atomic bomb intended to terrorize New York. Ciccone uncovers the bomb's location when he discovers that the plutonium used to create it is being hidden in shipments of radium watches.

"The Nightmare" is a good example of hard SF since the protagonist overcomes his challenges not by having the biggest muscles or the most powerful weapons but through his ability to reason out complex problems. Many hard SF stories reflect the famous maxim of Asimov's *Foundation* series: "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent."

One of Davis's most popular stories during his *Astounding* period was "Letter to Ellen," a short story about the philosophical and moral implications of genetic engineering.

"I'm very interested in bioethics," says Davis. "I don't think that story does more than formulate a question. And it's a question about the relation between genetic inheritance and life. Obviously you can have a science fiction story that doesn't show the whole picture, it just raises a question."

Davis loves hard science fiction's "grounding in human experience [...] All I can say is that I am sorry I haven't contributed more to this field," he adds, "which is an important intellectual movement and an important intellectual technique of analysis. I hope young people will." However, Davis says he might write science fiction again in the near future.

In 1960, Campbell changed the name of *Astounding* to *Analog*, to better reflect the magazine's editorial philosophy. *Analog* still publishes today and, after 81 years, is the longest continuously publishing science fiction magazine ever.

Canada has its own internationally renowned hard SF author, Robert J. Sawyer, who has written such famous books as *FlashForward*, *Rollback*, and his current *WWW* series, which is about the Internet obtaining consciousness.

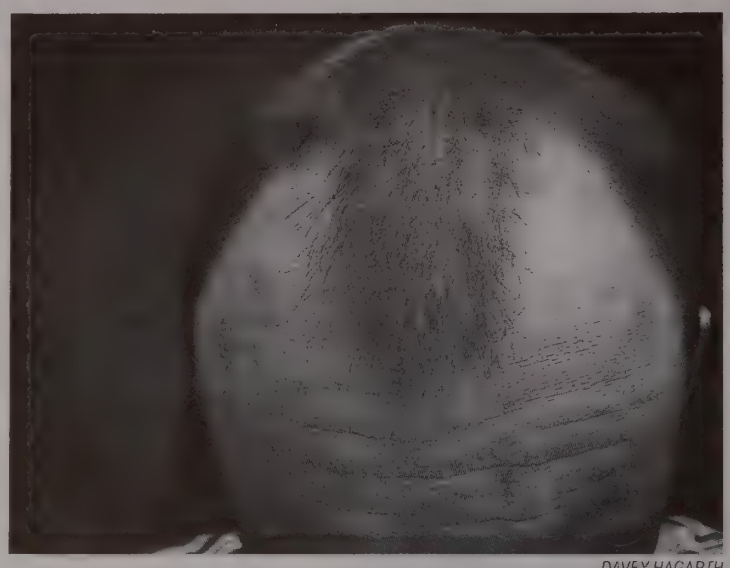
So if you're tired of all the phasers and lightsabers, why not give hard SF a try? It's some of the best fiction in this universe — or any other universe for that matter.

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

Hair today, gone tomorrow. But back next week!

MEDICINE

Mina Park
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



DAVEY HAGARTH

Serendipity is a primary ingredient in scientific discovery. Researchers at UCLA, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and the Oregon Health and Sciences University recently experienced a eureka moment of their own. While investigating the effects of a stress hormone blocker in mice, the researchers unexpectedly found that the chemical caused hair re-growth. If the chemical has a similar effect in humans, it could mean a cure for baldness.

In the study, published in this month's issue of the online journal *PLoS ONE*, researchers developed a peptide molecule called astressin-B. This peptide blocks receptors for the stress hormone corticotrophin-releasing factor, or CRF. Mice that are genetically engineered to express higher-than-normal levels of CRF exhibit symptoms of chronic stress, such as changes to behaviour and the immune system, as well as baldness on their backs.

The researchers injected astressin-B into these mutant mice, in hopes of evaluating the gastrointestinal effects of blocking CRF. However, when they revisited the animals three months later, they found that the previously bald mice were nearly indistinguishable from the hairy control group.

The receptor blocker was also administered to young mutant mice that had not yet lost their hair. Four months after injection, the mice lost much less hair than the untreated mice did.

It is unclear whether astressin-B would have the same effect in humans, or whether it would be effective in baldness that is not related to stress. It is also unclear how a declining prevalence of comb-overs would impact society.

If the chemical does work in humans, it could have a huge market, appealing to those who have lost their hair, as well as anyone afraid of losing it. An estimated 33 million men have pattern baldness in the United States alone. Add to that number all the women with thinning hair and patients on chemotherapy, and there is a huge potential market. One hair loss prevention drug, called Propecia — which itself was serendipitously discovered as an alternate use for prostate drug Proscar — is reported to sell over a million prescriptions annually.

It's not coincidental that a large number of accidental discoveries find solutions for problems that aren't at the top of most research agendas. Investigative funding used to research treatments for those "less serious" conditions is not always readily available, but investors are happy to make a sure bet when one pops up. After all, unexpected experimental results have given the world LSD, which was discovered while searching for medical uses of the ergot fungus. What's more, Silly Putty was a byproduct of attempts to create synthetic rubber during World War II, while Viagra was originally tested as a cure for hypertension.

Once the apple of knowledge lands on your head, it's hard to resist abandoning the original goal — at least temporarily — in favour of something that works.

This latest eureka moment also raises the question of whether there are less obvious side effects of other drugs that we have missed, because no one thought to study them. Can Prozac make you a better dancer? Does OxyContin give you whiter teeth? Perhaps the next cures for the plagues of humanity will be revealed when scientists take the occasional sideways glance at the results they were not looking for.

A rodent's guide to who's who

BIOLOGY

Tina Knezevic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

I can't say I've ever thought twice about picking my friends, family, and even my acquaintances out in a crowd. But what about other species? How do animals living in large social groups tell each other apart?

Kimberly Pollard and Daniel Blumstein, from UCLA's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, asked themselves the same question. While previous research has confirmed that highly social species exhibit unique contact calls, Blumstein and Pollard were interested in pushing the question further. They asked whether the size of a social group is the evolutionary driver of individuality.

Their six year study was conducted on eight species of sciurid rodents (members of the squirrel family), belonging to social groups of various sizes. They analyzed members of each group for the individuality of their contact calls. The results will be featured on the front cover of the March 8 issue of *Current Biology*.

Picking an individual out of a large group can be difficult, yet it is vital to group dynamics. Animals must be able to recognize a mate, parent, offspring, individual of higher social rank, or rival, so they know where to divert their energy. That's a lot of individuals to know. And while it may seem ironic that bigger social groups yield a larger variety of contact calls among members, that's exactly what Pollard and Blumstein found.

Animals in large impersonal groups such as a school of fish or swarm of insects — which have relatively unstable group membership — do not necessarily benefit from individuality. However, a tight-knit group of sciurids, often made up of closely related kin, may offer preferential treatment to family members that can only be distinguished by a distinct contact call.

For example, offspring must be discernible in order to receive food from a parent. A mate might be chosen as a result of its unique contact call. It's no wonder large groups have high degrees of individuality — animals need to know who to trust and who to avoid. For instance, group members can recognize alarm calls that trigger an anti-predator response. Members that provide consistent warnings about predators are not only more trusted, but can also move up the sciurid social ladder based on this reliability factor.

So what are the implications of this study for humans? We don't have problems distinguishing our family and friends from strangers. That being said, our social networks grow in tandem with our fast-paced lifestyles, and the boundaries of our once tight-knit groups are dissipating. Could this create an unnatural evolutionary pressure on the human species to develop higher degrees of individuality?

It's hard to say. Members of the rodent family can't wear clothes or cut their hair like we can. However, according to the researchers, the results could reveal why seven billion unique people can exist all over the world. At one point or another, it was far more beneficial to maintain individuality than to simply blend in with the crowd.

Monogamy gone wild

MATING

Bianca Lemus Lavarreda
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Pair bonding between humans is necessary for sustaining human life here on Earth. We encounter monogamy every day — from old married couples bickering over each other's bad habits, to tweens smooching against the wall on subway platforms.

Indeed, monogamy can make for some very awkward moments. But what about monogamous behaviour in other mammals? As biologist Devra Kleiman reports, monogamy is relatively rare in mammals, occurring in less than 5 per cent of mammalian species.

On the flip side, studies by David Lack have shown that over 90 per cent of all bird species are monogamous. Perhaps this is not shocking to those who have heard the term "lovebirds." In fact, the lovebird is a type of parrot known for its rigorous displays of monogamous affection.

It would be useful now to stop and define monogamy in its very basic form, in order to differentiate monogamy in humans from that seen in other mammalian species. In zoological research, monogamy is defined as "the habit of having only one mate." In this case, monogamy does not imply sexual fidelity, frequency of sexual interaction between mates, or the degree of parental investment.

Many experimental studies have shown that monogamy generally has both a neurochemical and behavioural basis. The prairie vole, or *Microtus ochrogaster* (Greek for "little ear"), is a socially monogamous creature and serves as a good model for social bonding formation. If a prairie vole loses its partner, there is a 70 per cent chance that the surviving companion will not replace it with a new partner.

A monogamous prairie vole relationship — and even social bonding in prairie vole colonies for that matter — resembles that of humans. They nest together, raise their young together, groom each other, and basically have each other's back.

The catch, however, is that prairie voles also engage in sexual infidelity. A study by Wolff and colleagues found that female prairie voles will engage in sexual infidelity with multiple males if her partner does not ward off potential competitors — a behaviour called mate-guarding.



VALERIE EVERETT

But male prairie voles are not off the hook. A study by Reuven Dukas and John Ratcliffe suggests that male voles use the tactic of sticking around as a resident, instead of remaining a wanderer, in order to induce puberty and ovulation in females. This enhances their mating opportunities. What's more, male prairie voles that stay as residents tend to have a larger ano-genital distance, indicating higher sperm count and larger testis.

So what happens in the brain to facilitate monogamy? Studies have clearly shown that neuropeptides such as oxytocin and vasopressin are critical for pair bond formation in both sexes. An interesting example of neuropeptide influence is found in meadow voles. The socially promiscuous meadow vole, closely related to the prairie vole, is not naturally monogamous. However, it will engage in monogamous pair bonding when a vasopressin receptor gene is transferred into its ventral forebrain.

Many are probably wondering how to get this reaction in their own mates. Perhaps love potions will work someday. Or, maybe Facebook stalking will pay off in the future. But for now, let's bask in the reflected glory of our fellow monogamous critters.

The healthiest take-out

In the first part of a multi-part series, **MARY SCOURBOUTAKOS** *looks at the healthiest options in what we eat.*



Some of the deadliest foods can be found in take-out restaurants. It's not uncommon to consume a good portion of your day's worth of calories, salt, and fat in a single item or combo. But not all take-out food is necessarily that bad. As a matter of fact, some items are even decent meal choices. Here we'll highlight some of the healthiest and some of the not-so-healthy take-out choices, so that next time you order take-out, you can feel a little less guilty.

BURGERS:

Healthiest Burger
Harvey's Veggie Burger (138g, 290 calories, 10g of fat, 0g of trans fat, 580mg of sodium)

Runner up
Licks' Gobbler (Turkey Burger) (217g, 451 calories, 8.7g of fat, 0g of trans fat, 1021mg of sodium)

Healthiest Beef Burger – Burger King's Hamburger (126g, 300 calories, 11g of fat, 0.4g of trans fat, 530mg of sodium)

Runner Up:
Dairy Queen's Original Hamburger (145g, 350 calories, 15g of fat, 0.5g of trans fat, 650mg of sodium)

Though Licks' Gobbler appears to be much higher in calories and fat compared to the others, it is also significantly larger. On a per-gram basis, the Gobbler actually has less sodium and fewer calories compared to all other burgers, with the exception of Harvey's Veggie Burger. Though Burger King's Hamburger contains 10 fewer calories and over 200mg less sodium compared to Burger King's Veggie Burger, it is important to note that it is about 40 per cent smaller. Don't let the confounding effect of serving size trick you — a low-calorie meal is not always the best choice, because studies show that making a low-calorie choice at lunch usually leads to overcompensating at later meals.



PIZZA:

When it comes to pizza, there's no clear winner. The best choices depend on the type of pizza, not necessarily the establishment you ordered it from. When choosing what type of pizza to eat, keep in mind the obvious: veggie pizzas are obviously healthier than those loaded with salt and fat-filled meats. Thin-crust pizzas tend to have fewer calories than their "hand-tossed" counterparts, and any extra cheese contributes significantly to the total calories, fat and sodium.

Often, the most important factor when eating pizza is not necessarily which type you're eating, but rather the number of slices you consume. An average slice of pizza contains anywhere from 120 calories (found in a slice from Pizza Nova with broccoli, red peppers, and artichokes) to 360 calories (found in Little Caesar's "Three Meat Treat" pizza).



WRAPS:

Healthiest Wrap: Extreme Pita's Market Fresh Veggie Pita ([Regular Size] 283g, 276 calories, 1.4g of fat, 0g of trans fat, 529 mg of sodium)

Runner Up: Extreme Pita's Grilled Chicken Pita (363g, 362 calories, 2.8g of fat, 0g of trans fat, 1039g of sodium) and Falafel Pita (363g, 409 calories, 9.4g of fat, 0g of trans fat and 966g of sodium)

As would be expected, the veggie wrap is the healthiest overall. Nevertheless, even many of Extreme Pita's non-veggie wraps are among the healthiest take-out options available. However, as is evident by the runners up, though many of the choices are suitable from a caloric perspective, they can be quite high in sodium.



SUBS:

Healthiest Sub: Subway's six inch Veggie Delight Sub (169g, 230 calories, 2.5g of fat, 0 trans fat, 410mg of sodium)

Healthiest Non-Veggie Sub: Mr. Sub's Grilled Chicken Sub (181g, 260 calories, 5g of fat, 0g trans fat, 560mg of sodium)

Subs containing lean meats are among the healthiest choices. However, there are still differences among these healthier choices.
For instance, if you like Turkey, choose Subway's six-inch Turkey Breast Sub instead of Mr. Sub's Smoked Turkey Breast Sub. Though the numbers suggest otherwise, the difference in portion size hides the truly healthier choice.

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

Who's your granddaddy? Triceratops may finally have the answer

Last month, scientists reported finding one of Triceratops' "granddaddies." Nicholas Longrich, a paleontologist at Yale, has discovered what he believes to be the common ancestor of *Triceratops* and *Torosaurus* after analyzing a skeleton of what was once believed to be a member of *Pentaceratops*, a species common to the area.

The newly discovered species is called *Titanoceratops* (from the Greek myth of the Titans). Weighing 15,000 pounds with an eight-foot-long skull, it's no wonder that *Triceratops* has trickled down through time to be one of the most beloved of the horned dinosaurs. The 74-million-year-old species looks very similar to *Triceratops*, except it has a "thinner [neck] frill, longer nose, and slightly bigger horns." Longrich and other paleontologists are currently on the hunt for more fossilized skeletons with intact frills, that will narrow the differences between *Titanoceratops* and *Pentaceratops*. — ***Bianca Lemus Lavarreda***
Source: Yale University

Renal renaissance

Scientists are closer to understanding how vertebrates other than mammals are able to regenerate their kidney cells, which could eventually lead to treatments against kidney disease in humans.

Researchers at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and the University of Pittsburgh identified a progenitor cell in adult zebrafish that can generate new cells when transplanted into the kidney of another fish. Progenitor cells are similar to stem cells in that they can differentiate into specific types of cells. However, progenitor cells are more advanced in their development, and therefore are already more specific. What's more, they can only divide a limited number of times.

Zebrafish and other non-mammalian vertebrates create new nephrons throughout their life, which helps recovery from renal injury. Humans lose this ability before birth, after 36 weeks of gestation.

Kidney disease is increasingly prevalent in North America. Estimates are that up to 10 percent of the US population has some form of the disease. Patients with advanced renal disease require hemodialysis, with a five-year survival rate of 33 per cent.
The study, published in the February 3 issue of *Nature*, proposes further study of the progenitor cell to see if its effects can eventually be recreated in humans. — ***Amy Ward***
Source: Brigham and Women's Hospital

Scientists seek out genes for complex social structures

Eusocial insects — such as ants, bees, termites, and aphids — are characterized by the way they divide labour among individuals and cooperate in caring for their young.

Scientists have recently sequenced the genomes of the Argentine ant and the red harvester ant, publishing their results in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. These genomes provide insight into the genetic basis of ant communication and the division of labour within the ant colony.

In both genomes, researchers found more genes associated with the production and detection of chemical signals, such as smell and taste, compared to other insects. What's more, in both genomes, epigenetic modifications — heritable features not originally encoded in the DNA sequence — were significant, and may influence the role an ant takes on within the colony. More genomic data from other species is needed for researchers to begin identifying common genetic features of eusocial insects, and to model how these features evolve. — ***Anastassia Pogoutse***
Source: National Science Foundation



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Calling Hugo Lopez

The Blues' defensive back attends CFL evaluation camp

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

It's easy to assume that Hugo Lopez Jr. has a difficult time staying grounded in one place.

Indeed, even now, as he is completing his only school year at U of T, the Varsity Blues defensive back is already looking ahead to moving into a new situation. That doesn't mean he isn't committed — quite the contrary.

The only thing that has been consistent for him is his passion for football. And it is that desire that has led him to where he was this weekend: the CFL's annual evaluation camp.

Born in Leon, Nicaragua, Lopez was on the move from a young age due to political instability in the country. He lived in both Costa Rica and Naples, Florida, the latter being where he discovered the game of football during his high school years.

Once in Canada, his family settled in North York, and Lopez attended the University of Waterloo because of its high academic standing among Canadian universities.

Lopez played football for the Waterloo Warriors for three years before he was forced to leave when the program was suspended (due to last summer's steroid scandal involving several players on the team). Players not involved in the scandal were given the opportunity to finish their studies at another university, still play football, and still graduate with a degree from Waterloo.

Lopez chose U of T because it was close to his family, who had since moved to Newmarket, to help his father take care of his 10-year-old sister after his mother left.

Despite all of the obstacles thrown in his way, Lopez has never wavered in his resolve.

"I'm a person who has faced a lot of adversity, but I'm filled with determination," said Lopez. "When I set a goal, I achieve it. Period."

Lopez is one of 45 CIS football players invited to the evaluation camp running from March 4–6. He is the only player from U of T.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

The Varsity: *Football has been your life for quite a while. Has there ever been anything that got in the way of you playing football?*

Hugo Lopez: I'd say an earlier obstacle was the lack of support from my parents. My parents did not want me playing the sport at all and did not support me whatsoever. I had to come up with my own funding and transportation. It was sad to see all my friends have their families in the stands. I felt alone at times, but it's what motivated me. I did it for myself, no one else. It's my passion, and nothing was going to get in my way.

TV: *Did you ever envision yourself invited to camp?*

HL: Definitely, since year one. My goal was to be starting in first or second year, and if I wasn't starting, I was going to quit football. Football interferes a lot with school, so you've got to make a big commitment to it, and if I'm going to commit to something I'm going to go full out. I expected from day one that I would go to evaluation camp and to the CFL.

TV: *What does the invitation tell you about yourself that you didn't already know?*

HL: I'm pretty harsh on myself, and [each] season I'm [still] not satisfied with my performance and see so many areas of improvement. But looking at my film and other player's film I feel like I give everyone a run for their money, and I'm looking to do that at E-camp as well. I'm looking to be one of the top performers.

TV: *How do you think you size up against the other DB's at camp?*

HL: Pretty good, I think. I'm the tallest one there and there's only one guy who's heavier than me. I'm going to be one of the bigger frames there, and that's what they look for in the CFL, a big guy who can move. I'm hoping to catch some eyes and get drafted.

TV: *Do you think you would have had this chance if the Waterloo program had not been interrupted?*

HL: Yes, and no. Once I got here, the media attention from the Waterloo scandal followed me and my transition to U of T, and Toronto is known for their media, so people know what's going on. One reporter followed me during training camp and he noticed I was a decent athlete. I was never given the chances at Waterloo that I have been given here at U of T. Coach saw I was an athlete and he put me on the field to let me do what I do best, and I played with a little more confidence.

TV: *What do you owe the invitation to?*

HL: Hard work. I never, ever, take a day off that I wasn't supposed to. The mentality that was engraved into me when I was growing up in the States was "One day you take off is another day someone else gets better." Football is my life. I've faced a lot of adversity, and football is my moment of peace, even as aggressive and abrupt as the sport is. I definitely owe it to hard work, as well as the coaches. The facilities at U of T and the coaching staff, along with the players, are outstanding. They made me feel at home right away and I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to be a part of their team.

TV: *What has your training regimen coming into the camp involved?*

HL: Waking up at 6:30 a.m. and coming to the field to work on some catching drills. Then I eat breakfast and go to the gym to do some weight lifting, eat lunch, and then do some sprinting drills. I hit the field as much as I can right after, and then I jump in the hot tub and cold tub. You know when your body is breaking down, but that's what every day consisted of. Some days you just want to give up, but you've got to want it bad. You've got to be hungry.

TV: *What are you expecting from camp, and what are you hoping for?*

HL: I'm expecting good numbers. I do track and field, where you're in a competition for numbers and you're not competing against someone else, it's for a time. I'm used to that pressure and I'm expecting good numbers to let my athleticism show. I'm hoping that I'll catch a coach's eye and drop some jaws. I want coaches to ask "Where has he been?"

A twist to this year's OUA men's basketball finals

With Carleton dominating every year, it's time to mix it up.

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

The Carleton Ravens men's basketball team has dominated the OUA since the turn of the millennium. Since the 2000–2001 school year, the Ravens have not only won the OUA East division in every season, they have gone on to win both the OUA Championship and the CIS Championship six times each.

It's safe to say that the Ravens in the OUA East are something like what the New York Yankees were in the AL East: perennial winners who always had a ticket booked to the playoffs. Anyone else in the division had to pray that they had a shot at the wild card berth.

This season the OUA is trying something new and has introduced the OUA Wilson Cup Final Four basketball championship, a four team miniature tournament that includes the two finalists from each of the OUA East and West divisions.

The difference from previous OUA playoffs is this: teams will crossover to play an opponent from outside of their division and all the games will be played at one venue over a single weekend. This year's tournament will be held March 4–5 at McMaster University's Burridge Gymnasium.

The format is quite simple. The higher seed from the East will play the lower seed from the West, while the higher West seed will take on the lower East seed. The winners will play each other in the tournament final, which could involve representatives from each division, or possibly two teams from one of the divisions.

This effectively means that teams other than Carleton in the OUA East no longer have to go through the Ravens to have a berth at the CIS Championship.

"I think it's better because it gives you a better representation for Ontario," said Varsity Blues Assistant Coach Mike DeGiorgio. " In years past, Ottawa has been in the top five [of the CIS rankings] and would lose to Carleton, who was ranked first, and not make it to nationals, while an OUA West team would that wasn't even in the top ten."

The new format would definitely reduce this problem, and would allow the OUA to send their two best teams, as opposed to the best team from each division, to nationals.

"There is not necessarily going to be one East and one West representative at Nationals," said Blues Head Coach Mike Katz. "It could go that way, or there could be two East or two West teams making it to Nationals."

OUA executive director Ward Dilse is excited about the new format, which has been locked in for at least the next three years.

"One advantage is that there will be a pre-determined neutral site, and no the final will no longer be a division home," said Dilse. "And all three games will be televised on The Score."

The Score Television Network will be broadcasting both semi-final games along with the OUA Championship game live for this year's tournament. If the broadcast is successful, Dilse is hoping they will sign on for the remaining two years, if not longer.

"The biggest thing is that we have TV exposure, taking it province-wide, and it builds the growth of the game and the interest," added Katz. "I like it."

The Score's very own D.J. Bennett, who has been the sideline reporter for The Score's University Rush coverage of OUA football, is enthusiastic about their involvement in this year's tournament.

"A couple of years ago we had the CIS Final 8 and we loved covering it, we got great responses from our audience, and it fits our demographic," said Bennett.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Blues' Justin Holmes dribbles around the Gee-Gees' Dimitrios Seymour at the AC on February 26. VARSITY BLUES.CA



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A good sport

Keeping the drive alive

A late-season push has Leafs' fans chattering. But what makes up their playoff drive, and can they ultimately pull it off?



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The "Can the Leafs squeak into the playoffs" debate has reared its head yet again this year. Although you would be hard-pressed to claim Toronto's NHL team has a "good" or "probable" chance of making the playoffs, the odds are a lot better than anyone could have possibly suspected even mere weeks ago.

After a 5–4 win over Montreal on Thursday night, the Leafs have creeped within four points of eighth-place Carolina.

This Leafs playoff push is a little bit different than in previous years. In the recent past, the season's outcome has hinged on whether or not they could slip in, and doing so was the standard for success.

This year, Toronto's season was written off long ago and the playoffs were, until about a week ago, considered an impossibility. If the Leafs do manage to sneak in, it would be despite their goals for the homestretch and not because of them.

To that effect, this year's Leafs can expect absolutely no help by Monday's trade deadline. Any pieces that General Manager Brian Burke adds will be for improving the team over the next two to three years. The moves he might make will only worsen the team in two to three weeks if they serve the long-term.

It's unquestionable that the Leafs have been charging lately. Thursday's win gave them a 6–2–2 record in their last ten games, and continuing at that pace, or something near it,should get them into the playoffs, all things being equal.

But can they continue that pace, with a team full of a rookies and players who were in the minors just months ago?

Head Coach Ron Wilson claims they would need to win two out of three for the remaining six or so weeks of the season.

One thing working in their favour is red-hot goalie James Reimer, who is definitely this season's biggest surprise. He keeps them in nearly every game he starts, and he has the capacity — unlike nearly every goalie the Leafs have trotted out during their playoff drought — to single-handedly steal a game.

A team with as little margin for error as the Leafs have right now will probably need to steal a few wins that they don't necessarily deserve. Reimer should help with that.

Can they do it at the end of the day? Leafs' fans would be smart to take a conservative approach, because the odds are still fundamentally against them.

Don't expect a playoff appearance. But hey, keep the standings in the back of your mind, and should we stumble into some really meaningful late-season games, enjoy 'em.

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

"There is no better way to show the games on this side of the border, especially with the new format. It can only help basketball in this country."

The Final Four is going to be treated not just as a basketball tournament, but as an event. Members of the Ontario Basketball Association are invited to attend, as well as local high school students and avid fans of OUA basketball.

"We'll be hosting a Mega Hoops youth clinic open to all OBA members," said Dilse. "There will be a two-ball tournament with local high school players and our OUA all-stars."

Before the tournament begins, there will be an awards breakfast announcing all of the OUA award winners and all-stars.

The event will not only be showcasing the OUA's top talent on the basketball court, but will also be promoting its brand to local communities and youth, encouraging them to take part in the weekend's activities and see what OUA basketball and culture is all about.

"It's kind of like a snowball effect," said Bennett. "Having these games on TV and features of athletes are not just conversation starters, but it also gives the up-and-coming youth a chance to get exposed to basketball here. Once you get games on national TV in their own country, it's a big draw to get these up-and-coming kids to decide to stay here and play at a Canadian university."

Bennett feels that as the television coverage of CIS sports gets better, more people will take interest, resulting in more Canadian high-schoolers weighing the benefits of staying in Canada instead of going south of the border to play. As a result, the competition level at Canadian universities will increase, and as the product gets better, there will be even more interest and fewer athletes taking their talents outside of the country.

Dilse feels that coaches throughout the OUA are embracing this new format, as he's received quite a bit of positive feedback from many coaches.

With sponsors such as Wilson, Pizza Pizza, Pioneer, and The Dairy Farmers of Canada, there is an expectation that the game will gain plenty of exposure and get basketball back on the national stage for television. The tournament will also create revenue for the hosts, and with the site alternating every year it gives many universities the opportunity to generate some income for their sports programs.

Tickets can be purchased in person, via telephone, or online at oua.ca/wilsoncup.

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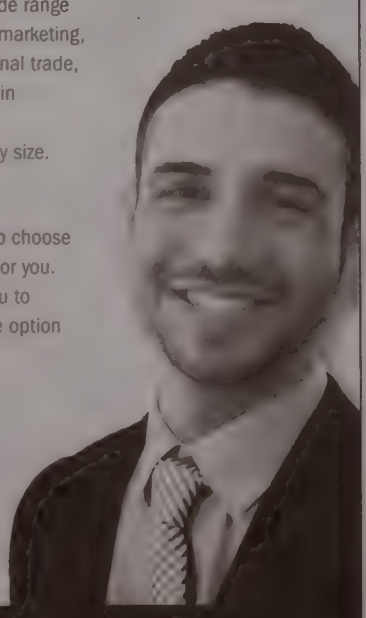
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The story behind the stadium

What you may or may not know about Varsity Centre

Roxanna Dehghan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



REMI CARREIRO/THE VARSITY

Home to the University of Toronto's Varsity Blues football team for over 100 years, the original Varsity Stadium hosted many of the early Grey Cup and Vanier Cup games. It was the site of countless local, regional, national, and international track and field, soccer, and lacrosse.

The original stadium was demolished over the summer of 2002 after the cost of maintaining the large facility was far more than it generated in revenue. At that time, temporary repairs were holding up several structural sections of the stadium, and its future integrity was in question.

The field and track were retained after the demolition and from 2003–2005, temporary seating of about 1,500 was installed to permit the use of the field for intercollegiate games. The name Varsity Field was used from 2002–2006 during the period when the old stadium was demolished and the new stadium was being built.

The stadium that presently stands is part of a three-phase plan. The first phase, which is now complete, included the construction of a new $21.7 million Varsity Stadium, featuring a state-of-the-art artificial turf playing field, an internationally-certified track, and an air-supported dome, enabling year-round use of the facility. The second phase, now completed as well, was the $9.5 million Varsity Pavilion — the marquee entrance. The final phase, for which the university is currently pursuing capital support, will create the $58 million Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport a multi-storey complex for research and teaching labs set to include: a strength and conditioning centre, a state-of-the-art sport medicine clinic, and the 2,000-seat Kimel Family Field House for basketball and volleyball.

The total projected cost for the Varsity Centre is $98 million, and U of T has committed to launching a capital campaign to raise the remaining funds to complete the project.

To make a donation, go to: donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/15

INTERESTING FACTS!

- **There** are **5,000 seats** at the Varsity Centre
- **There** is **wireless Internet access** in the stands
- **Varsity** Centre **is one of only four** FIFA 2-star fields in North America
- **Diamond + Schmitt Architects Inc.** in association with **Ellerbe Becket** of the United States, designed the first phase of Varsity Centre and the Pavilion
- **Students** are **automatically members** of the Athletic Centre and Varsity Centre, which gives them access to a range of activities and opportunities
- **All students have free access to the golf driving range** in the dome during the winter season
- **Varsity Blues athletes** have been part of the **takedown** and **rising** of **the dome** that covers the field from December until April, using the money they make towards their team's budget

ADVERTISING



EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CONCERTS:

Short Concert and Lecture by John Adams

The U of T Faculty of Music is pleased to present a short concert and the "Herman-Geiger Torel Lecture" by John Adams, one America's most admired and respected composers whose works are known for their depth of expression, brilliance of sound, and the profoundly humanist nature of their themes.

- *March 3 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Walter Hall (80 Queen's Park)*
- *Free!*

FILMS:

XXY

The Trans Inclusion Group hosts a free showing of this film, an intimate Argentine drama about an intersex teenager and their story of choice, sexuality, family, self-awareness, dignity, and strength. There will be free snacks and a discussion afterwards.

- *February 28 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
- *The Centre for Women and Trans People (563 Spadina Ave.)*
- *Free!*

TOURS:

Astronomical Connections: Weaving the Stories of Discovery and the Universe

U of T Graduate Student Mubdi Rahman will present this lecture, which will be followed by an observing session through the telescopes at the U of T Astronomy Department. There will also be small shows in the planetarium available, but you must sign up online beforehand. Refreshments will be served.

- *March 3 at 8:10 p.m. to 10 p.m.*
- *McLennan Physical Labs, room 203 (60 St. George St.)*
- *Free! (sign up for shows at astro.utoronto.ca/StGeorge_tours.html)*

WORKSHOPS:

Make World Change: Discover How You Can Impact Global Challenges Through Mentorship

Make World Change sessions provide opportunity for undergraduate students to discuss and debate urgent global challenges: the environment, human rights, housing, health, peace, and conflict. Students will be mentored on opportunities to determine how they each can contribute to making changes in the world.

- *March 2 to April 13 at 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.*
- *Hart House (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

EXHIBITS:

Water: The Exhibition

This multi-media environmentally focused exhibit features multimedia installations, hands-on exhibits, live animals and cultural artefacts showcasing the indispensability of water, and our urgent need to project it. Learn about the origin of water, how it's used, and how to conserve it. Admission includes General Admission fees, which you can evade if you go on Tuesday with your T-Card!

- *Starts March 5*
- *Royal Ontario Museum (100 Queen's Park)*
- *$28*

FILMS:

The Arbor

Director Clio Barnard introduces the Canadian premiere of her film, which won a prize at the recent Tribeca Film Festival as part of Doc Soup. The movie has been defined as "defying categorization", and focuses on late British playwright Andrea Dunbar.

- *March 2 at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Bloor Cinema (506 Bloor St. West)*
- *$12*

SHOWS:

Brothel #9

Rekha, a young village woman, is sold to a Calcutta brothel where she bravely battles to shape her destiny and find true liberty. A provocative and moving examination of humanity, this play is a testament to the power of the human spirit in all its strength and compassion.

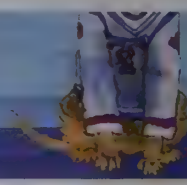
- *March 3 to March 27 at 8 p.m.*
- *Factory Theatre (125 Bathurst St.)*
- *$15*

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THE VARSITY

Vol. CXXXI, No. 23 University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880 7 March, 2011

DISQUALIFIED SLATE DOMINATES UTSU DEBATE

Unite For Action candidates responds to grievances from former StudentsFirst opponents

by ELIZABETH KAGEDAN



Chief Returning Officer Daniel Lo takes notes as the debate proceeds on Wednesday night.

DAVID PIKE / THE VARSITY

Wednesday's UTSU All-Candidates' Debate did not follow the typical debate format, as the candidates seemed to be debating more with the audience than with one another. The only officially contested position was Vice-President Internal and Services, for which both Corey Scott and Nathaniel Tang are running. In the remaining positions, the Unite For Action slate's candidates are running unopposed following StudentsFirst's (the other slate) decision to "boycott" the elections.

Though seated in the middle of the audience instead of at the front of the room, StudentsFirst's presence was felt from the start. In his opening, the debate's moderator Dave Meslin said, "let me just say that I'm disappointed to hear that there's only one slate," at which point an audience member chimed in "so are we."

Though Meslin said plainly that "I don't want to get into a debate this evening — it's not the appropriate time or place and nor am I the appropriate moderator to talk about the events that have happened over the past few weeks and whether they were appropriate or not." He suggested carving out some time in the debate to discuss "possible reforms in the elections procedure" for the future, saying "let's talk about it in the context of 'the system's broken but we can't fix it for this year.'"

> **What about the ordinary student? … Why aren't we working for them? … Why are we so focused on these special interests and not the students themselves?**
>
> *— Brett Chang*

DEBATE BETWEEN CANDIDATES

The first candidates to debate were the only two running against each other. Corey Scott, UFA's candidate, is this year's Vice-President Campus Life and a former member of LGBTOUT, where he served as the Coordinator for External Relations, Coordinator for Internal Relations, and the Homo-Hop Coordinator over the years. Scott cited his experience with clubs and services in both these capacities, claiming that as VP Internal he hopes to "bring a little bit more life to our services, make sure that we're doing commuter brunches regularly, that the university is allowing us to do commuter brunches regularly because after a while they wouldn't let us, because apparently we can't cook food even though many other groups do, and I want to make sure that we're extending those to the professional faculties so that everyone can benefit from the services of the union not just Arts and Science students. We want to make sure that we're bringing commuter students back into the union and that we're getting them involved in the university community." He also hopes to expand clubs funding, "get the cheques out earlier," expand clubs training, and better promote UTSU's services via social media.

> **To me there are 44,000 … extraordinary students at this university, who deserve a strong team that's going to lobby for their rights.**
>
> *— Danielle Sandhu*

Nathaniel Tang, the independent in the race, conceded that his experience was not as "well-grounded" as Scott's. Tang cited acting as a "casual staff-member selling metropasses" as his experience with the union before outlining five priorities: fiscal transparency, democratic renewal, information accessibility, electoral fairness and reform, and health and dental opt-out reform, claiming he could save students "almost $300."

The first question came from Brent Schmidt, StudentsFirst's would-be VP Internal candidate who began by saying "as a former candidate for this position I have a vested interest in it." Schmidt asked "specifically Corey [Scott]" about accountability and transparency, claiming "if that's going to be on your poster I'd like to hear about what we're actually going to change to make sure students like myself don't feel excluded."

Scott responded with plans to "use the Board of Directors more effectively […] to make sure they are working for you," as well as expanding union office hours.

Tang said, "yeah, the Board of Directors should be more accessible and they should be more out there," also saying he would put more documents online and "respond to emails promptly, either within a few seconds or within 48 hours."

Things became tenser later in the question period, when Schmidt asked, once again "more to Corey […] why is it now that you're running for a position that it's all of a sudden important to listen to conversations about how to better our students' union? Wasn't it important throughout the year, at commission meetings, why is it only important in election season?" which drew applause from some members of the audience.

Scott responded, "well, to be fair, there are a lot of conversations I have that you're not always a part of, and quite frankly, we do listen to a lot of clubs," also drawing applause.

The discussion took a turn once again when an audience member asked that people "avoid generalizations about students in their questions," and fellow audience-member Tobias McVey shouted "you're not the moderator, so could you please shut up?" drawing loud cheers.

Next to speak was Clara Ho, the UFA candidate for Vice-President, University Affairs. She said that in this position, she will "work to eliminate flat fees […] mobilize students from across faculties and departments to help to prevent program cuts," and lobby to stop the sale of bottled water on campus.

Ho responded to questions of how she planned to deal with the administration with plans to "do a lot of research" and "be constructive."

'ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK'

Lena Elamin, the UFA candidate for Vice-President Equity, spoke next. "I love badminton, I love spoken word, poetry […] I enjoy long walks on the beach, I enjoy sipping tea on a horizon over the sunset," she began. Elamin described an experience in high school where she was called to the vice-principal's office, accused of a "bomb threat in the boys washroom […] because apparently, 'my people on TV' go into the boys' washroom and write bomb threats there," citing this as an inspiration for her work towards equity.

The first question came from Adir Kraffman, who asked with respect to "IAW," "do you think it is appropriate to endorse a campaign that alienates groups of people and creates a toxic environment?"

Elamin asked him to "expand on that a little bit." Kraffman responded, "right, I'm a Jewish student, and when I see the union that's supposed to represent me supporting it I feel excluded."

Elamin began, "for those of you that don't know, IAW is Islam Awareness Week," which brought laughter from the audience who corrected that IAW also stands for Israeli Apartheid Week. In response to the clarified question, Elamin suggested a forum or discussion, saying that "at the end of the day, we're basically, we're like, we're all the same."

ELECTORAL REFORM

After Elamin's closing statements, Meslin read a quote of Matthew Gray's from The Varsity, saying "UTSU's election processes are institutionally biased towards incumbents."

SEE 'DEBATE' – PG 5

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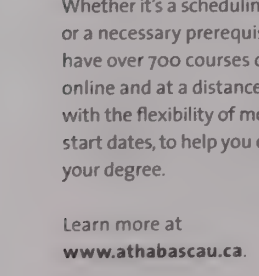
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INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

UTSU staffer challenges incumbents

Nathaniel Tang vows to increase transparency in the union

Jakob Tanner
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

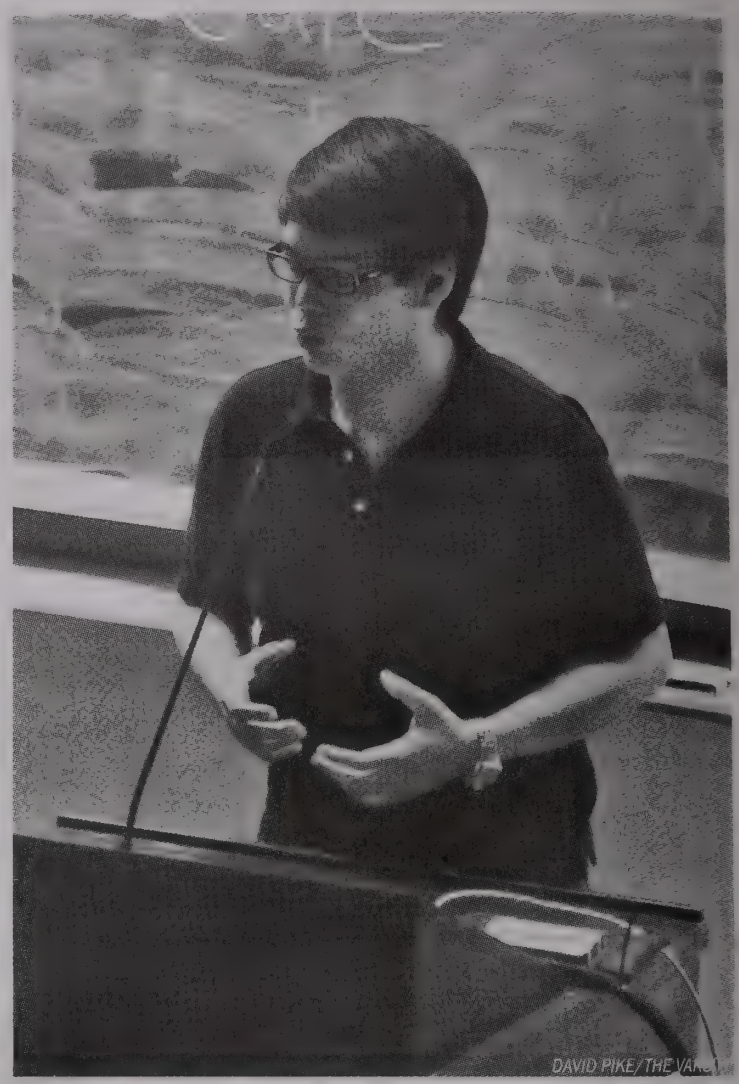
After a year and a half of working as a casual staff member behind the counter at UTSU, Nathaniel Tang is running against Unite for Action candidate Corey Scott for the position of VP Internal and Services. Scott is currently a member of the UTSU executive, serving as VP Campus Life.

After StudentsFirst dropped out of the election this week, he became both the only independent candidate and the lone executive candidate running against Unite for Action. Tang says his campaign platform is based around five priorities for reform.

"My first priority is fiscal/financial transparency. I would like to propose posting up executive and committee expenses on the web, so students can see expenses on a weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly basis," said Tang whose second priority centres around information accessibility. "Currently, there are very few documents online. I want to, at every stage that a budget is proposed, post [...] that budget online; be it a preliminary one, a finalized one, or a revised one, as well as financial statements from the last five years."

"My third priority is electoral fairness and reform," said Tang. "One of the key things I want to do with this priority is force a mandatory registration on campaigners and people campaigning on behalf of the campaigners. That will make things easier for the CRO with managing the election. It also gives candidates reliability on

SEE 'TANG' – PG 4



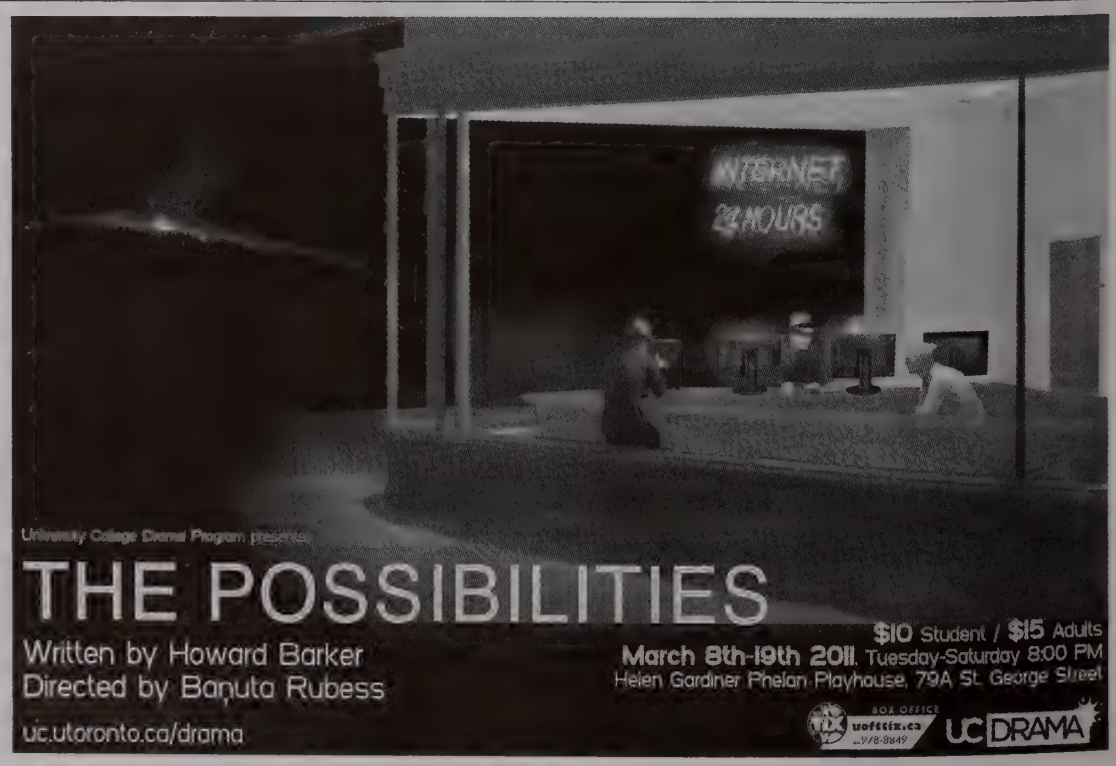
DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Nathaniel Tang worked as a UTSU casual staffer for a year and a half.

SEE SOMETHING FISHY DURING THE UTSU ELECTION?

UTSU2011.CA is the only site for filing anonymous complaints or reporting discrepancies during the UTSU election. It's easy, confidential, and one lucky elections complainant could even win a **free photocopier**!

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UC DRAMA

GC ELECTIONS

GC debate fails to draw crowd

Candidates focus on access to space and student fees

Hilary Barlow
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Though only attended by about a dozen spectators, last Monday's Governing Council debate managed to bring out recent controversies on campus, particularly after the floor was opened to audience questions. The event was held at Sid Smith and sponsored by the U of T French Club and the Muslim Students' Association.

EFUT alumni chair Antonin Mongeau directed the proceedings, calling on candidates to respond to questions from three moderators: second-term governor representing part-time students Joeita Gupta, ASSU president Gavin Nowlan, and Varsity Associate News Editor Dylan C. Robertson. The candidates debating were (ordered by constituency and division) beginning with full-time undergraduate division 1: Jorge Prieto, Aly Madhavji, Nicholas Gan, and Ron Leung; full-time undergraduate division 2: Cary Ferguson; part-time undergraduate: Brian Kerr, Dustin Hiles, and Maria Pilar Galvez; graduate division 1: Morgan Vanek and Oliver Sorin; and graduate division 2: Chirag Variawa and Mu-Qing Huang.

The first question concerned economic difficulties that the university has been experiencing in the recession, and what the candidates' ideas were to begin remedying those financial pressures. Prieto, Madhavji, and Vanek said they planned to lobby the government for more funds, with Madhavji commenting that he is "completely against" flat fees. Prieto said that it is important for there to be a review process so that money from donors does not come with strings attached and Vanek similarly expressed her discomfort with corporate donations. Nonetheless, both candidates admitted that the university relies on donations from alumni and others. Madhavji and Kerr both felt that mismanagement of funds was part of the problem, though Kerr added that, as a certified accountant, he's hesitant to make pronouncements without seeing the books.

Robertson then asked the candidates' opinions on the issue of student groups and access to campus space. Galvez and Madhavji both advocated for free space, arguing that students are paying for such space as part of their tuition, with Madhavji saying there should be a free online service for students to reserve space. Ferguson said he would look at the current policy and see why students are charged so much. Gan felt better management was the solution.

Gupta continued by asking if the candidates felt that "strategic disruptions" (i.e. protests) were effective ways for students to voice their concerns to GC and, if not, what they would consider more effective. Gan felt it was ineffective, saying "they should try to at least tell us rather than just chanting songs, which does not help anyone at all." Galvez said she thinks that the protestors were expressing themselves when they felt they had not been consulted, or when they could not otherwise speak at GC proceedings, but that the protests should be well-timed, pointing out that in February a disruption interrupted a presentation by students.

Once the floor was opened to audience questions the debate became particularly engaging. Matthew Gray, who was a UTSU presidential candidate before his slate, StudentsFirst, decided to boycott the elections last week, had one particularly pointed question for Galvez. He asked why she had deleted comments about his slate's boycott on the pages of UTSU election-related events on Facebook, something that did not seem in line

SEE 'GC' – PG 5

STORY UPDATE

What happened to StudentsFirst?

CRO confirms slate members didn't have sufficient signatures

Andrew Rusk
NEWS EDITOR

In The Varsity's February 28 issue it was revealed that StudentsFirst had decided to boycott the UTSU elections after alleged last-minute disqualifications. StudentsFirst presidential candidate Matthew Gray alleged that VP external candidate Rohail Tanoli and board of directors candidates Cloe Bilobe and Suzannah Moore were notified shortly before the all-candidates meeting that they did not receive sufficient nomination signatures to enter the race.

Before announcing the slate's boycott Gray inquired as to whether the candidates could enter the race if an appeal found that they had the sufficient number of signatures. Both the CRO and the elections and referenda committee refused to provide a definitive answer.

On 3 March 2011 the CRO issued an interim report on the "ineligible nominees for the 2011 UTSU Spring Elections."

The report found that Rohail Tanoli — StudentsFirst nominee for Vice-President, External — received 217 nomination signatures, of which only 185 were eligible. Executive candidates are required to submit 200 eligible signatures to enter the elections race. Upon a recount on 2 March 2011, Tanoli's inelligibility was confirmed.

StudentsFirst candidate for New College Director, Cloe Bilodeau, received a total of 21 nomination signatures. Board of direcors candidates are required to submit 25 eligible signatures to enter the elections race. Victoria College Director Suzannah Moore submitted a total of 26 nomination signatures, of which only 21 were verified to be eligible.



StudentsFirst candidate Rohail Tanoli submitted only 187 eligible signatures.

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What has UTSU done for you?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Adrian

3rd Year Criminology,
"They've invited me to annoying Facebook events."



Hrvoje

4th Year Poli Sci,
"They're all talk. I haven't seen anything change."



Andrea

4th Year CCIT,
"Nothing."



Ashleigh

2nd Year English,
"The student metropass, that's it."



Andrew

5th Year Sociology,
shrugs.



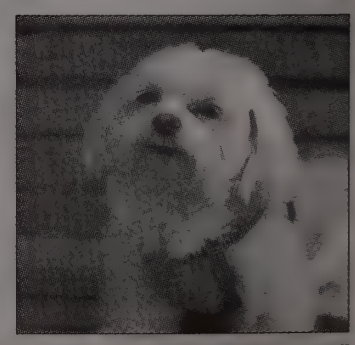
Antonio

4th Year Comm Sci,
"I thought they were still called SAC."



Arina

1st Year Philosophy,
"Spam my inbox!"



Vanilla

1st Year Undeclared,
"No comment."

'TANG' – CONTINUED FROM PG 2

who can speak on their behalf. Candidates can be responsible for something that was said but not authorized by them."

Tang says that his fourth and fifth pillars are centred around democratic renewal and health and dental insurance reform. He wants to introduce both ranked election ballots and speed up the insurance refund period.

Tang believes his policies bring fresh new ideas compared to those of Corey Scott and the Unite For Action slate. "I'm bringing new ideas to the table," said Tang. "I'm not recycling ideas that I've constantly presented at every single election every year. [I'm presenting] practical reforms that we can take to improve the internal structure of the student union."

He says his campaign has not changed despite the recent boycotting of the election by the Students-First slate. "I think it's unfortunate that they decided to do the boycott. I don't believe running with a slate of four would have impeded them in any way. That is their prerogative though."

Tang also wants to improve the relationship between students and UTSU. "There is sort of a disconnect between the students union and the student," said Tang. "Often, it's the student union's fault for not communicating properly to the [students], or not replying with prompt or proper responses."

He says he has experienced slow email response times from the current union. "I've had this experience where I sent an email to an executive, and they hadn't replied to my email. I would like to receive reassurance emails, to reassure those who have questions, to know their emails have been received."

Despite not running for a slate, Tang claims he is ready to work in partnership with the United for Action slate. "I'm prepared to work with the slate. If I'm elected, I'm [...] excited to work with people who have also been elected."

'DEBATE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

He suggested a 5–10 minute break to discuss electoral reform for the future, drawing a shout from Antonin Mongeau in the audience saying "5 or 10 minutes, that's not enough, Dave, that's not enough," later saying "how about more candidates on the agenda next time?"

Meslin asked for a volunteer from the audience who disapproved of the elections procedure and had not asked a question yet to come down. James Finlay, two-time UTSU candidate from the Change slate was chosen. Drawing cheers from the audience, Meslin joked "Oh, I know you," to which Finlay responded "I've been here twice."

Finlay wrote down reform proposals from the audience on the board. The suggestions were pointedly in reference to StudentsFirst's partial disqualification, ranging from decreasing the number of signatures required for nomination to lowering the confusion around the appeals process "if a digit is wrong [...] as in the recent past," or increasing the possible time period between disqualification and the requisite candidates' meetings. Gray in particular suggested better communication, arguing that in the past, "candidates were not properly notified that their signatures were invalid."

Though the discussion was slated for a maximum of ten minutes, the audience requested it be allotted more time. Meslin held a vote on whether to extend the discussion by a few minutes, and a strong majority voted yes.

No members of the UFA slate spoke during the electoral reform discussion.

Shaun Shepherd, UFA candidate for Vice-President External spoke next. A current Black Students' Association executive, Shepherd discussed his experience working with the Faculty of Medicine on a mentorship program, and working with the office of recruitment to increase representation of students that have historically been underrepresented on campus.

Gavin Nowlan, this year's Arts and Science Students' Union president, described the administration's past refusal to lobby the provincial government with UTSU if it discussed issues such as dropping fees, asking "where do you think the balance is between actually getting something done this election cycle, and listening to what the administration says about their prerequisites for helping us?"

Shepherd responded, "there is a fine balance, you're right. [...] Regarding working with the university, if it's possible I'm all for it, however the reality is if the university is not willing to abide by our principled stance that fees should be reduced, then we may not have a proper relationship and that's something I'm willing to work on."

'ORDINARY STUDENTS'

Danielle Sandhu, the UFA Presidential candidate, spoke last. Sandhu invited the audience to "join the team Unite for Action, because our team recognizes that we all have a diverse experience to contribute to the students' union." Sandhu, former VP Campus Life and this year's VP Equity, described her experience in these capacities, as a commuter and as a student. "Through my work I've come to understand the true power of a students' union, and how a students' union can change lives," she said. "After all, it changed my own. I want to see the students' union continue to be a place where students feel safe, a place where they can be supported, a place where they can get involved."

Sandhu addressed several questions regarding how she planned to build unity on campus, her plans for advocacy, and how to combat discrimination against Francophones. With regard to electoral reform, she said she didn't feel comfortable answering that question given her current candidacy for president.

The questions changed in tone when Brett Chang, prominent member of StudentPAC, stood up toward the end of the question period and shouted, "What about the ordinary student? What about that student that travels one hour from Etobicoke each way, and can't get involved on campus? Someone who wants to come here and have the greatest student experience possible. What about that student? Why aren't we working for them? [...] Why are we so focused on these special interests and not the students themselves? This is why I'm in student politics. This is why I was working on [StudentsFirst's] campaign [...] and this is why you have failed for the past four years, and this is why we are being called 'Too Asian' by Maclean's."

Sandhu responded that she was "confused by [Chang's] definition of the 'ordinary student' [...] because the ordinary student is racialized, the ordinary student is queer, the ordinary student identifies in many different ways and a student union's responsibility is to cater to all members of that community, and that means that we especially need to safeguard the rights of those that are traditionally marginalized within our community and broader spaces. So beyond that I'm really confused as to your question, because you're asking about this ordinary student, and to me there are 44,000 ordinary students at this university, extraordinary students at this university, who deserve a strong team that's going to lobby for their rights, that's going to protect their individual rights, and that's going to build a student experience that they enjoy." Sandhu referenced a working group she sat on about the Maclean's article, saying "there are students that are taking action on these items and I would encourage you to come and be a part of that."

HART HOUSE CONTROVERSY

The debate's drama, however, was not limited to the debate itself. Semra Eylul Sevi, Hart House Debates Committee's director of communications, protested the fact that the CRO had opted to use an off-campus moderator instead of the HHDC, which she called "very professional," arguing in a later interview with The Varsity that "the demographics in that room would have been very different if we had organized it. What I saw in that room is UFA and their allies and friends and their team that is running for election, their executives, and the team that would have been StudentsFirst and their allies and friends and a lot of media, and that's all I saw. The average student who would have been walking down St. George that day were in actuality in the minority."

Further, following the debate, The Varsity was copied on a complaint that the video recording of the event had been removed from the Internet. As of press time, the complaint had not been answered and the video was not online.

'GC' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

with the ideals of dialogue and listening to students' voices.

A debate within a debate began as the moderators tried to decide if the question was relevant — Mongeau thought it went to character, while Nowlan and Gupta thought it was irrelevant to GC debates, and Gupta felt it was inappropriate to single out one candidate. It was decided that Galvez could choose whether to answer, and she explained that the issues raised on the Facebook groups should have been brought to the CRO or the elections and referenda committee at UTSU, of which she is part, not debated on Facebook.

MSA vice president external Ishraq Alim asked the candidates' thoughts on the UTSU elections after StudentsFirst's boycott. Gupta said that this question was a potential conflict of interest for several of the candidates, and Nowlan reminded the audience that they were welcome to ask the candidates after the debate was over. Instead Alim asked about corporate donations, alleging that Peter Munk had asked to GC to prevent events on campus in which student groups are critical of Munk and his mining company.

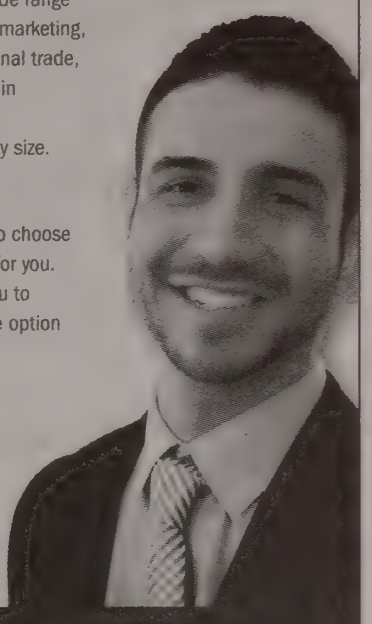
"Donors do have control of what is being said and what's not being said on our campus, whether we like it or not," Alim said. "What are you going to do about it?" Mongeau backed up Alim's allegations, saying, "We know the events surrounding Barrick Gold or Peter Munk specifically. The university will send people out to tear down your posters. They will send security, they will bill you for it."

Madhavji agreed that it is a problem. "You can't silence half the student groups, for example, just because you have $50 million," he said. "I am totally against that." Kerr said he is for corporate partnerships, but draws the line at sponsorships. "I think [corporations] should have all kinds of input as to what courses are taught [...] Sponsorship, not so much. I don't really want someone to hand me money, there's always strings [attached]."

James Nugent, a graduate student in geography, asked what the candidates would do if a GC meeting were cancelled and not rescheduled, as happened in September of 2010. Leung responded that he was against such behaviour, and would lobby against those practices. Huang said that, since the question was so hypothetical, it is hard for her to say what she would do but she imagined she would talk to her colleagues on GC to find a solution. Ferguson said it would depend on why the meeting was cancelled, so Nugent provided the hypothetical scenario that the non-student governors were "at their cottages." "In that case," Ferguson replied, "I would raise hell," and mobilize students. Gan also said he would have to know why the meeting was cancelled and what the agenda items at the meeting would have been, and that he would try to meet with the organizations that would have been present.

CUPE 3902 General Members Meeting
Tuesday March 15 from 5-8pm. Hart House Debates Room.
We will be discussing changes to the By-Laws of the Local. All members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments provided. Childcare provided onsite upon request. Please email info@cupe3902.org with childcare requests, any questions or to request any additional accessibility accommodations.
www.cupe3902.org

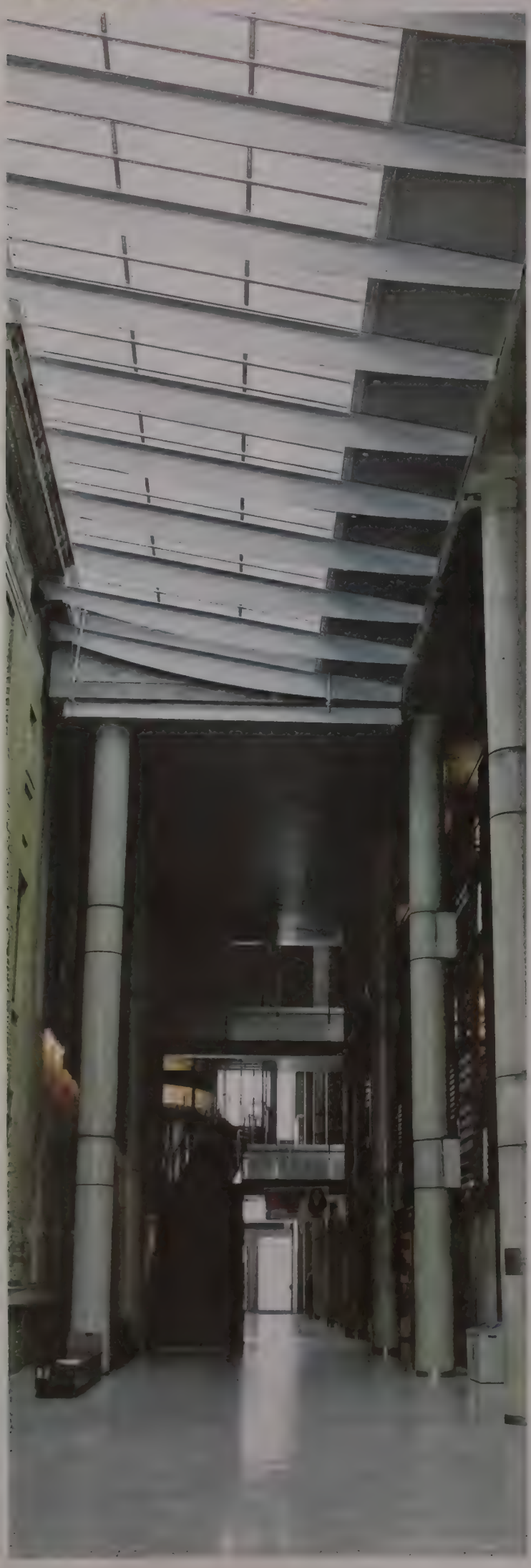
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NOT ENOUGH SPACE

Booking space at U of T is a precarious task, requiring clubs to deal with paperwork, policy, and — occasionally — police. A committee is working to simplify campus space booking. But why is it so complicated in the first place?



A GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING LAST OCTOBER had to be briefly adjourned after several student protestors staged a protest inside Council chambers.

The upheaval was caused by the Policy on the Temporary Use of Space — administrative lingo for space booking — a two-page document outlining a new university policy on campus space. The document aimed to put current space bookings practice in print by updating the last policy, which was implemented in 1988 and only applied to the St. George campus.

The policy met controversy over a paragraph stating that "the university may, as a condition of booking, require that authorized security be made available during the use of the space [...] at the cost of the user and to be arranged by the university." In addition, it says that "the university at its discretion may assess additional security requirements and require that campus police be present at any event."

Clubs lobbied student representatives to vote against the policy while students protested outside Simcoe Hall. The policy passed, accompanied with a set of procedures outlining how it should be implemented, to be determined by a nominated committee.

Student groups alleged that the security cost provision smacked of censorship, allowing the university to financially penalize groups who hold controversial events.

In 2006 and 2007, the Ontario Public Interest Research Group held two on-campus talks related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In both cases, campus police determined the event to be a security risk, sent police officers, and later billed the group hundreds of dollars for security.

"I cannot recall the last time a campus group was, without requesting campus police to be present, forced to pay for the costs of campus police to be at an event," said Jim Delaney, director of the office of the Vice-Provost Students. He added that unlocking a building after hours is sometimes annotated as a security cost.

Despite student skepticism, the policy stresses that fees should remain a rare occurrence.

"We normally do not charge recognized campus groups and student societies at all, except for reasonable cost recovery for additional services beyond making the space available (such as post-event cleaning)," it reads.

Provost Cheryl Misak told The Varsity that, although student groups could be charged if any event's security costs were unusually high, the situation would be exceptionally rare.

"We're working very, very hard to not charge student groups with security costs," she said.

Established by the provost's office in January, the Advisory Committee on the Temporary Use of Space is a group of student and administration representatives from all three campuses. They review and make recommendations on the procedures outlined for the newly approved policy, and examine how student activity space should and can be allocated.

The committee is being facilitated by Delaney, and its second meeting is next Monday. Here's a breakdown of what it will be dealing with.

ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

The Office of Space Management oversees most room bookings on campus. Almost all OSM spaces are classrooms and seminar rooms, which are booked through its online booking service.

Many spaces on campus don't fall under the authority of the OSM. While some rooms in the constituent colleges (Innis, New, University, and Woodsworth) are bookable through OSM, others are entirely managed by the colleges that own them. The federated colleges (St. Michael's, Trinity, and Victoria) as well as the Faculty of Music, and Wycliffe and Knox colleges have wholly separate booking procedures. Colleges often give preferential treatment to their own clubs; some spaces are effectively barred from out-of-college clubs.

The OSM doesn't charge recognized campus groups for space usage.

"One of the main issues we're hearing from student groups is that they cannot always get bookings for space in the exact spaces they seek without incurring additional costs because the building needs to be opened up or because there are some additional costs that are connected to using certain types of space (e.g. caretaking costs)," Delaney said. "The question for us to explore is how we can make more desirable space available at a lower cost."

"The office isn't funded as well as it should be," said UTSU VP Campus Life Corey Scott, noting that all campus group booking requests go through one OSM staff member. "I just don't think U of T sees it as a priority, really."

Groups can make reservations at a maximum of four weeks beforehand — a limit that doesn't exist for external groups.

"In terms of what club executives are saying when they come to me — trying to find shortcuts or ways to get through a bunch of these policies — is that it's incredibly frustrating," said Scott.

The issue isn't just indoors. Last October, the World Cup of Clubs soccer tournament, a day-long event organized by multiple cultural groups, was denied its request to use the King's College Circle field for the full day. OSM cited office policy and students' need to cross the field. Event organizers said the number of participants had to be limited and criticized OSM for what it deemed unwritten rules.

Hart House offers most of its rooms to students for free, with certain exceptions for larger venues.

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

Both UTM and UTSC have student centres, opened in 1999 and 2004 respectively, that serve as hubs of campus life. Both buildings are partially autonomous, with the local student union designating space usage. They contain offices of the campus' student union, radio station, newspaper, pub, and sexual health centre, and also have multipurpose rooms for club meetings and events.

Although the UTSC student centre has club lockers, it has no office space to offer.

"We're in a really tight squeeze when it comes to campus space," said SCSU VP Campus Life Matthew Zajch, who compares the rapidly growing campus to "a kid who's outgrown his clothes; it's uncomfortable and you know there's easy ways to fix it."

With an athletic centre and a slew of campus buildings expected for the 2015 Pan Am Games, Zajch hopes university administration will offer some newly vacant space to students.

UTSC has a dance group culture, with more than a handful competing in monthly events. But with no designated dance studio and overused athletic facilities, many rehearse after-hours in open spaces across campus.

Booking space outside the student centres also seems easier at the satellite campuses. At UTSC the Campus Life Fund assists recognized groups with university-administered event costs, such as rental and clean-up fees. At UTM, clubs organize audiovisual needs for a fee with the campus' technology department, but other fees are highly uncommon.

STUDENT COMMONS

St. George campus doesn't have a student centre. Its closest match, the Sussex Clubhouse, houses over 50 campus groups in only three floors. It has limited rooms for clubs to meet in, although they are free to book, even in the evening. The building itself has finicky plumbing, cracking paint, and multiple asbestos warnings.

Both York and Ryerson universities have student centres, with club offices and multipurpose spaces.

Plans for a similar building for St. George campus have been kicking around for nearly six decades, repeatedly falling victim to competing visions and funding shortfalls.

A 2007 UTSU referendum approved a $20 million levy to pay two-thirds of the cost of a new Student Commons. UTSU collects a five-dollar levy each semester, which will rise to $14.25 when the centre opens. U of T administration will pay the remaining third.

Last November, the UTSU board of directors voted to resituate the project to 230 College St., current site of the Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Design building.

"I know the student commons will be a huge asset for clubs that need space on campus but don't want to go through the hassle of OSM," said Scott.

The project, still in the planning stage, aims to offer boardrooms, kitchens, office space, multipurpose rooms, and lecture halls, ostensibly by mid-2012.

WHO SIGNS IT ANYWAY?

One of the biggest points of contention among campus clubs is signing authority. At the moment, each club can use one signing officer. Requiring all events go through one single executive, combined with only being able to book events four weeks ahead, means clubs have a difficult time booking space in a speedy manner. Some groups have cancelled events after finding no compatible time.

A 2006 provost-authored report recommended that "campus groups be permitted to identify up to two contact people who are authorized to reserve space" and references a similar 1999 recommendation.

"At the time, there were some technical issues associated with the recommended change that made it difficult to implement," said Delaney, adding that he expects a change "in the near future."

When told that Ulife, U of T's student life repository, allows upwards of four signing officers on its clubs recognition application, Delaney said it was a database issue.

"If I recall correctly, the issue was specific to the way the campus groups database was designed at the time and how it delivered information," he said.

The new (old) misogyny

How those charged with protecting society are doing a disservice to women

Emily Kellogg
VARSITY STAFF



On January 24, the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University held a campus safety information session. The session consisted of one campus security guard and two Toronto cops from 31 Division. According to an Osgoode student government representative, one cop, later identified as Constable Michael Sanguinetti, had the following advice for women in danger of sexual assault: "You know, I think we're beating around the bush here. I've been told I'm not supposed to say this, however, women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized." Constable Sanguinetti later issued an official apology, citing his "embarrassment" over the comment, and apologizing for any "ill feelings" that it may have incited.

On February 23, in Manitoba, Justice Robert Dewar of Queen's Bench Court sentenced Kenneth Rhodes, who was convicted of sexual assault in an incident that occurred five years ago. Justice Dewar sentenced Rhodes with a two-year conditional sentence that allows him to avoid jail time, justifying the decision with crude remarks that have some calling for his immediate removal. According to Dewar, Rhodes was simply a "clumsy Don Juan," also citing that the victim wore a tube top without a bra, high heels, and liberal amounts of makeup, in his justification of this instance of rape as "...a case of misunderstood signals and inconsiderate behaviour." Thus far, no apology has been issued, although his comments are under review by the Canadian Judicial Council.

The underlying attitude of both incidents seems to be that rape victims have the ability to avoid their fate, if only they would desexualize themselves through their dress and self-presentation. This attitude is afflicted with misogyny.

Let's look at that opinion a little bit more closely: Yes, men sexualize sluts. It is in their nature, and thus, men are not at fault. Therefore, if a girl doesn't want to have sex with a guy, the solution is simple: do not exude sexuality, do not wear makeup, and do not make yourself traditionally "attractive" or "sexy" in any way. The word "slut" has only ever been used to shame a woman because of her sexuality. It exists to discourage women from expressing a sexual desire that deviates from that which is accepted in society at large. Even more so, it exists to discourage women from indicating that they have more sexual partners than is socially acceptable. The term "slut" is an ambiguous and condemning term that blames and stigmatizes a woman for her derivation from what is considered "acceptable." The use of this term reinforces a society that hates and stigmatizes its women for their sexuality. This is what is called misogyny and oppression. In this instance, and the instance of the opinion expressed above, a woman is denied simple individual rights on the basis that the power structures of our society will not afford her the right to wear certain clothes, or to behave in a particular way on account of a patriarchal system — unless she gives up the protection of that society and that society's laws.

By applying — or indeed implying — this term to rape victims, especially after the aggressor has been convicted (as in the case of Kenneth Rhodes), the rape victim has become complicit in the crime committed against them. The victim is at fault for incurring this crime.

Consider a man who is dressed in an expensive suit with an expensive watch. He is walking home from work, and he is robbed and physically assaulted. The perpetrators are later caught and convicted. Consider a judge reducing the sentence on these perpetrators on the basis that the man was complicit in incurring the crime due to his dress. Consider a cop advising men that wearing expensive suits is the cause of physical assault and robbery. Would this be considered acceptable in a court of law as a justification for a shorter sentence for the perpetrator? Would this crime be considered a "misunderstanding"?

No, the robbery victim would never be considered the cause of the crime, largely because the man's dress is considered acceptable in our patriarchal society. Further still, all crimes are more complicated than a simple matter of cause and effect. People who are robbed do not have the appearance of being rich. Women who are not dressed in tube tops are still raped. There is no statistical evidence to suggest that what is termed Western "sluttiness" is directly related to the rates of sexual assault.

Crimes are, instead, related to the material and social conditions of the environment in which they are committed, as well as to the psychological makeup of the aggressor. They do not follow the rules of conventional logic. To think otherwise is not only to severely simplify the nature of sexual assault — but also of all crime.

Justice Robert Dewar in Manitoba is comfortable enough to imply that a rape victim is a "slut" on the basis of her attire and makeup. This thereby nullifies the crime that has been committed against her, because of the stigmatization of "slut." To be a "slut" in our society is, apparently, to be a lower-class citizen. To be a woman with, or with the appearance of, an "inappropriate" sex drive, is to be a person unworthy of the protection of the law.

Is it logical to subvert law on the basis of the victim's compliance with patriarchal, normative restrictions of female sexuality? Are we intending to set the legal precedent that all victims of crime have incited their aggressors in some way and are, therefore, at fault? Or simply that those victims who have not acted in accordance with the societal norm may be considered to be at fault for any crimes committed against them? This subverts and undermines the very notion of law, and allows it to be dictated by societal whim to the point that it becomes meaningless and absurd. The misogynistic view that rape victims are at fault for the crimes committed against them only serves to reinforce the fear and hatred of female sexuality which already underlies the structure of our society, as well as to over-simplify the nature of crime to the point that perpetrators are no longer responsible for their own actions.

Free association is a fundamental right

Why membership in a student union should be voluntary and never forced

David Woolley and Dan Miller
VARSITY CONTRIBUTORS

Elections plagued by a traditionally high incumbency rate and traditionally low voter turnout seem to be the model of democracy at U of T. Add to that a recent boycott of the upcoming UTSU elections by the only major opposition slate and it seems that student politics at the U of T are doomed to dysfunction. Students feel either apathetic and uninvolved or completely disenfranchised, and many believe the current system is not able to adequately address their concerns. Presented with this reality we are forced to ask the question: why are students required to be part of the union at all?

In 1948, Canada voted for the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1982, we adopted our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In both these documents, freedom of association is listed as a protected right. The UN Declaration stated explicitly that no human being can be "compelled to belong to an association." This right is absent at U of T. In direct contrast to both these documents, students are compelled not only to be part of the student union, but forced to pay dues whether or not they agree with how their money is being spent.

The current channels by which students can express their concern are criticized as being insufficient and biased towards the status quo. The turnout rate for past elections has rarely exceeded 10 per cent, with the near complete re-election of the incumbent members. When 60 per cent of Canadians turn out to vote, federal elections are lambasted as being unrepresentative. How representative, then, can UTSU be?

It is not surprising that students feel a sense of disenfranchisement, as the only channel available to them to affect policy change seems to be broken. The lack of such democratic accountability has led to the boycott of upcoming UTSU elections by the opposition slate, StudentsFirst.

These problems, however, are not restricted to U of T nor, indeed, to Canada. New Zealand has confronted these concerns by pushing for voluntary student union membership. Sir Roger Douglas, former Minister of Finance and currently an MP for the ACT Party, is championing a bill that would give students the choice to join a union or not. When asked for comment, Douglas stated, "At a fundamental level relationships between individuals and society should be based on consent. [...] They should be based on voluntary cooperation." It was this principal he sought to extend to student union membership. Involvement in UTSU is, of course, anything but voluntary.

If students had the choice to opt out of UTSU, the union would no longer be answerable only to rival slates at election time, but to every student. The Union would be held constantly accountable and would need to provide tangible improvements to student life. Students who felt they were best served by the union would keep their membership, while those who felt their concerns remained unaddressed could, if the democratic channels consistently failed them, opt out. To prevent freeloaders from benefiting from UTSU funds while not paying dues, simple caveats could be introduced. For example, a club wishing to receive UTSU funding might be required to have a majority of dues-paying members to be eligible.

The argument against this practice is, of course, that the union would then be sapped of funds and rendered unable to supply needed services. When confronted by this question, Sir Roger Douglas explained, "Any organization that can deliver services their customers want [...] will have no trouble attracting [membership]." In the case of student unions, if they "really do provide [needed] services [...] then they should have nothing to worry about." Experiences of voluntary student unions — which are the norm in Australia — have found this to be the case. While the budgets of some were depleted, many others actually saw an increase in funds as they focused their efforts on improving student life instead of championing political causes. It should also be noted that voluntary student unions have found sources of income outside of student levies (some being able to eliminate dues altogether) by receiving, for example, funding from local businesses who benefit from student patronage.

Ultimately, however, this issue goes beyond material arguments. The fact is that freedom of association is a Charter and human right. Even if voter turnout were 90 per cent and there was regular turnover in student representation, those individuals who felt UTSU did not reflect their interests should be guaranteed the ability to opt out. It is every student's right as a human being to do so. As Sir Roger Douglas said on the floor of the New Zealand Parliament, "Associations [...] are not truly representative of their members' convictions if they are forced to join. They are, in fact, meaningless — the mere playthings of those who control them."

FACE OFF

POINT COUNTERPOINT



Debating the State of Israel

Israel is an apartheid state

Faraz Vahid Shahidi
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

This week marks the seventh Annual Israeli Apartheid Week. From March 7 to 11, over 70 cities and campuses across the world will host lectures, film screenings, public actions, and cultural events that aim to interrogate and expose the nature of Israel's apartheid system and to contribute to a growing global movement for Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (also known as BDS).

It is no doubt important to clarify the merit in our use of the term apartheid. Apartheid is a term that literally means 'separateness.' Despite being most often associated with the system of racial segregation established by South Africa's white minority after 1948, the crime of apartheid as it is defined by international law refers more generally to efforts by any state to institutionalize racism through discriminatory laws, land expropriation, and the forced displacement of populations.

Israel is a country founded on the idea of different rights for different people. First, Jews, wherever they live, have the right to "return" to Israel, but the Palestinian refugees who were expelled from their homes in 1948 do not have this right; in fact, they are explicitly denied Israeli citizenship, and denied the right to return to their homes. Second, the military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, characterized by a matrix of draconian "security" laws and policies, denies Palestinians living in these territories their right to self-determination, including their freedom of movement and access to employment, education, and health care. The third and final pillar of Israeli apartheid is the differential treatment of Palestinians within the state of Israel, to whom a different set of laws is applied in various dimensions of social, political, and economic life.

Through the application of economic, political and diplomatic pressures on Israel, the BDS movement seeks Israel's compliance with international law and demands that it respect and promote the right of return of Palestinian refugees, under UN Resolution 194; end its military occupation of Palestinian territories, under UN Resolution 242; and recognize the rights of the Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality. IAW, specifically, aims to hold to account the University of Toronto and its commitment to the "vigilant protection of human rights."

The criticism is often leveled that IAW is divisive and stands in contrast to attempts at dialogue and compromise. We would contend, however, that the problem is not one of dialogue, but of the grounds upon which such dialogue is predicated. Respect for the other party's humanity should be a precondition for, and never a consequence of, dialogue. We cannot engage in dialogue about whether or not a group of people — Palestinians in this case — deserve basic human rights. There is scope for dialogue about how to achieve those ends, and once those ends are met, there will be scope for dialogue about how to organize a society where all persons can live together and share the land — but not over human rights or international law. Therefore, respect for international law is a necessary condition for dialogue.

We face a similar problem when confronting the question of compromise. Opponents of IAW are looking for compromise where none can be made. If proponents of Israel's apartheid policies take the stand that Palestinians should have no rights at all, then the position that Palestinians should have some rights, but not full rights, becomes the position of "compromise." We cannot accept this. The demands of IAW are not contentious: they are consistent with international law.

That IAW fosters healthy dialogue and debate is self-evident: one need only look at this exchange and those others stored in the archives of The Varsity. It seems to us that IAW has created more dialogue than many other efforts. A growing movement with clear, specific demands and strategy does more to get people talking than any dialogue based on leaving our principles at the door.

In what could be argued to be the most comprehensive of unfriendly commentaries on IAW, Israel's Reut Institute manages to vindicate our efforts, describing the week as follows: "The risk posed is that [IAW] will create an equivalency between Israel and Apartheid-era South Africa that penetrates the mainstream of public and political consciousness." While we disagree with the Reut Institute that this would be a bad thing, we hope their fear, that IAW will help expose Israel's apartheid system to public and political consciousness, comes to pass. Such exposure, we hope, will help end Israel's apartheid policies and practices, as similar efforts did for South Africa less than two decades ago.

For a full schedule of events, please visit toronto.apartheidweek.org. Students Against Israeli Apartheid can be reached at saia@riseup.net.

Israel is a free, democratic state

Beca Bookman and Naomi Matlow
VARSITY CONTRIBUTORS

An Israeli doctor, Dr. Raz Somech, saved the life of a baby boy with an immune deficiency. The boy was from the Gaza Strip. This story, documented in the Academy Award shortlisted film *Precious Life*, is not one typically discussed on campus at any point in the year.

For the last four years, a twenty-four year old Israel Defense Forces soldier has been held in captivity by the terrorist group Hamas. His captors have never permitted the International Committee of the Red Cross or any other humanitarian organization to visit him. This story, Gilad Shalit's, is another one that is not typically discussed on campus.

Stories that showcase the intricacies of Israel's reality are not the ones that dominate at U of T. Instead, our campus shamefully helped to provide the birthplace of a global student movement that continues to make false accusations that demonize and delegitimize Israel.

As students, we sit in lectures accepting information to repeat on our next exams, but in reality, should we not give close consideration to the facts before accepting anyone else's statements and claims? Let's start with the popular name of this week. Contrary to what that label entails, no Israeli citizen faces legal segregation or institutionalized discrimination. Israel is a democratic state, where all citizens irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation are protected by the same standards that we hold dear as Canadians. More specifically, Israeli Arabs hold office in the Israeli Parliament and all citizens are permitted to vote.

Now, you may also hear about a security perimeter that greatly decreases terrorist attacks in Israel. During the Second Intifada in 2003, Israel confronted a significant increase in suicide bombers from the West Bank. As all democracies do, Israel sought to provide protection for its citizens and erected a security fence. This was designed not to separate people but to prevent the entry of terrorists into the country; terrorists whose attacks resulted in hundreds of deaths and injuries to Israeli citizens. As a result of its construction, terrorist activity has decreased by over 90 per cent. This success has translated into the end of Israelis living in constant fear of such attacks. The fence is a temporary measure, and when the Palestinian government renounces terrorist activity, it will be taken down. If Canada were experiencing frequent attacks from another nation along its borders, would we as Canadian citizens not expect our government to do the same?

A proper discussion of Israel goes beyond the struggle with the Palestinians and takes into account the many other people in and around it. These include its geographical situation, the location of its natural resources, its strategic needs to provide security for all its people, and so forth. These people include the many refugees — especially from Africa and others who are not Jewish — to whom Israel is a safe haven. Approximately 1,200 refugees cross into the country from the Sinai every month and are allowed to stay. While Israel has much to discuss internally on how to care for these people, merely allowing them to stay is a great feat.

Rather than discuss these complex issues in depth with openness and honesty, some wish to use the U of T campus to foster anti-Israel sentiment and create a hostile environment for all students. Regardless of whether a student is pro-Israel, anti-Israel, or simply curious, the campus should serve as a safe space where everyone can enter the conversation. Attending an academic institution should provide us with a place to explore and grapple with the many topics that discussing Israel raises.

This week, students will be tabling on campus and they will offer a real conversation about Israel. This will include just about anything you want to know: politics, technological advancements, humanitarian aid, good jokes, and so forth. Dr. Karen Held will be discussing her volunteer work in Haiti with IsraAid (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Hart House Debates Room). Michael Coren & Ishmael Khaldi will also be speaking (Thursday at 4:30 p.m., Ryerson, Kerr Hall West 061). Finally, Israeli culture will be displayed at Layla Lavan, an Israeli-style Nuit Blanche party featuring Israeli bands, fashion, and an arts & crafts fair (Sunday at 6:30 p.m., On The Rox).

For this campus to hold a rational, constructive discussion about Israel, we must work towards providing an open, safe, and welcoming environment, all of which anti-Israel organizers deny students. Affixing false accusations and labels to a complicated issue only serves to prevent students from properly learning about the situation. The organizers have only created a divisive atmosphere that alienates the student body. This year, the Israel Affairs Committee urges you not to allow this group of students to control the conversation. This discussion is one that all students should feel comfortable engaging in!

Free wired

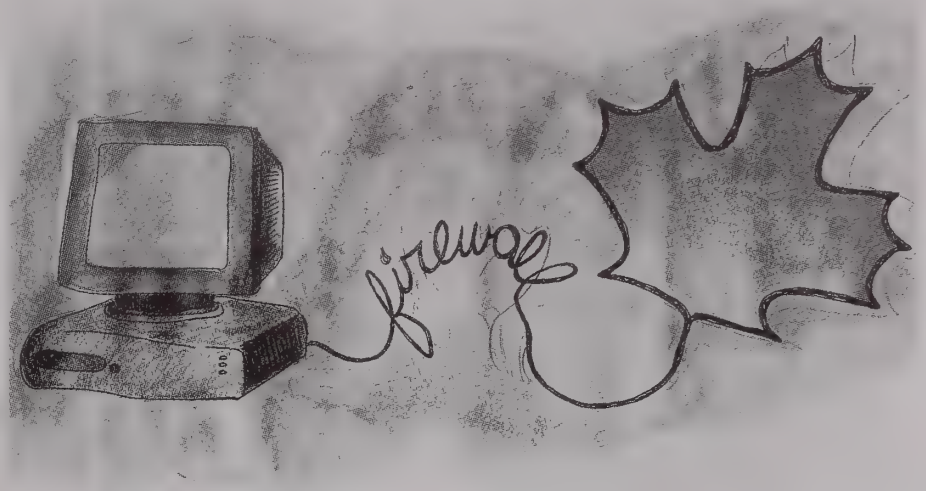
Does Canada have a comprehensive enough cybersecurity strategy?

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

Last week's alleged penetration of sensitive federal government networks by China-based hackers demonstrates the need for greater communications security in Canada. While the hackers did not steal any crucial secrets, they did gain access to the internal networks of three government departments responsible for the federal budget. It is unclear whether the hackers' activities were state-sponsored, but if they were, this breach could amount to a 21st-century version of economic espionage. If the hackers had stolen budget secrets, they could have passed them on to investors who would then be able to make bets on the effect that the budget would have on Canadian stocks.

This breach highlights the paramount importance of keeping government communications safe. For the past decade, Canadian national security policy has focused nearly exclusively on counterterrorism. While the capacity of state-sponsored and freelance hackers to infiltrate government networks has significantly increased, it is unclear whether Canada's capacity to defend itself from these kinds of attacks has increased at anywhere near the same rate. A decade spent focusing on terrorism has come largely at the expense of understanding and responding to other kinds of threats. This breach proves that it is now time to correct this security gap.

According to several reports, human error seems to have been responsible for this breach. Senior officials within the three departments were contacted with offers tailored to their status as "executives" within the government. Using the information provided by the officials who responded to these offers, the hackers accessed their computers remotely and sent requests to the department's support staff for network passwords posing as the executives. With these passwords, they attempted to gain access to secret and top secret budget documents. However, communications security staff detected these infiltrations before the hackers could steal any sensitive information and prevented them from doing so.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Though the successful defence mounted by Canadian security officials should be lauded, it is important to ensure that public servants take steps to prevent these kinds of breaches. Government security staff should require greater use of encryption, randomization, and other techniques that would make it harder for hackers to use any information they obtained. Moreover, they should expand the use of secure communications technology and alter existing technology, especially BlackBerries, to prevent the use of functions, such as instant messaging, which cannot be effectively secured. Such a program would be costly, but is crucial for keeping key government departments connected, but secure.

Government security staff should require greater use of encryption, randomization, and other techniques that would make it harder for hackers to use any information they obtained.

The Communications Security Establishment, whose staff successfully repelled the attack by Chinese hackers, would coordinate an expanded communications security program. CSEC is responsible for securing government communications, and also gathering intelligence on external threats to Canada's national security, which it does by intercepting communications in cooperation with sister agencies in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Since the September 11 attacks, its staff has expanded to meet growing intelligence gathering responsibilities. CSEC should be further expanded to meet the federal government's need for greater communications security coordination.

CSEC is unique among Canadian intelligence and security agencies as it is directly supported by the Canadian military and under the authority of the Minister of National Defence, rather than the Minister of Public Safety. There is a special unit within the Canadian Forces, the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group, which is responsible for providing technical assistance to CSEC. It too should be expanded to provide additional support to CSEC especially in the area of communications security. Eventually, the Canadian government could also consider following the American model by creating a small, flexible "cyber command" to unify the military's cybersecurity activities.

Within the context of current discussions between the American and Canadian governments on the possibility of more comprehensive security cooperation, our government should also consider whether Canada should cooperate more formally with the United States on cybersecurity. Eventually, this could take the form of adding a cybersecurity dimension to an expanded NORAD partnership, which would see the American and Canadian militaries ensure North American security in the air, at sea, and online. This "cyber-NORAD" would help Canada keep itself safe from this kind of cyberattack and build on decades of close intelligence and military cooperation between Canada and the United States.

While the infiltration attempt revealed last week was unsuccessful, foreign hackers will undoubtedly continue to try to penetrate Canada's secure government networks. They will surely develop more sophisticated ploys and techniques aimed at stealing key government information. Canada must prepare to meet this threat head on by strengthening security, by improving vigilance among public servants, beefing up its civilian and military communications security staff, and better coordinating online defence activities with the United States. Perhaps these changes will take a successful attack on Canada, but hopefully the government will take note now and take the crucial steps to prevent future breaches.

FROM THE INTERWEBS

With the UTSU elections in full swing, The Varsity's comment boards have been seeing some serious action. Here's a small snippet of the conversation.

Of course the CRO is unavailable for comment. The University of Toronto collects UTSU's fees from all students and should not release them until actually free and fair elections are held. The reaction of many of my friends from around the country has been that this is just the CFS's standard operating procedure. UTSU will never reform itself, and its abuses of the democratic process [have] been obvious ever since I've been here. Only [...] U of T has the power to stop this corruption and abuse of power, and they should do so.

Steven Penner

I'm by no means a staunch UTSU supporter, but I am frankly tired of seeing the challenging slate consist, year after year (at least for the past three elections I have seen at U of T) of all guys, except for ONE woman in the VP Equity role. There is tremendous potential for diversity of leadership on this campus, and it appears to me at least that the challenging slate refuses time and again to acknowledge this by putting forward a more diverse and representative slate. They keep losing (or not even making it to polls), so maybe it's time to try something different.

Anne Beaumont

Anne, while I respect your right to disagree with a slate's choice of candidates, the makeup of the StudentsFirst slate could not be less relevant right now. I don't care if they are white, black, brown, yellow, green, purple, blue, or pink. They have a right to run for student government in a free and open process. The appropriate response to candidates you disagree with is the one you have taken, to voice those concerns publicly. The autocratic response, and the one CFS/UTSU appears to have chosen, is to bar them from competing. One is representative of the democratic traditions of Canada; the other is representative of the democratic traditions of Egypt. I know which side I'm proud to be on.

Steven Penner

It's nice to see people can actually voice their opinions here, and not have them removed by UTSU. It's especially nice because it becomes clear that more students care about how ridiculous elections have gotten than some would like to think. Who knew all it took was 4+ years for people to just get so enraged? They not only want to defederate their colleges from UTSU, but now actively want to see real platforms from the candidates who run. I guess we can thank them for that?

Katie D'Angelo

To all those who have been criticizing the union in the comments section: You folks have very valid perspectives and are seeking answers to important questions about where your money is going. I do too, and encourage you to keep asking questions, and to keep demanding answers. One thing though — I have not once ever seen any of you at any of the commission meetings. Although, I might be wrong, since a lot of us seem to feel more comfortable using pseudonyms.

You know the meetings I'm talking about: they give those who work with the union a place to discuss and address the concerns and issues that you are raising. They can be pretty productive. They happen quite regularly, and are advertised online. In fact, the only time I seem to recall having seen or heard from any of you are in published articles which seem to have the sole purpose of defaming the union, or by grandstanding annually at general meetings. If you want to put "StudentsFirst" in the ways you are describing, strongly consider showing up to meetings, making yourselves heard, and involving yourselves in the process more than once a year for elections or a single annual general meeting.

Anonymous

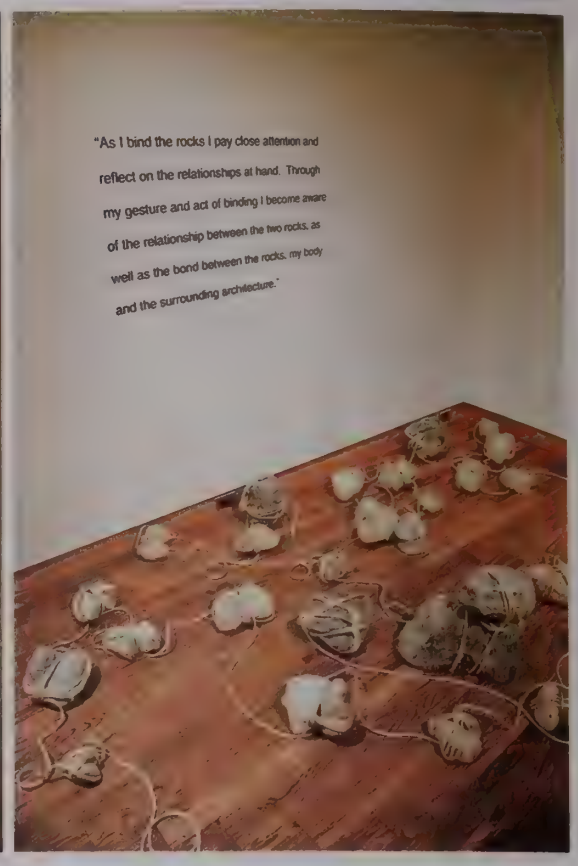
Regarding the last comment, I would have considered that a valid point, and indeed did when I first heard the complaint lodged at myself and StudentPAC at the UTSU AGM. It should be mentioned that in the last held external commission, StudentPAC showed up and brought so many students that they had to move the commission meeting to UC, the only time in recent memory I can remember a commission meeting being moved because of how many people showed up. There were, I believe, two commission meetings after that. One was a clubs commission meeting, the other another an equity commission meeting. The clubs commission had the unfortunate circumstance of being placed on a day which apparently U of T decided to use as mid-term flood season, and as a result only about two of us could go. At the equity commission meeting, we had signed up almost 35 people to attend, but it was cancelled last minute and never rescheduled.

Brent Schmidt

When I ran last year I specifically asked everyone who signed my form if they were full-time students. That much was obvious to me — as long as I thought they were full-time students, I would meet the quota. And then if the CRO contended the signatures, I would have grounds to protest. In this case I'm not sure if StudentsFirst candidates did that. If they didn't, then they took a risk. However, the CRO should have announced how many names they lacked, and given them at least a one day notice before the All Candidates' Meeting — so that they could raise enough signatures. But when only four candidates were disqualified, I certainly wish that StudentsFirst had stayed in the running since the democratic option for students has now been almost entirely eliminated. The CRO must consider the fact that there is only one position — VP internal and services — that is currently challenged. He should seriously reconsider his last decision, or at least offer StudentsFirst an opportunity to return as full candidates to the ballot. Finally, I think students should demand an end to the hiring process of the CRO. This cannot be handled by UTSU itself any more. Grant that power to the student college presidents, the university, anyone except the UTSU itself, and there will be change for the better.

Tobias





Left: Piece by Breann Ritchie. Right: *Mantra: Breath,* rock and rope installation, by Andre Markovic. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

Work in Process shows works in progress

Artist, curator, and visitor collide in UTAC's new show.

Peter Hart
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Work in Process, the University of Toronto Art Centre's new show featuring pieces from emerging artists enrolled in the Sheridan/UTM Art and Art History programs, opened its doors on the evening of March 3, 2011. The curators of the show are Sarah Heim, Rachel Keeling, and Jilana Stuart, and the featured artists are K. Dorothea Hines, Sebastian Koever, Andre Markovic, Emily Mahon, Meaghan O'Brien, and Breann Ritchie.

The show's statement, which greets the visitors beside the gallery's entrance, says, "This project explores the process of an art show from three different perspectives: the artist, the curator, and the visitor. By documenting our interaction, the audience is brought into the curatorial process." A video screen shows the curatorial process to the audience, projecting silent clips of the artists working in the studio. This video is not the only glimpse into the artistic process featured in the show; in the corner dedicated to artist Sebastian Koever, we see Koever constructing his piece "Makearium" on a video monitor.

A cardboard box, held together by wrinkled duct tape, is the centerpiece of Koever's piece. An opening, near the box's bottom, allows the audience to see the box's contents — scattered white computer papers, black hair from a wig, empty plastic soda bottles, and a disco ball. "What matters here is taking a break from the world to exist in your head with what you know," Koever says. "The box itself becomes a visual manifestation of my brain." Behind the box, frames containing computer printouts of instant messenger conversations hang on the wall. Koever is a member of these conversations, which are characterized by nonstop internet slang. Koever, matching the show's statement, attempts to establish an intimate relationship between himself and his audience. Conversely, the contents of his box and printed conversation, being more abstract than comprehensible, establish difference between the artist's message and his audience.

SEE **'UTAC'** – PG 13

The art of the campaign poster

Just in time for election season, Design Editor **TOM CARDOSO** *deconstructs the campaign signage.*

The University of Toronto Student Union election season is no picnic for the candidates. Between spending all day talking to (mostly apathetic) students, speaking at high-tempered debates, and getting grilled by journalists from The Varsity, they really don't get much time off. That's why advertising becomes so important: a strong online presence, a well-designed website, and eye-catching posters can make all the difference during an election. Think back to the 2008 presidential election in the United States: even though it was designed by famed street artist Shepard Fairey, the "HOPE" poster became synonymous with Obama's presidential campaign.

You can convey a surprising amount of information on an 11×17 inch piece of paper. (The Varsity's own dimensions, for instance, are roughly 11×17 inches.) Posters are especially effective in places like university campuses, where students are often stuck waiting around: for classes to begin, for a slice of pizza, or for a fresh cup of coffee. Campuses also have a distinct postering culture — students know to keep an eye out for posters advertising subsidized meals, jobs, and events.

SEE **'POSTER'** – PG 13



COURTESY NATHANIEL TANG



COURTESY ADAM AWAD

A POSTER DESIGN PRIMER

1. Kerning

The spaces between pairs of adjacent letters are a vital and often overlooked element of poster design is kerning — especially when it comes to candidates' names, A badly kerned name will look awkward and sloppy, decreasing readability.

2. Wordiness

Posters aren't books, and are meant to be read fairly quickly. If you have to stare at a poster for more than five to ten seconds to take in all it has to say, it's a failure. Bullet points, such as the ones in Nathaniel Tang's poster, are best.

3. Scale

Playing with scale is also essential. Scale guides the eye: if all the elements in a poster are of similar size, the eye doesn't know where to look. Tang's poster lacks proper scale — his name is only marginally larger than his platform proof points. At a quick glance, it's difficult to discern what the poster is even trying to communicate.

arts' arts

i do not deserve utensils
Vanessa Purdy

i do not deserve utensils
so you have shown me
thank god you protected them so nobly
from the poisonous touch of my lips
the animal is you
careless self-preservation, kill! kill! kill!
what if i were to be as petty as you,
my delight sprung from inauthentic vindication
to be so pale; my painted smiles chipping to reveal
a mindless mouth
how could i hate such pathetic personifications
i have only been left baffled and powerless
twisting in your claws of unrelenting cruelty
No. i will have no part in your unreality.
just remember
you're using my toilet paper, you fucking cunt.

Cellphone
Mitchell Gauvin

Cellphone chips chirp ring-tones,
flirt with flat metal. Life blood
amped on sparks, cylinder
cocoons pumping vitality.

Confluence of organs, of components
with this nucleus centred
in circle cells of electricity. Gadgets galore
and functions in relation
to form. This is
crystallized mathematics, this is
music materialized, pressed, touchable.

Aloof airplane mode, and
bathtub drowning
exude no plasma spill. It is
armed for texts sent,
caller ID interpolates friends, mother
boards, family fears of missing links
and connecting soder.

Colour codes pop loose,
rainbow options for replaceable
surface runs merely a millimetre deep—
Recycle at blue bin.

Wifi fusion illusion
Flashes much like memories.

Contents contain univocity
iron, mercury, unsafe levels
of acid, radiation no worse
then the condiments of your stomach.

Imagist poetry
Sophia Costomiris

Is never more
than a few lines long

Aubade
Tea K. Hadziristic

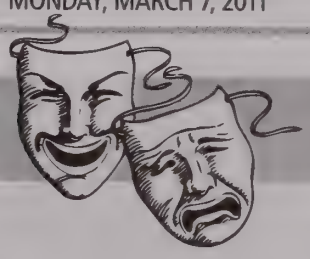
Unearthed by morning like a
fragment—
bad dreams battered into bad dreams.
Everything is unattainable:
four walls yawning
their perfect dusty square
and the house
innocently surrounded
by a sharp, cold little number.

The freckle that I know exists
burns under your shirt, my back.
Its realness is a pin.

I sink back into morning,
swallowed in the comfort
of not being yours.



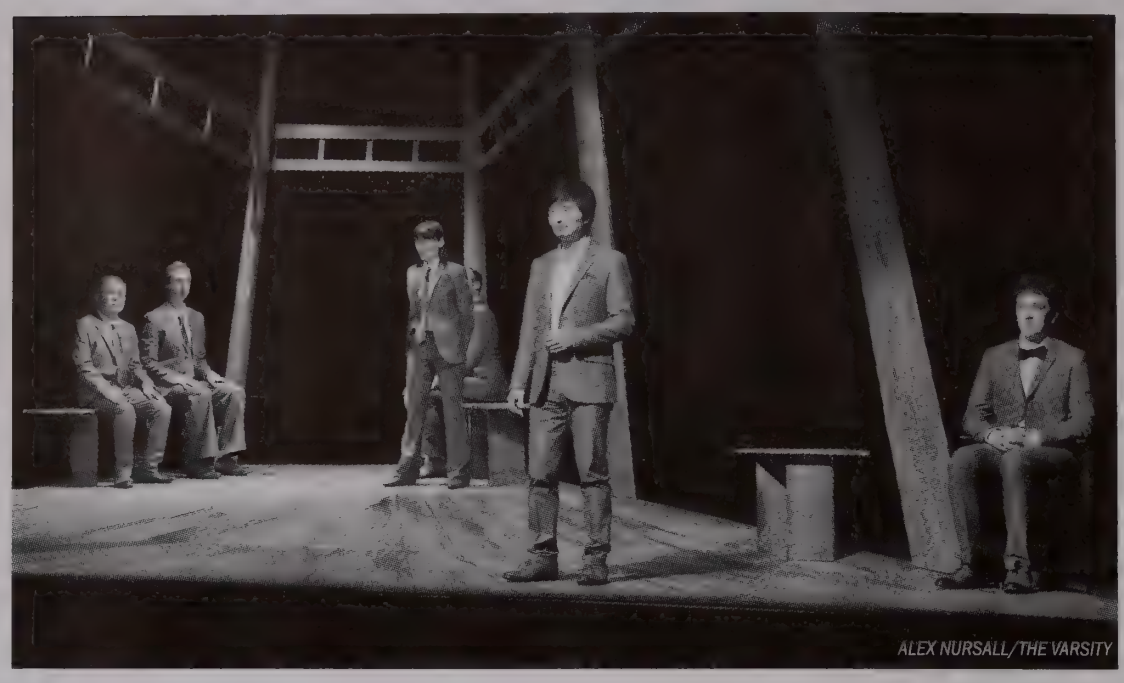
Skeleton Study
Rogelio Briseño
Digital Sculpting



Campus Stage

Face to face with *Yellow Face*

Hart House Theatre's staging of David Henry Hwang's play raises troubling questions about Asian-American identity



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Peter Hart
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"As an Asian-Canadian I am faced with the personal question of my place in the world," says Andrew Cheng, production dramaturg of David Henry Hwang's *Yellow Face,* in the play's program notes. "While I do identify as Asian, I have always been, simply put: Canadian." In *Yellow Face*, Hwang confronts the issue of racial identity, asking whether it is chosen by the individual or chosen for them at birth. *Yellow Face* is a part-autobiographical, part-fictional illustration of the racial tensions Hwang, an Asian American, has faced during his career as a playwright, and an examination of the place of Asian identity in American culture.

The play illustrates Hwang's career through email messages, newspaper reviews, and voicemails that he received in response to his plays. Cast members Charmaine Lau, Daniel Krolik, David Fujino, and Emily Opal Smith — each assuming multiple identities of journalists and associates of Hwang, recite abrupt monologues that depict messages he recieved, making smooth transitions as they move from one identity to another. Ben Wong, who plays Hwang; Carl, who plays the announcer and a troublemaking journalist; and Kristoffer Pedlar, who plays Marcus; walk off the stage at each scene's end.

Ben Wong effectively portrays two different roles — the Hwang engaged in the events of the play and Hwang the commentator. As the former, Wong convincingly recites Hwang's passionate bursts of anger, his facial expressions illustrating the tensions the character faces throughout the play. Portraying the latter, Wong shows a clear disengagement from his character and speaks to the audience casually, assuming the role of a man commenting on the events of the past.

Hwang's relationship with Marcus serves as a central plot. Hwang hires Marcus to play the starring role in his production, "Face Value," thinking that Marcus is Asian. Hwang discovers that Marcus is really Caucasian and, worried that the public will learn Marcus' true racial identity, Hwang fires Marcus from the cast. Still assuming an Asian identity, Marcus continues his career, achieving fame on Broadway. Hwang and Marcus' tense relationship worsens. Hwang struggles to show the press Marcus' true racial identity.

Another aspect of the plot is the Asian espionage scandal of the late 1990s, which Hwang narrates using newspaper article fragments and, in one scene, an actual script from an FBI interrogation of an Asian American accused of espionage. Hwang is brought into the scandal when his father, the manager of a bank branch, is accused of espionage. Commenting on the reputation of Asian identity in American culture, this act shows Hwang's struggle to fight the government's allegations against his father.

Yellow Face effectively portrays the tensions existing between American culture and Asian racial identity that Hwang has faced. Using himself as the subject, Hwang presents a believable story of his moral and professional struggle with his Asian identity and with the racial identity of Marcus. "Do we identify as mixed race or highlight our heritage as we feel it is at our core?" Andrew Cheng asks. "Will there be a future where race doesn't matter? Is the resistance to assimilation self-imposed segregation?" *Yellow Face* does not answer these questions but rather looks to a future in which answers may be found.

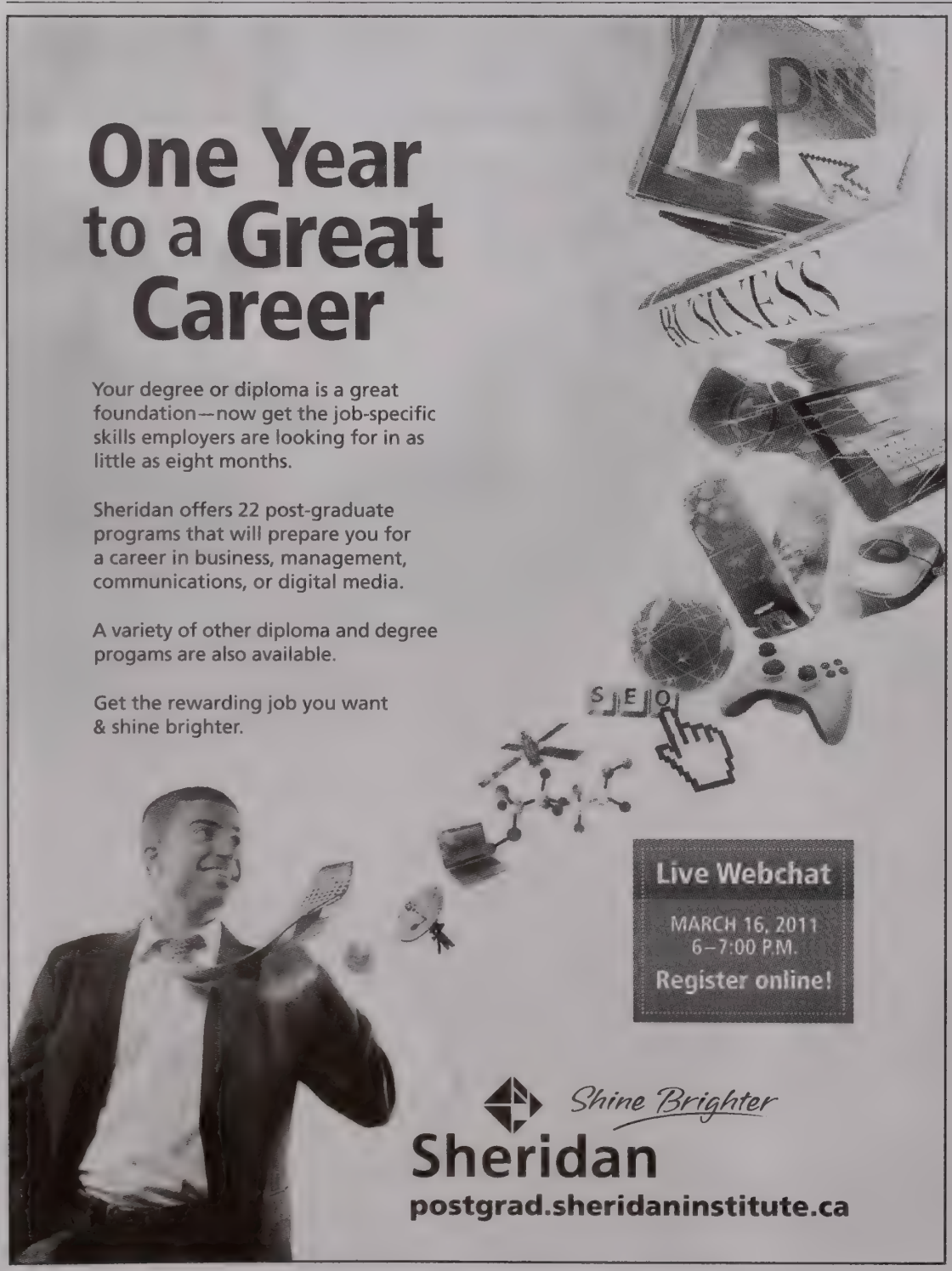
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'UTAC' – CONTINUED FROM PG 10

Andre Markovic, whose work appears beside the show's entrance, introduces the audience to another prominent theme of the show: repetition. His piece, entitled "Mantra: Breath," is a train of rocks that runs along the wall, connected by a rope that is tied to each rock. "I am interested in the repetition of a sound, word or motto with the aim of instilling a change on both a conscious and subconscious level," says Markovic. "However instead of verbal repetition, I have adopted a gestural one." As the viewer moves from one work to another, Markovic's rocks continue, lying under works by other artists. Markovic's "Mantra" accomplishes its goal of producing change through repetition.

Though only giving the audience a limited glance into the process that leads to the show's creation, Work in Process shows a close relationship between the show's themes and the content of the artists' work. With Koever's work, the audience sees an artist's struggle to communicate his intimate thoughts without establishing differences between the two parties. Contrasting this dissonance between idea and content, Markovic presents a tighter union between those two components. Matching the theme, the show's works reveal artists who are still within the bounds of the themes imposed on them by their assignment and who have not yet found their individual voices.

'POSTER' – CONTINUED FROM PG 10

It comes as no surprise that postering becomes such an important tool during election season.

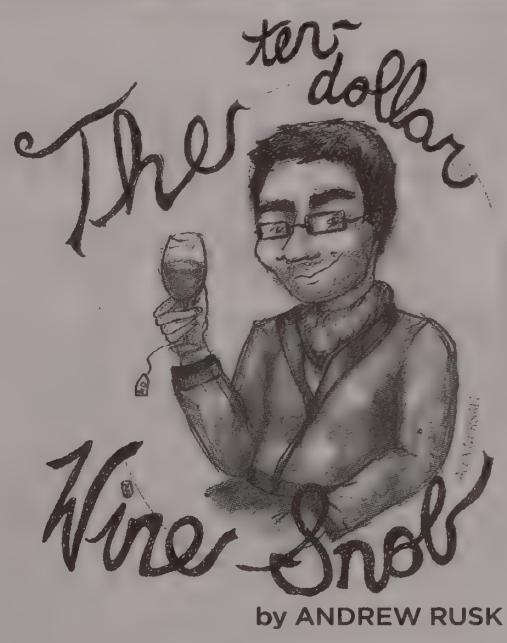
Considering the prevalence of postering during election season, a good design can mean a world of difference for an overall campaign. Let's have a look, then, at one of the posters for the Unite For Action UTSU slate — specifically, the poster for Corey Scott, running for VP Internal & Services.

The first thing one notices is the colour scheme, a basic pink and blue (with a bit of beige thrown in for good measure). Pink and blue is a powerful, time-tested colour combination, providing the friendliness of pink with the sobering effect of blue. Pink is also an eye-catching colour, and easy to spot from a distance.

This poster is clearly designed with a scale and hierarchy of information in mind. By far the most dominant elements are Scott's name and photograph; as names are what people will see on the ballot, and a candidate's visibility is essential during elections, these two bits of information are given precedence over everything else.

The poster is extremely well designed: a single font is used for the entire poster, and colours are relied on instead for emphasis; his platform's proof points align neatly to both the two T's in SCOTT and the word UNITE; the left-aligned proof points are contrasted with the right-aligned website address; and the QR code is placed in such a way that it doesn't interfere with the content.

In fact, there are very few real faults with the poster. The proof points could be moved up a bit and the reminder to recycle should have been easier to read, but for the most part it's an almost ideal elections poster. Considering that the Unite For Action slate is running almost unopposed, it might have been interesting to see how well these posters fared against a rival slate. But I guess there's always next year.



by ANDREW RUSK

Santa Carolina Shiraz
$7.95 at the LCBO

I don't generally like shiraz, but this week I think I'll be drinking a lot of it. Along with being the sixth most populous city in Iran and the capital of Fars Province, shiraz is a dark-skinned grape with an ancestry in the Rhone region of Southeastern France. The grape first came to prominence in France when it was blended to create bordeaux and made it to Australia in the 1830s, where it is also very popular.

A shiraz is a very powerful, full-bodied wine. Similar to pinot grigio, reviewed last week, the flavours can vary based on technique, climate, and soil. There will normally be hints of a berry or floral aroma, but what you're more than guaranteed to notice is the taste of black pepper. This is the kind of wine that makes you cough in the most uncouth of manners at the winery; my first memory of it is when it shocked me into repenting when I tried it in church.

People will also describe it as having an earthy or leathery taste. What does this mean? If you cannot run out to the store this moment, take an old belt and bury it the garden patch, then quickly dig it up (you wouldn't want it to be overdone), and lick it. Lick it good. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you an earthy and leathery taste. If you ever order the house red at Pauper's Pub you'll realize that your old belt might just be an upgrade.

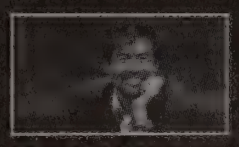
The Santa Carolina Shiraz is among the better shiraz wines you'll find. As we learned previously, South America is a fantastic source of reasonably priced wines. This specimen has light berry hints and — you guessed it — some earthy tones. Best enjoyed during an indecisive UTSU election as you're waiting for the CRO.

OBJECTIVE FACT:
Justin Bieber will fall in love with you if you send your poetry, prose, photography, visual art and short fiction to VARSITY ARTS' ARTS

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New HIV vaccine?

Nanoparticles could pave the way

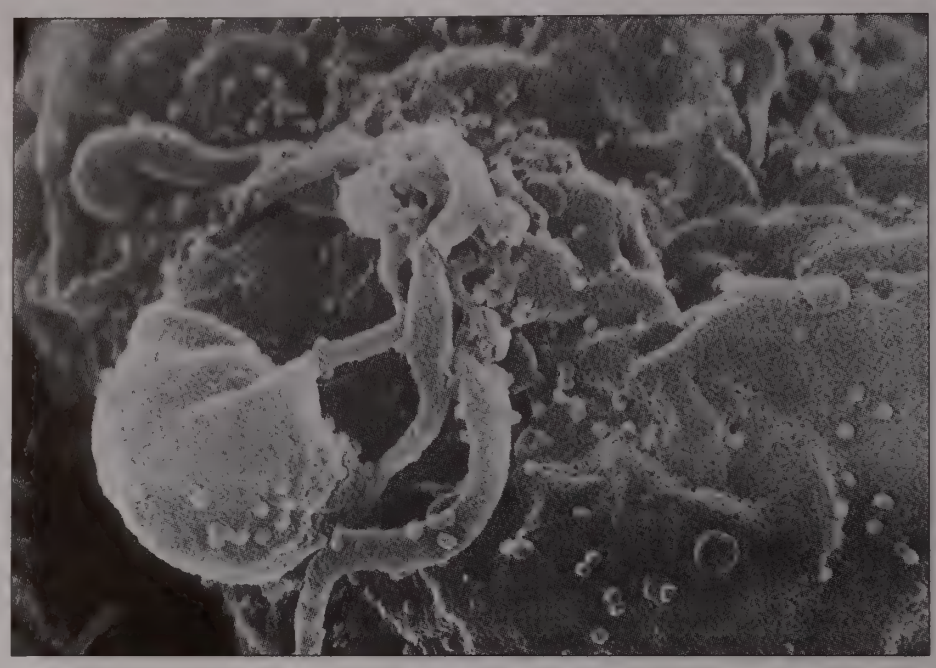
Kim Tran
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Engineers from MIT have designed a new type of vaccine that could potentially be used to prevent HIV and malaria safely and much more effectively. These new particles are described in the February 20 issue of *Nature Materials*.

The particles are formed out of concentric spheres made of fat. They carry synthetic versions of virus protein particles in their core. These nano-sized lipid-based vaccines can elicit the same strong immune response as a live virus vaccine, but are much safer due to their synthetic virus particles.

Vaccines work by priming your immune system. By exposing the immune system to an infectious agent, it can more easily recognize and destroy the same pathogen during a later encounter. Vaccines are designed to incite the production of either T cells (which destroy infected cells) or B cells (which secrete antibodies to target pathogens).

However, a vaccine for HIV — much like those for polio and smallpox — requires the activation of a subset of T cells called the killer T cells, using a weakened or disabled virus. Creating an HIV vaccine using a live virus is difficult because it is hard to render it harmless.



The HIV virus, above, can be prevented using a vaccine that triggers a strong T cell response.

Some vaccines, like the diphtheria vaccine, can use recombinant or synthetic proteins, or molecules normally made by the virus. However, this route is inadequate for HIV or Hepatitis B vaccines, because the synthetic particles don't elicit the same strong T cell response.

Recently, scientists have tried working with the idea of encasing these synthetic vaccines in liposomes, or fatty droplets, which resemble normal viruses and can help stimulate killer T cells. Normally, however, these fatty droplets are unstable in bodily fluids.

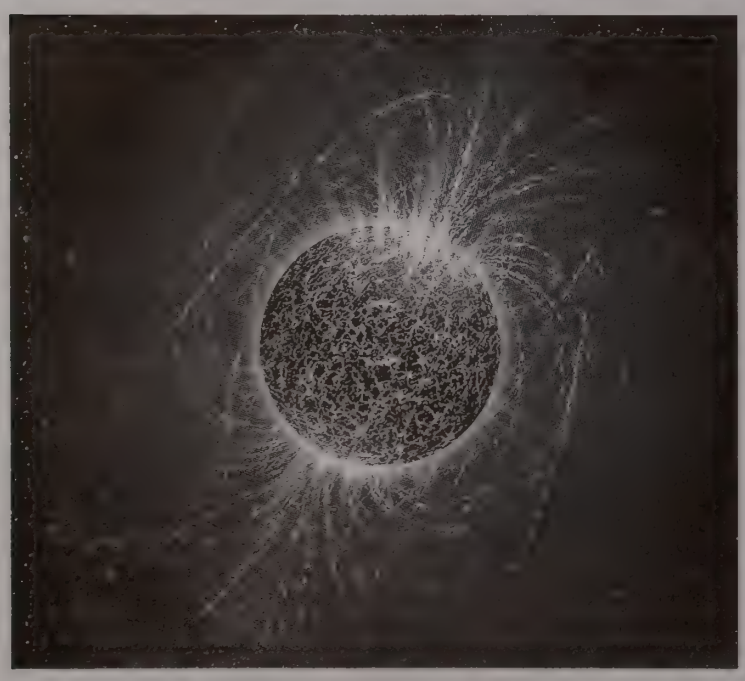
Postdoctoral fellow James Moon, associate professor Darrell Irvine, and their colleagues at the Michigan Institute of Technology have developed a more stable way to assemble liposome nanoparticles. The virus antigen particles are packaged in multiple concentric liposomal spheres. The headgroups of adjacent lipid bilayers are then crosslinked, a technique to make them more stable and less likely to break down upon injection. The lipid bilayer structure allows these nanoparticles to be absorbed by your cells. Once inside, the harmless synthetic virus particles are released in the presence of enzymes that break down fat, called endolysosomal lipases. This provokes the killer T-cell response.

Moon and his colleagues used these nanoparticles to test the T-cell response in mice, to a protein called ovalbumin. They found that, after three immunizations using low doses of the vaccine, up to 30 per cent of all killer T cells in the mice were specific to the vaccine protein.

These results are comparable to vaccines that use live viruses, but they are much safer to prepare and use. The vaccines also elicited a strong antibody response. Researchers have yet to discover whether these vaccines can elicit the same strong response in humans.

So far, these newly constructed nano-sized lipid based vaccines are making for a potential safe delivery system for vaccines against hard-to-handle viruses like HIV or hepatitis B. Irvine and his colleagues have since moved on to try and develop these vaccines to immunize people against malaria, HIV, and cancer.

Extraordinary states of matter at the core of star



Keegan Williams
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Last week, NASA scientist Dany Page, working in tandem with astronomers from all over North America discovered the first evidence for the existence of superfluids in nature. The Chandra X-ray observatory observed the remnants of a 330-year old supernova from the star Cassiopeia A, or Cas A, with important results for science.

Superfluids are an alternate state of matter with extraordinary properties: zero viscosity, zero entropy, and perfect thermal conductivity. This means that, while known superfluids may look like a liquid, they spread out on any surface they touch without restriction — including up and over walls. They do this by overcoming the forces of friction and gravity. No matter how far a superfluid spreads out, the temperature within the entire fluid remains perfectly even across the substance without energy loss.

The property of theoretical zero viscosity leading to superfluids was first hypothesised by John Allen, Don Misener, and Pyotr Kapitsa in 1937. However, only the direct observations of this state of matter earned a Nobel Prize for L.D. Landau in 1962. On Earth, superfluids never occur in nature and can only be produced artificially under extreme conditions, with laboratory temperatures reaching near absolute zero, or -273.15 degrees celcius.

Canadian astronomer Craig Heinke at the University of Alberta, and British astronomer Wynn Ho, found that the neutron star resulting from the supernova Cas A is experiencing a rapid decline in temperature. A neutron star, often the final outcome of such supernovas, is a ball of hyper-dense matter. It is formed from neutrons being compacted as closely as possible, and is so dense that just a teaspoon of it would weigh more than a billion tons. In this extremely dense, heavy star, scientists could not account for the rapid decline in temperature using a normal explanation.

Instead, on February 25, Page and colleagues proposed in *Physical Review Letters* that this decline is best understood by the formation of a neutron superfluid at the very core of the star. This is possible because the intense pressure and gravity at the heart of the super-dense neutron star raises the critical point of this state of matter from absolute zero to nearly one billion degrees.

Cas A offers a rare chance for scientists to observe not only the natural occurrence of superfluids, but a new type of superfluid. Since Cas A is so young, it may help identify the formation of these unique stellar objects and some of their properties. Specifically, astronomers suspect that there is a relationship between this superfluid core, "glitches" (sudden increases in rotation speed), pulsation, energy outbursts, and neutron stars' magnetic fields.

SCIENCE IN BRIEF

Emotion may regulate ethical behaviour

A study at UTSC has found that people behave more ethically than predicted when they are faced with a moral dilemma, thanks to their emotions.

The experiment consisted of participants divided into three groups. Experimenters had one group complete a math test. Another group received the same test, but also had the opportunity to cheat. The last group was simply asked if they thought they would cheat on the questions if given the chance.

The results showed that members of the third group claimed they would cheat more often than test-takers with the actual option to cheat. The study attributed this ethical behaviour to heightened emotions, indicated by factors such as sweaty palms and increased heart rate. Researchers observed these physical signs in the test-taking group with the moral decision to make.

While emotions led to more ethical actions in the test-taking situation, the lead author comments that emotions can also produce the opposite result — less moral behavior — depending on the situation.

— KIMBERLY SHEK
Source: Association for Psychological Science

The perils of a fake smile

A new study by Michigan State University business professor Brent Scott and graduate student Christopher Barnes, has uncovered the dangers of a fake smile. They found that employees who had to fake smile throughout their work day — which is often the case for customer service employees — also had worsened moods. This caused them to withdraw from their work, resulting in reduced productivity and emotional exhaustion.

The results were reversed for those who smiled authentically. Those who thought positive thoughts about the situation or who recalled pleasant memories were able to improve their mood and withdraw less.

The study is published in the February 2011 issue of the *Academy of Management Journal*, and examined a group of bus drivers for two weeks. The researchers examined the effects of "surface acting" — such as fake smiling — versus "deep acting," which cultivated positive emotions to induce a more authentic smile.

The results and the effects of deep acting were stronger in women, although they did not explain reasons why this might be the case. They did, however, find a caveat: while deep acting improved workers moods, it was only short-term, and led to feelings of being inauthentic in the long term.

— KIM TRAN
Source: Michigan State University

HEADLINES ON TRIAL
The diluted truth

Homeopathy: hallelujah or humbug? **ED PARKER** weighs the evidence in part two of a multi-part series.

We live in a society that embraces things for being "alternative." And that's fantastic. If that wasn't the case, *American Idol* would be the only show on TV, and Radiohead's new album (or the seven before it) would hardly be the talk of the town. In other words, the world would be a far less interesting place.

But the alternative route becomes a problem when an idea gains merit simply for being unorthodox — when going against the status quo is sufficient to garner credibility. The field of homeopathy has been riding this wave for more than 200 years.

In the popular understanding, homeopathy is readily lumped in with all things alternative and "natural." Yet, rather than being a hazy branch of complementary medicine, it is actually a field with a unique history and a wealth of literature to boot. Its skeptics are fierce, and its proponents still fiercer. Welcome to Homeopathy 101.

When the 18th century drew to a close, the German physician Samuel Hahnemann came up with a rather outlandish notion: that the best way to treat a disease was to use a substance that induces its symptoms in a healthy individual. Considering that his peers were busy bloodletting and prescribing leech therapy, this idea may not have seemed too far from the norm.

The theory was inspired by Hahnemann's reaction to cinchona bark, a common treatment for malaria at the time. Since ingesting cinchona made him feel "languid and drowsy," symptoms which he felt were similar to those of malaria, Hahnemann concluded that this property must be essential to its medicinal effects. Thus, the field of homeopathy was born.

But there was a problem here. People were probably not too fond of taking medicines which had been specifically chosen to induce the symptoms they were already suffering from. To get around this inconvenient hurdle, Hahnemann added a further innovation to his recipe.



He decided that the more you dilute a substance, the more you can "potentize" its healing abilities.

Any old dilution wouldn't do the trick. In order to be effective, this procedure had to be carried out by administering ten hard strikes against an elastic object (a process referred to as "succussion"). Only then would you be able to activate the "spirit-like essence" of the substance being diluted.

What's more, it's remarkable how much diluting it takes to release the genie in the homeopathic bottle. We're not talking about a splash of water in our whisky here. Homeopaths measure dilution on a centesimal (or C) scale, which involves diluting a substance by one part in 100 at every step. Given that your typical homeopathic treatment comes at a dilution of 30C, that equates to a dilution factor of 1060.

To put this in perspective, skeptics have noted that a dilution of 12C is the equivalent of adding a pinch of salt to the Atlantic Ocean. Quite some splash of water.

It's convenient, then, that central to the current homeopathic philosophy is the idea that the elaborate process of succussion leaves an imprint of the diluted substance on water, or a "water memory." The fact that this notion is widely refuted by physicists, chemists, and common sense alike is apparently of little concern to the homeopath.

Today, the concepts of "like curing like," potentization, and extreme dilution persist largely unchanged within the homeopathy industry. In fact, they form the basis of a huge number of "remedies" in the homeopathic arsenal.

Whether or not you find these ideas credible is a matter of individual judgment. Personally, I like to have at least 12 molecules of active ingredient in any medicine I take. But that's me. The seeming impossibility of the method should not be the sole reason for dismissing homeopathy. After all, there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy.

What really matters is the clinical evidence for homeopathy. Specifically, how does it measure up under the inspection of a controlled clinical trial?

When it comes to this pivotal question, there is a huge amount of evidence out there — enough to give ammunition to both sides of the debate. Even for the hardened observer, the prospect of trying to unravel the key message from this tangled web of data can be rather daunting.

To help resolve this issue, it's time to introduce another key concept of clinical science: the meta-analysis. Don't be put off by the scary terminology. A meta-analysis essentially involves combining all the data from multiple, small trials into a single coherent analysis, then seeing which way the weight of evidence leans. It's a pretty logical concept, and it might not be too unfamiliar. Rotten Tomatoes has been doing exactly the same thing for film reviews for years.

Crucially, a meta-analysis can reveal a significant clinical effect for a particular intervention when each individual trial had failed to recognize it. Alternatively, this method can dispel the apparent virtues of a treatment when some of the smaller trials might suggest otherwise. This makes it the perfect tool for examining the clinical evidence on homeopathy.

So what do the meta-analyses (and there have been several) have to say on the matter?

Perhaps the most comprehensive of these studies, examining 110 independent trials on homeopathy, was published by Professor Matthias Egger in *The Lancet* in 2005. In each trial, the therapeutic effect of a homeopathic treatment was measured (basically, did the intervention do anything?). But perhaps more importantly, the quality of each study was scrutinized. For instance, how big was it? Was it randomized? And was it blinded? All important stuff, which can drastically influence the outcome of a clinical investigation.

Here's what it boiled down to (cue drum roll): while small, low quality trials often reveal a therapeutic effect for homeopathy, the better the study, the smaller this effect tends to be. And if you look exclusively at the largest, most scrupulous trials, homeopathy performs no better than placebo.

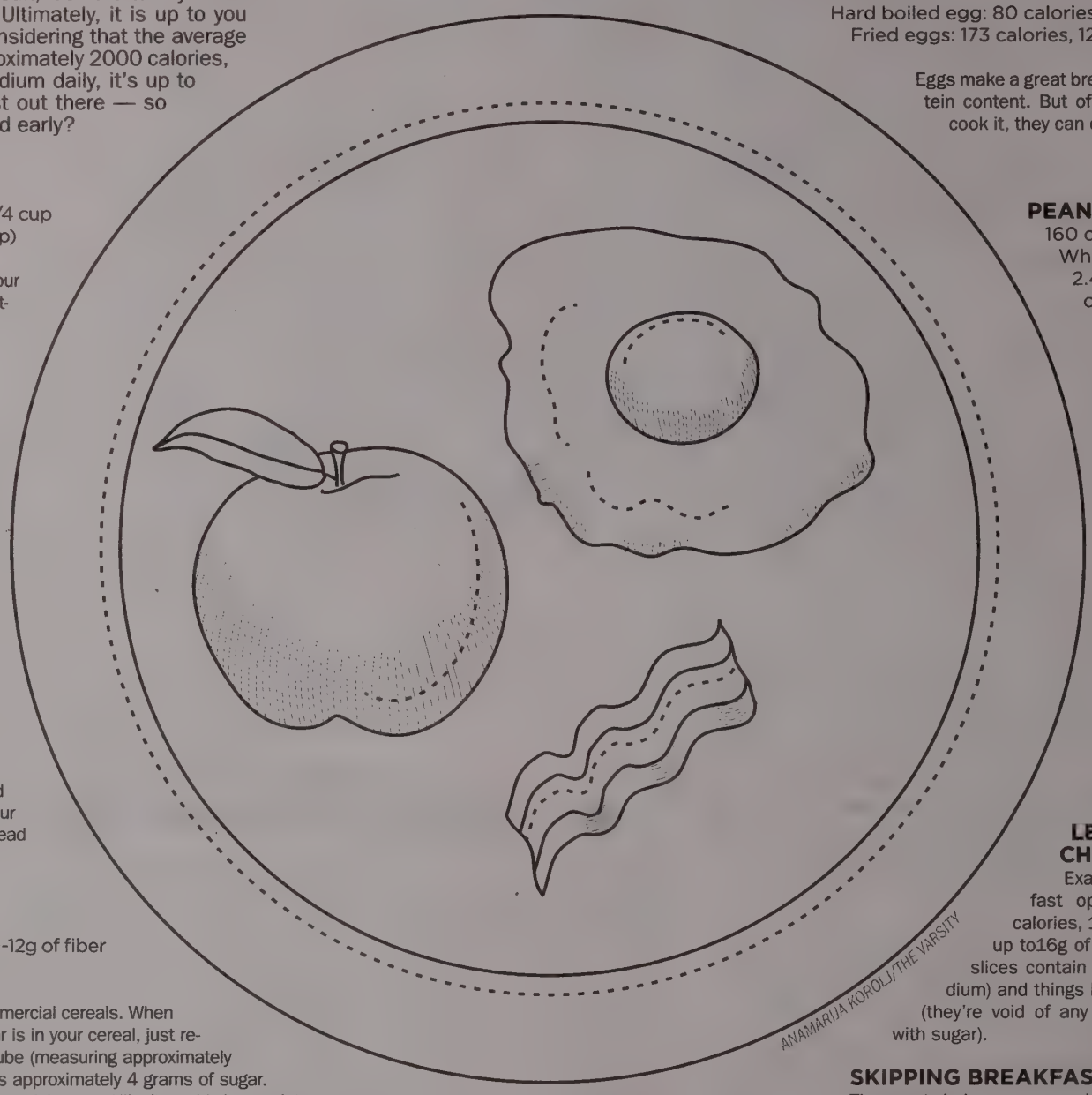
When it comes to issues of public health, we deserve the undiluted truth. If a remedy does not contain a single molecule of active ingredient, and cannot weather the scrutiny of a controlled clinical trial, it probably shouldn't form the basis of a multi-billion dollar global industry.

Conventional medicine is far from flawless. It is built, however, on a system of constant re-evaluation, in which obsolete and ineffective practices are cast aside. Somehow, homeopathy has escaped the scrapheap.

The healthiest breakfast

In part two of a multi-part series, Varsity food legend **MARY SCOURBOUTAKOS** *explains the best bang for your breakfast buck.*

When it comes to breakfast foods, there are many great healthy choices. As a result, it's hard to say which choice is the absolute best. Ultimately, it is up to you to choose what suits you. Considering that the average person should consume approximately 2000 calories, and less than 2300mg of sodium daily, it's up to you to find the best breakfast out there — so why not get started, bright and early?



ANAMARIJA KOROLI/THE VARSITY

OATMEAL

100 calories, 2.6g of fiber per 3/4 cup with 1% milk (110 calories per cup)

You're probably not worried about your blood cholesterol levels yet, but oatmeal is renowned for its cholesterol-lowering effects. But that's not its only benefits. Since oatmeal is high in fiber, it will keep you full for hours — trust me.

Though steel-cut oats are better than large-flake oats, the latter holds the advantage of being quickly cooked in the microwave. If you're not a fan of oatmeal's texture, keep in mind that the length of time and amount of water you add will determine the consistency. If you prefer your oatmeal thicker, opt for less water and a longer cooking time. On the other hand, if you prefer it more "soupy," try adding more water, and cook it for less time.

Oatmeal can be made even more nutritious by adding fruit, seeds, and cinnamon. If you need to sweeten your oatmeal, try coconut shavings instead of sugar.

COMMERCIAL CEREAL

92-245 calories, 1-17g of sugar, 0-12g of fiber per half cup

Sugar is the main problem with commercial cereals. When it comes to gauging how much sugar is in your cereal, just remember that one standard sugar cube (measuring approximately one centimeter by one centimeter) is approximately 4 grams of sugar. Though eating a large amount of sugar might sound like it would give you lots of energy, the mid-morning crash that ensues can be avoided by choosing cereals with more fiber and protein.

EGGS

Hard boiled egg: 80 calories, 6g protein, 5g fat
Fried eggs: 173 calories, 12g protein, 14g fat

Eggs make a great breakfast because of their high protein content. But of course, depending on how you cook it, they can contain quite a range of calories.

PEANUT BUTTER

160 calories per 2 tablespoons on Whole-Wheat Toast (86 calories 2.4g of fiber) or a Bagel (195 calories)

Peanut butter or alternative nut butters are by far the best thing you can spread on your bread. Though butter, cream cheese, and peanut butter may contain comparable amounts of calories and fat, the crucial difference lies in the type of fat. Both butter and cream cheese contain saturated fat — and the latter can contain trans fats too. Peanut butter, on the other hand, contains healthy unsaturated fats and lots of protein to keep you full. When it comes to your choice of bread, always opt for a whole grain choice.

LESS DESIRABLE CHOICES

Examples of less desirable breakfast options include croissants (231 calories, 12g of fat), muffins (350 calories, up to16g of sugar and 22g of fat), bacon (3 slices contain 130 calories and 554mg of sodium) and things like frozen waffles and pancakes (they're void of any nutritional benefits and loaded with sugar).

SKIPPING BREAKFAST

The worst choice you can make is to skip breakfast. At the very least, grab a fruit before starting your day.

CORY DOCTOROW AT U OF T



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

On March 5, Cory Doctorow, technology activist and best-selling Canadian author of books like *Little Brother* and *For the Win* spoke at U of T's Boundaries, Frontiers & Gatekeepers Conference. He gave a talk called, "A Little Bit Pregnant: Why it's a Bad Idea to Regulate Computers the Way We Regulate Radios, Guns, Uranium and Other Special-Purpose Tools." Doctorow discussed ways in which companies have tried to regulate general purpose computers, and how they could be turned into computers "designed to betray us." Look forward to a more detailed report on Doctorow's talk in an upcoming issue of The Varsity.

THE VARSITY
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Varsity Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: 21 Sussex Avenue, 2nd Floor

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

For more Info: thevarsity.ca/BoD



A year in review

Captain of men's hockey team credits slumping season to rebuild

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Varsity Blues men's hockey team finished their season on February 19 in game 3 of the OUA East quarter-finals against the Carleton Ravens.

The Ravens won the best-of-three series 2–1 to advance to the OUA East semi-final round.

According to captain, Andrew Kizito, the team "came into the playoffs as the underdog with few people around the league expecting [them] to win."

Having lost key veterans, Joe Rand, Eddie Snetsinger, and Brendan Sherrard last season, the Blues faced the difficult task of rebuilding a winning squad.

"When a team loses star caliber veterans, it's always going to have an impact on the next season. Players of that quality are always difficult to replace," said Kizito.

Faced with a tough task, the team got off to a slow start and didn't earn their first regular season win until the end of October.

Kizito credited the slump to the team's inability to keep composure during clutch moments of a game.

"This season we struggled to play a complete 60 minute effort night in and night out," he said.



Varsity Blue Kyle Ventura, as he tries to edge out an opponent from Nipissing University. *HAI BAO/VARSITY BLUES*

The remainder of the season fared better for the squad, who figured out their team identity going into the second half following Christmas break.

In an exhibition game played over the holidays, the team beat the St. Mary's University Huskies, the defending national champions, in a shootout.

"This victory provided a young team with a great deal of confidence as it proved that they could play with and beat anyone," said Kizito.

Kizito thinks that it was a successful rebuilding as the team was able to make the playoffs.

"The good thing is that we showed improvement over time. No matter how bad or good a team is at the start of a season, the key to judging the success of a season rests upon whether or not the team improves or not.

"We made progress in the right direction, which I believe will carry into the next season," he said.

Kizito is looking forward to getting back on the ice as he feels that the future is bright.

"This upcoming season I expect to see a maturing nucleus that has learned from this [rebuilding] experience. I expect to see a team that plays every game like it's their last."

BY THE NUMBERS

MURAD HEMMADI takes a look at some of the EPL's most famous figures

0 The number of points gained by a team for a loss in the league. Also the number of times that Arsenal lost in the league during the 2003–2004 season, making it the only team in EPL history to go an entire season unbeaten.

7 The number of substitutes that a team can name. Three players per team per game can be substituted, or swapped out with players on the field.

1 The number of points gained by each team for a draw in the league. Also the number traditionally worn by the first-choice goalkeeper of a team.

9 The number traditionally worn by the key striker of a team. Also the most goals scored by a team in a single match, first by Manchester United at home to Ipswich Town in 1995. Andy Cole scored five goals in that game, a joint-record for the most goals scored by a player in a single game. Tottenham replicated the tally against Wigan in 2009.

20 The number of football clubs in the English football league system. There are 20 clubs in the EPL, the top division of English football. The Championship, the second division, has 24 clubs. The confusingly named League 1 and League 2, the third and fourth divisions of English football, also each contain 24 clubs.

£10,000 The amount, in pounds, earned per week before performance bonuses and taxes by the highest-paid players of Blackpool. This is the lowest highest-paid salary of any team in the EPL.

2 The number of yellow cards or cautions that leads to a player being sent off or forced to leave the field of play for the remainder of the game.

11 The number of players on each team in a football match. 'First eleven' refers to the players that start a match. Also the lowest number of points ever gained by a club in a single EPL season. Derby County accumulated only 11 points in the 2007–2008 EPL season.

103 The number of goals scored in the 2009–2010 season by Chelsea, the most by any club in a single season in the EPL. That 103 includes seven against Stoke City in one game and eight against Wigan Atheletic in another.

£150,000 The amount estimated to be earned per week by Chelsea's John Terry as base salary before performance bonuses or taxes. That figure put Terry at the top of the EPL wage list for the 2009–2010 season.

3 The number of points gained by a team for a win in the league. Also the number of goals a player must score for a hat-trick. A perfect hat-trick includes a goal with each foot and a headed goal. Also the number of clubs that are relegated or demoted from the EPL to the division below (the Championship) to be replaced by three clubs being promoted from the division below.

18 The number of times Liverpool and Manchester United, the two most successful teams in English football in terms of league titles, have each won. Eleven of Manchester United's title wins have come since the creation of the English Premier League.

260 The number of goals scored by Alan Shearer, the EPL's all-time top scorer. Shearer scored those goals for Blackburn Rover and Newcastle United. Shearer also shares the record for most goals in a single EPL season with Andy Cole at 34.

75,957 The number of fans that the largest EPL stadium, Manchester United's Old Trafford, can seat. The smallest current EPL stadium is Blackpool's Bloomfield Road at 16,220.

The amount, in pounds, that is the largest transfer fee ever paid by an EPL club to acquire a player. The club in question was Chelsea, the player Fernando Torres.

£50,000,000

The number of different clubs that have won the English Premier League since its creation from the former First Division in 1992. Those four clubs are Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal, and Blackburn. Also the number of positions available to EPL clubs to qualify for the Champions League, a competition for clubs across Europe.

60 The estimated percentage of players employed by EPL clubs that are not English.

573 The number of appearances made in the EPL by goalkeeper David James, the most by any player. James made those appearances for Liverpool, Aston Villa, West Ham United, Manchester City, and Portsmouth. However, Ryan Giggs of Manchester United is only a few appearances behind, and unlike James, still plays for an EPL club.

£80,000,000 The amount, in pounds, that is the largest transfer fee ever received by an EPL club for a player. In this case the club was Manchester United, the player Cristiano Ronaldo and the club that paid was Real Madrid of Spain.

Spotlight on: THE VARSITY BLUES WATER POLO TEAM



Varsity Blues 2010 OUA all-star Nicole Brown (left) and 2010 OUA championship MVP Alan Chung (right) in action. *JING-LING KAO-BESERVE/VARISTY BLUES*

Varsity Blues water polo dominated the OUA Championships this year, with the men's team placing first and the women's team placing second.

The men's team excelled during the OUA Championship weekend, winning its first game 19–2 over the York Lions, and then beating the Queen's Gaels 23–0. In the semi-finals the team defeated the McMaster Marauders 15–5 before going on to beat the Western Mustangs 17–11 in the final.

The men's team has been consistently undefeated in the OUA, securing its 2009 OUA title after a perfect 12–0 season. This year's title is the team's sixth in seven years. Alan Chung, a U of T forward, was named this year's Tournament MVP and both Alan Chung and Luke Spooner were named Tournament All-Stars.

The women's team also had a successful 2010 championship, winning their first game 15–4 against Queen's, and then beating the York Lions by default. The team then beat the Carleton Ravens 9–7 and followed up with a 9–2 win over the McMaster. In the finals U of T met Carleton again, but this time the scoreboard was reversed as the Ravens took the title with their 9–7 victory.

"We really came together as a team for the weekend," says driver Stephanie LeSaux-Farmer. "Coming into the final we were undefeated in the tournament. We have a lot of talent and experience on our team in terms of field players, but our one weakness is our lack of an experienced goalie [...] Nevertheless I am very proud of the way our team played at OUA finals and I am very optimistic for next season."

Head Coach George Gross says that his goals for next season include "recruiting players to fill holes in line-ups [and improving] attendance for all players and goalies for both teams."

Both the men's and women's team train in the pool five days a week, and weight train once a week. Practices include on-land stretching, swim drills, and passing exercises. Although the OUA season only lasts from September to the end of November, the teams practice all year long, constantly improving on their game as a team.

Team dynamic is extremely important in water polo.

"In water polo it's almost impossible to get any kind of crazy advantage one-on-one. You create opportunities for the other person by using your team. It's almost impossible to get an edge on your own, unless it's against a much weaker team," says centre Julian Filice.

Spooner also emphasizes the importance of team-play.

"You need to be a team player. You need to be unselfish because you need to be skilled — you need to have the mental game, but you also need to be able to take a step back and use your teammates and let them score too. If you're not a team player in this game it's hard to succeed individually. You have to be a team player [...] to sacrifice your personal glory for the team. That makes the different between good players and great players," says Spooner.

There are six players and one goalie on each side, although 15 athletes can be dressed during a game. Protective headgear made of cloth with covers for the ear drums is worn to protect them from popping. Although ear drum popping can be avoided thanks to the headgear, many injuries are common because water polo is a very aggressive game.

"I find that coming from other sports where the rules are pretty well defined, that water polo, just the fact that you're in the pool. There's a set of rules and there's how the game is actually played," says Filice.

And like any team, water polo relies heavily on the coaching staff.

"George [Gross] is the head honcho of the team," says forward Paulo Ruiz. "Then there's Vlad [Tasevski] and Jamie [Earle]. They're great coaches. They're all hard to impress."

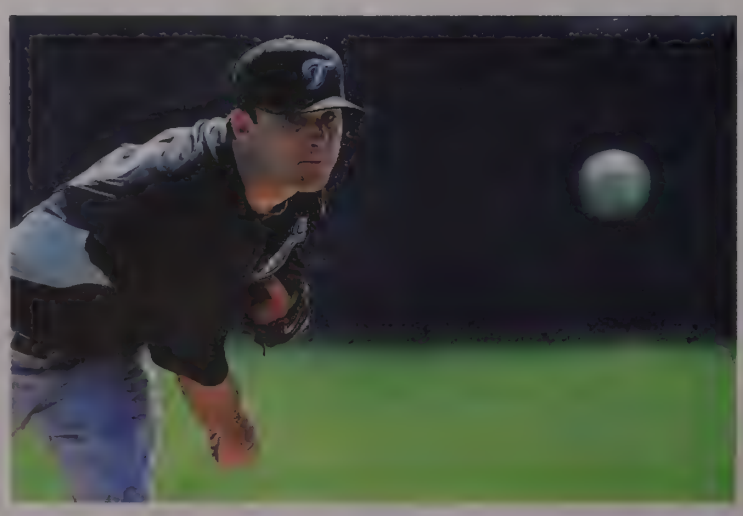
"They're there for you inside and outside the pool," adds Spooner. "These coaches really care about water polo and they also care that the team develops into more than just water polo players."

A good sport

Summer around the corner

What's in store for the Jays in 2011 and beyond?

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR



Pitcher Brandon Morrow at spring training in Florida. *MLB.CA*

Toronto's Major League Baseball team is coming off a good 2010, but there are several looming questions that will affect their success in 2011 and beyond.

Spring training has actually been going on for over two weeks and the first regular season game is less than a month away.

The Toronto Blue Jays are starting a new era, a post-Cito Gaston era. Boston Red Sox pitching coach John Farrell is leading the Jays now, and he promises to bring a new approach to a team whose fans were often both baffled and frustrated by Gaston's fidelity to widely rejected old-school assumptions about how to run a baseball team.

The club finds itself coming off a remarkable 2010 season. It exceeded all expectations to post 85 wins (some thought they would win as few as 65) and important pieces of their future took huge leaps forward. It's possible that the Jays could take a step back in 2011 in terms of wins and losses, yet still make progress towards the medium-term goal of a World Series championship.

Here are three big questions that will shape not only the Jays' 2011, but the next five years or so.

1) Can the pitching keep it up? The Jays' young pitchers made huge strides forward last year. Brandon Morrow, Ricky Romero, and Brett Cecil all emerged as potentially elite starters. The Jays also have a plethora of less-talented but still serviceable starters, including Jesse Litsch and Marc Rzepczynski. Most importantly, two studs in the minors — Kyle Drabek and Zach Stewart — could both see Major League time this year (in fact, Drabek is highly likely to be one of the team's starters to begin the year). But the Jays' pitching has been almost too good to be true. Young pitchers often suffer injuries and on-field setbacks. Can the Jays' core keep it together? All signs point to yes, but you can never have too much pitching.

2) Can Adam Lind transition to first base? Lind has always been an awkward-looking defensive player and extremely young to be a full-time Designated Hitter (a role usually reserved for older, beat-up veterans). For lack of an impact first baseman in the system, the Jays have opted to try him out full-time at first base and see what he can do. He has shown the potential to be an elite hitter (despite a dreadful 2010) but his viability as a useful asset to the Jays mostly hinges on whether or not he can play passable defence.

3) How will the club fare post-Vernon Wells? The face of the Jays franchise was traded to Anaheim to shed a tortuous contract. Finding a team to trade for Wells was nothing short of a miracle and a great move for the organization. But the hot and cold All-Star has been a fixture of the Jays clubhouse for nearly a decade, and a new generation of leaders will need to replace him. If the very young Travis Snider can have the breakout offensive year most believe he is capable of, that will go a long way to replace the solid offensive season Wells had last year that he won't be contributing to the Jays anymore.

Faculty of Physical Education & Health

COUNCIL OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Make Your Voice Heard!!!

Nominations **Open Wednesday March 09, 2011 at 9:00AM**
Nominations **Close Wednesday, March 23 2011 at 5:00PM**
for the following positions on the Council of Athletics and Recreation:

- 12 Student Representatives (St. George Campus)
- 1 Administrative Staff Representative
- 1 Academic Staff Representative
- 1 Alumnae/i Representative
- 4 FPEH Staff Representatives

All positions are for a term of 2 years: **May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2013.**

The Council is responsible for overall Athletics and Recreation policy including¬: allocation of funds to Co-Curricular areas; staffing policy; rental and fees policy.

Nomination forms are available in: **the Athletic Centre Main Office; Suite 1040** or the **Co-Curricular department Suite 1064,**
Nomination papers must be filed at one of these offices.
Nominations received elsewhere or after that time will be invalid.

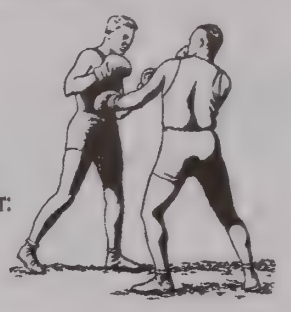
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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

GOVERNING COUNCIL ELECTIONS - GRADUATE CANDIDATES' DEBATE

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DATE AND TIME: 4PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2011
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REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.



TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES AHEAD OF THE DEBATE, PLEASE CONTACT:
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EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

DISCUSSIONS:

International Women's Day: Student Dialogue

2011 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. Join Oxfam U of T for a student dialogue both for and by students. Join prominent U of T student leaders in a collective discussion on Women in Politics, Global Solidarity, Women in Science and Engineering, and Gender, Space and Accessibility.

- *March 9 at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.*
- *OISE, Room 5280-66 (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *Free!*

FILMS:

The Final Inch

The Rotaract Club of U of T will be hosting a screening of the Polio documentary *The Final Inch*. The film focuses on the efforts to eradicate Polio. All the proceeds from admission will go to the campaign to End Polio Now. The film is 38 minutes long.

- *March 9 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House, South Dining Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$5*

FOOD:

Africa Week: Taste of Africa

Come experience African culture via food. They will have food from all the different regions in Africa. Some of the food includes jollof rice, Somali rice, fried rice, fried plantains, kebabs, suya, injera, and more! The price is right as well, with each dish at $3 and a plate of 3 three dishes at $5.

- *March 8 at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*
- *Wilson Hall, New College (40 Wilcocks St.)*
- *$3-$5*

LECTURES:

Breaking Silence: Learning to Live with Anxiety and Depression

Kendra Fisher speaks about reclaiming her life and hockey career after a 10-year struggle with severe anxiety and panic attacks that cost her the role of Team Canada goalie. Join Kendra as she reveals how she found balance through physical activity, nutrition, yoga and counselling.

- *March 9 at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.*
- *Hart House, East Common Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free (register at healthandwellness.utoronto.ca/BreakingSilence2011.htm)*

SHOWS:

The Vagina Monologues

The Centre for Women's Studies in Education and 360 Productions are proud to present "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler. This multiple-award winning play by Eve Ensler is given a fresh new twist by Loretta Chen, PhD. Boasting a stellar cast of 33 diverse, talented, and dynamic women, The Vagina Monologues is a powerful collection of anecdotes celebrating all things feminine.

- *March 8 at 7 p.m.*
- *OISE Auditorium (252 Bloor St. West)*
- *$15*

OFF CAMPUS:

FESTIVALS:

Canadian Music Week

Canadian Music Week is an annual event dedicated to the expression and growth of the country's music, media and entertainment industries. The festival includes conferences, award shows and the country's largest new music festival, Canadian Music Fest. There is a ton of stuff to do in all sorts of places, so check the web!

- *March 9 to March 13*
- *Various locations*
- *Various prices (check canadianmusicfest.com)*

FILMS:

Elle Veut le Chaos

As a part of TIFF Cinematheque's New Auteurs series, this movie by filmmaker Denis Coté is being screened. A rural Quebecois gothic filmed in high-contrast black and white, the film finds a loner protagonist surrounded by a small, vicious circle of down-and-out characters.

- *March 7 at 6:30 p.m.*
- *TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King St. West)*
- *$9.50*

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THE VARSITY

Vol. CXXXI, No. 24 University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880 rch, 2011

DANCE OR DIE

Our minute-by-minute report of Canadian Music Week including Little Girls, Shad, and more p12



Staff at St. Mike's moves to unionize p3

You won't *Hate* this interview p14

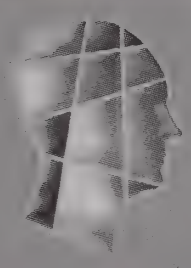
Vaccination hysteria: fact and fiction p18

UTSC gets ready to show some skin p21

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VICTORIA COLLEGE

College considers new mandatory fees for commuters

Commuter Experience Package would charge for meals and extra programming

Betina Alonso
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Victoria College is currently considering the adoption of a mandatory Commuter Experience Package. The program would charge commuter students a mandatory $120 fee, which would supply seven meals at Burwash and an eight per cent discount at the college cafe, Wymilwood. The program would also fund the commuter lounge, commuter dons, and academic programming in the Dean's office. Residence student fees would stay the same.

The program is designed to alleviate the financial issues of the dining hall, revise the structure of the college's food services, and make Burwash Hall a communal space for residence and commuter students alike.

Roughly 50 per cent of the fee charged to commuters would be directed towards services for commuters, while the rest would go towards the meals offered by the package. However, according to VUSAC President Akash Goel, there is yet to be a detailed, fixed-cost breakdown.

"We have been given various vague numbers," said Goel. "The question is, commuters don't see it that they'll be using the meals, but they are definitely interested in the other services. So why could we not remove the meals, so we could significantly reduce the fee? It isn't very clear."

A six-person parity committee has been formed to discuss the commuter package and ensure that students are consulted in the process. It is comprised of faculty member David Crook; the Dean of Students Kelley Castle; the bursar Ray de Souza; and student representatives Julia Culpeper, Leo Josephy (both from the Board of Regents), and Akash Goel. Decisions in the committee will be made by the chair, lawyer John Fields.

"VUSAC doesn't have a stance in the actual decision," claims Goel. "As student representatives in the committee, our decisions will be based on our consultation of students.

"Students would like to see an actual breakdown of the costs: certain aspects of the package are positive, but students might need to be consulted on other certain things."

At a caucus meeting on February 17, some students expressed discontent at the lack of consultation with commuters, considering their role in financing the package. A town hall meeting was held on March 9 to address these concerns about transparency, and counted with the presence of Castle, Goel, and VUSAC commuter commissioner Rob Rubbini, who were available to answer questions from concerned students.

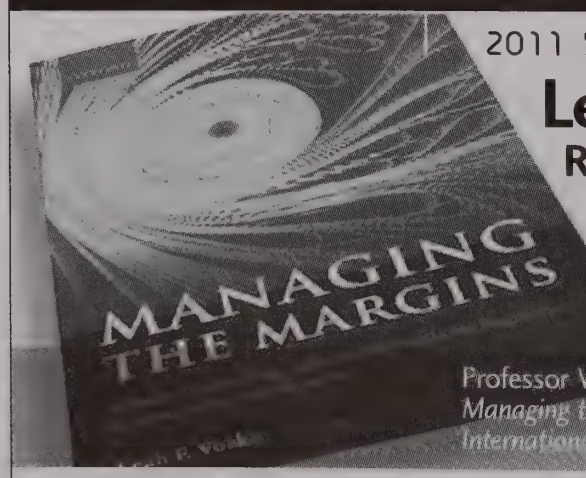
"Forcing students to pay [money] that they don't want to pay is not the right way to encourage involvement," said commuter student Ruta Rudminaite. "I hang around Vic a lot, and my inability to go to Burwash has never prevented me from getting involved."

Saman Rejali, a residence student and president of the Victoria Political Science Association, accused the dean's office of ignoring consultation with commuter students in implementing the proposal. "Most don't come around Vic [...] because most of their classes are on the other side of campus. They commute not because they like the pain of commuting, but because they can't afford residence. They wouldn't want to pay more to the college; they want to come to class, do their work, and go home."



JUDITH BUTLER SPEAKS AT IAW

On Wednesday night Judith Butler spoke at the Bahen Centre as part of Israeli Apartheid Week. Filling both a main lecture hall and overflow room, attendees filled the lobby as members of the Jewish Defense League of Canada protested outside.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

USMC staff vote to unionize

Group seeks certification after college freezes non-unionized salaries

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



USMC voted to unionize after a wage freeze recommended by provincial legislation in March 2010.

A group of about 20 faculty and library workers at the University of St. Michael's College voted to unionize and are awaiting ratification this week.

Although the vast majority of USMC staff are unionized, the group of 20 is an exception due to technicalities in the college's arrangements with U of T. Michael Attridge, assistant professor in the Faculty of Theology, said the group didn't feel a need to unionize until the university chose to apply separate standards for the first time.

In May 1974, St. Michael's, Trinity, and Victoria College — formally titled as universities — were partially incorporated as federated colleges within the Faculty of Arts and Science through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The memorandum comprised most college staff, but excluded St. Michael's librarians and archivists, and its Faculty of Theology, which had been incorporated separately into the Toronto School of Theology in April 1970. As a result, about 20 staff were paid not by U of T, but by USMC.

The college respected an informal good faith agreement, whereby these non-unionized staff would receive the same salaries and compensation as agreed by the unionized staff.

In 2005 the provincial University of St. Michael's College Act changed the college's governing structure from an internal board, composed of collegium (e.g. division heads and faculty), to the more common model of an external board, consisting of lawyers and business professionals.

"There are lots of benefits to that. That's the way a university in the twenty-first century works," said Attridge. "But they didn't know librarians and theology faculty personally; that minimized our voice."

Attridge said this lack of a voice became apparent last November.

In March 2010, provincial legislation known as the Restraint Act proposed a two-year freeze in compensation for all non-unionized public service workers. While the 20 staff had an informal bargaining agreement with UTFA, the association didn't represent them as a recognized trade union under the Labour Relations Act.

An arbitration agreement between the U of T Faculty Association and university administration came out last November, in which a 2.25 per cent across-the-board salary increase was negotiated.

Instead of following its two-decade course of action by granting the same increases as negotiated by the UTFA, Attridge says that USMC told staff four weeks later that they chose to follow the Restraint Act, thus implementing a pay freeze.

"There was no consultation on implementing the financial Restraint Act. In my opinion, the issue is not the 2.25 per cent. We weren't even consulted and that's a major departure from how we understood our relationship," said Attridge. "They hadn't consulted us on these opinions. We have no memorandum of agreement that they have to consult. It's only a good faith agreement.

"This exposes a larger issue: we have no say in how the university works. We're a small group; we're only about 20. It would not have been an enormous process for [them] to sit down and ask 'how do you want to talk about this?'"

The group of 20 had an information meeting in late January, followed by a February 17 certification vote asking UTFA to represent them as a trade union. Attridge claimed the vote was unanimous.

The group will have a hearing with Ontario Labour Relations Board this week. In the meantime, UTFA continues to represent the 20 through a non-certified bargaining agreement.

"Faculty and librarians have an enormous amount of appreciation for the University of St. Michael's College," said Attridge. "We don't have the same salaries and benefits as many other universities. People stay here because they love the institution. It actually moved me, how much appreciation [they have] for the university."

Attridge said the group considered a second option, a memorandum of agreement, but the accord would limit necessary negotiations to compensation, excluding areas like workload.

"This is only bizarre at U of T; no one would normally blink at this," said Attridge, citing a study that found that 79 per cent of Canadian university faculty were unionized by 2004. He also noted that unionization is consistent with Catholic Church teachings.

Attridge noted that these kinds of labour relations are atypical in a university context.

"Typical unions involve labour organizing against management. In an academic community, these lines of labour and management don't exist. Many faculty have been appointed to an administrative term for five years. Some go on [but] you could finish and go back to being a regular faculty member.

"There's no sense of animosity on the part of faculty and librarians toward administration. That has underscored the collegiality for many of us."

University administration, which tends to decline interview requests surrounding ongoing legal or labour issues, emailed a statement to The Varsity. "The University of St. Michael's College has advised us that a majority of the eligible St. Michael's employees who cast ballots voted in favour of the University of Toronto Faculty Association's application to represent them as a trade union under the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

"If the Ontario Labour Relations Board confirms this vote and certifies UTFA as the bargaining agent, UTFA and the University of St. Michael's College will negotiate a collective agreement covering the terms and conditions of employment for this group of approximately 20 professors of theology, librarians, and archivists."

MEET YOUR STUDENT UNION

UTSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



VP External
SHAUN SHEPHERD

YES:	2708	81%
NO:	521	16%
SPOILED:	132	4%

TOTAL: **3361**



VP Internal & Services
COREY SCOTT

C. SCOTT:	2450	74%
N. TANG:	735	22%
SPOILED:	132	4%

TOTAL: **3317**



President
DANIELLE SANDHU

YES:	2758	82%
NO:	491	15%
SPOILED:	109	3%

TOTAL: **3358**



VP University Affairs
CLARA HO

YES:	2674	80%
NO:	545	16%
SPOILED:	133	4%

TOTAL: **3352**



VP Equity
LENA ELAMIN

YES:	2963	81%
NO:	494	15%
SPOILED:	141	4%

TOTAL: **3328**

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

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UTSC

Candidate cries foul in UTSC elections

CRO under fire for alleged electoral misconduct

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY STAFF

Not exempted from its share of electoral controversy, the fairness of UTSC election proceedings and the competence of the university's Chief Returning Officer, Min Showkat, were questioned by candidate Daniel M. Addams' alleged wrongful disqualification.

UNTIMELY DISQUALIFICATION

On February 15, a day before the Feb. 16 – 18 voting period, Addams, who ran for VP academics, was pulled out from the race for not having enough valid signatures in his nomination form.

Instead of providing 25 signatures, which declared one an eligible candidate, a cross-check performed by the Elections Committee composed of the CRO and two DROs found that Addams only had 24 valid names supporting his nomination.

Though he originally supplied 26 signatures, two were invalidated respectively because of illegible writing and one for coming from a St. George student.

"Showkat, the CRO, waited until February 15, the very last day before voting to tell me that I was ineligible," said Addams, who will be reimbursed for his campaign costs.

According to the Article 2.01.10 of the Elections Policy, the CRO must "ensure that each candidate is eligible for election [...] within two business days following the deadline for nominations."

As the deadline was on January 26, the candidates should have been informed of issues concerning their eligibility on January 28 at the latest.

Haroon Rahman, one of the two DROs, believed that Addams' late disqualification was the university's fault and not Showkat's or the Election Committee's.

He explained that they were not able to get a hold of the student list until the university provided it two days before the voting period.

"I do feel that it's wrong that he was disqualified a day before the elections when he already put in all the work but you [have to] understand that if your signatures aren't in the list then you can't continue running," Rahman said.

John Aruldason, SCSU president and elections liaison, also sympathized with Addams but thought the committee acted accordingly.

"It is unfortunate that that was the situation but even though we only received the student list two days before voting, we informed him right away after getting it."

Aruldason admitted that getting timely information from the university was the problem and that the CRO has started a motion to improve it.

"One of the recommendations brought forth by the CRO in his report to the Board on how to improve the electoral process is to get the [student list] earlier to prevent something like this from happening."

In last year's SCSU election, VP students and equity candidate Martine Lee was disqalified after recieving a late notice of insufficient signatures. Lee was denied an appeal, although the appeals committee decided she shouldn't be disqualified.

FAILURE TO FULFILL DUTIES

Addams also reported that during the election, Showkat failed to fulfill his two other duties as CRO.

"During the All Candidates' Meeting, the CRO was supposed to give us a copy of By-law #2, which specified the whole elections process. But I had to get my own copy from the SCSU website."

Written in Article 2.01.05 of the Elections Policy, the CRO must provide each candidate a hard copy of the Elections Policy and By-law #2 to acquaint them with "rules pertaining to the elections and the elections appeals process."

"He also refused to give his phone number and said something along the lines of 'my email is my phone number,'" said Addams, who did not know at the time that according to the policy, Showkat was responsible "for maintaining an email account and phone number (with voicemail)."

Rahman mentioned that he gave Addams his and the CRO's numbers but denied the accusation that the CRO did not perform his job properly.

"I don't remember if the CRO provided his number in the All Candidates' Meeting but he must have as all the candidates were communicating with him through his cell phone number during the elections," reasoned Rahman.

"UNPROFESSIONALISM"

After his disqualification, Addams sent the elections committee an appeal, which he said Showkat responded to via a Facebook wall post.

"I urged [the committee] to rule on my appeal on a timely fashion but the CRO took his time and he unprofessionally responded to me through my Facebook campaign group," he said.

Showkat's comment stated that Addams' disqualification was the candidate's own fault: "...every candidate followed the procedure. As you failed to do so, you were disqualified and the reasons you have states [sic] and are asking the election committee to throw out the elections are on no basis related to the reason in which you were disqualified [sic]. You made it very clear to the elections committee that you were in a rush to submit your candidate form and you were unaware of the proper protocols. This is your fault and nobody elses [sic]. The decision stays."

UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS

"As a part of the elections committee, we followed everything in the policies. I understand that [Addams] really wanted to run for the position but he got disqualified on reasonable terms," said Rahman.

Though admitting that he was not familiar with details of the miscommunication between Addams and Showkat on Facebook, Aruldason also believed that there was no foul play and that the matter was caused by an "upset candidate."

Rahman agreed, saying that Addams was "just letting his emotions take over" ever since his disqualification.

"Overall, the CRO did a good job," concluded Aruldason.

"He fulfilled his responsibilities in the elections in terms of explaining to the candidates how the election will run, facilitating the actual electoral process, treating all candidates equally, and ensuring the security of the ballots and the integrity of the election."

Showkat declined to comment.

LIBRARIES

The peacock gets primed

Robarts successfully completes its first phase of renovations

Elizabeth Kagedan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Phase one of the Robarts Revitalization Project is slated for completion this April. The project, which began in 2009 with renovations on the fifth floor, has a total budget of $24.4 million, funded by a single donor and the Ontario provincial government.

Finished renovations include the third-floor Media Commons, as well as overhauled study spaces and group study rooms in the apexes of the ninth - thirteenth floors.

"The idea is to bring in more light and to make better study space, and more of it too," said Margaret Wall, Robarts communications librarian. "We've renovated the stacks floors totally, so the apexes, we've added hundreds of spaces."

The renovations were motivated by a combination of factors: increased enrolment at U of T put pressure on the existing resources, which were already in need of improvement according Bonnie Horne, another librarian involved in the project. Horne also cited a "need to ensure a stimulating work atmosphere for learning and research," as well as a "need to allow for changing technology" as impetus for the renovations.

The major final addition will be the second floor porticoes, currently under construction. Identical on both the northeast and southeast sides, the porticoes insert glass in areas that were formerly open-air. "When that's done it's going to be a beautiful big space," said Wall. "It will be an entrance but it's not really just an entrance — it's going to be a place where people can congregate and eat their lunch, or study."



On March 4, Robarts licensed its second floor for a fundraiser to help with renovation costs. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

There will also be digital signage on the second floor that will be used to broadcast announcements and information, as well as available study space on various stacks floors. There will be devices throughout the floors that estimate the number of people using a space. That information can then be disseminated through the signage, saying, for example, that the tenth floor is 70 per cent full.

The second phase of the project would include further renovations to the stacks floors, as well as a second-floor administrative wing, study café, and "Huron Street Pavilion." However, this is contingent on further funding. "We're actually very much still in the fundraising stage at the moment," said Wall on the second phase of the project. "So we don't really have a timeline for it at the moment, but we do know it's going to add lots of new study spaces."

LAW SCHOOL

U of T launches law degree for professionals

New program is first of its kind in North America

Ioana Pantis
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto Faculty of Law plans to offer a Global Professional Master of Laws degree this fall, combining business and law. It is the result of law graduates requesting such a field of further study. It has been two years in the making, with more intensive work in the past 18 months, involving consultation with the wider community.

"The faculty has done a lot of consultation and academic research to identify important areas of study such as trade, investment, and the globalization of institutions. International commercial arbitration is a huge area that was not significant in the past but is now a larger issue," said Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Mayo Moran.

Standard courses will be offered in law and globalization, public and private international law, and business. Coupled with these core courses will be optional courses, such as international tax, public and private partnerships, international arbitration, intellectual property, and the Internet.

The GPLLM aims to fill the holes in education that are the product of our rapidly changing world.

"We are trying to bring people up to speed on areas that have changed in very critical ways in the past 10 years," said Moran.

"Lawyers are trained to think of what could go wrong and to be conservative. They are not that well-equipped on business issues because they are so professionally risk adverse," said Moran. "Business leaders will bring a larger perspective of what we want to accomplish and what are new trends. They are more forward looking."

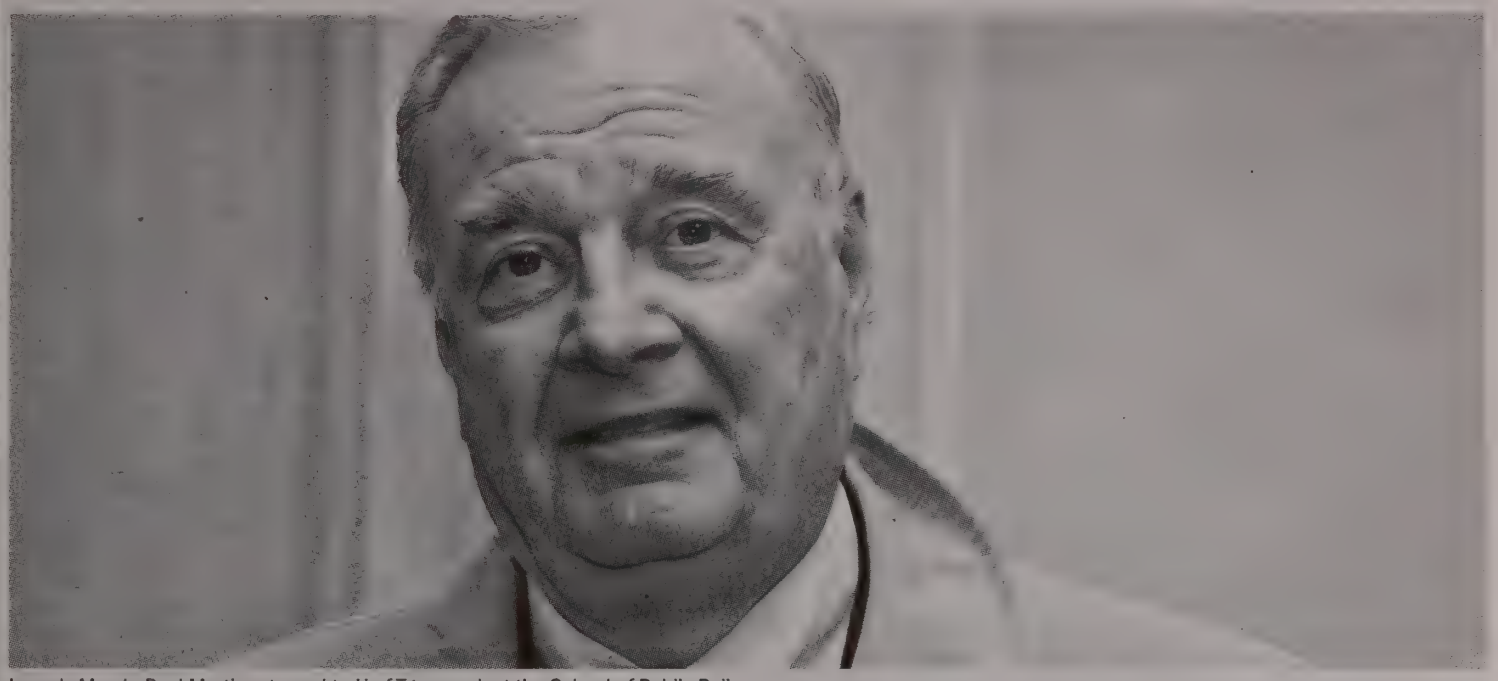
Moran believes business executives without a law degree will absolutely

SEE 'LAW' - PG 6

ALUMNI

How he got here: Paul Martin

As an undergraduate at U of T, Paul Martin was already a member of the Young Liberals



In early March, Paul Martin returned to U of T to speak at the School of Public Policy. ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Robin Buller
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Before dreaming of becoming prime minister, Paul Martin was an undergraduate student at U of T. He graduated with an Honours BA in Philosophy and History from St. Michael's College in 1961, after which he went on to complete his law degree, also at U of T.

"I was very actively involved in college life," said Martin. He lived in residence, was a member of the Young Liberals, and could usually be found working out in the Hart House gym and swimming pool.

"I think it's a win-win situation," said Martin on U of T's college system. "It offers you all the advantages of a major university [with] all the advantages of a smaller college system."

Growing up in Windsor, Martin was very active in the Michigan civil rights movement. "[That] was during the time of Martin Luther King Junior," said Martin. "If you talk to a lot of people my age, they'll tell you the same thing."

Martin had no intention of going into politics; rather, he planned to travel to Africa after finishing law school. He was convinced upon graduating, however, to gain practical business experience. "I went into business for two years and stayed for 20," he laughed.

Martin had a long career in business, and only after his children were older did he begin to consider entering politics. "I'd had some success, and so I decided at the point the time was come to fish or cut bait."

Martin's first summer job was on a fishing boat when he was 13. "We had a cottage on Lake Erie, and I just went down to the docks," he recalled.

One summer, after working on oil and gas fields in Alberta, Martin hitchhiked up to the Hay River and Great Slave Lake where he found a job working as a deckhand on a tugboat in the Beaufort Sea. "I wanted to see what the far north was like," he said.

"I had a great fascination with the north, and still do," revealed Martin, who believes it was easier to get summer work when he was young. "You could get jobs because people were desperate. [...] [I just] said, 'Look here, I've got my union card! Can I get a job?'"

While working up north, Martin worked with the First Nations and witnessed "the absolute unfairness [with which] we as Canadians have painted out the country's first people. [This] became one of my strongest convictions."

Martin thinks that it is crucial for young people to have a variety of experiences before choosing a focus. "Before you make a career decision, you should have a pretty clear idea of what opportunities are out there," he advised.

"If somebody isn't prepared to get as wide a spectrum of what life is all about at a young age, they will inevitably cocoon themselves, and they'll simply isolate themselves into something and they'll miss out on what the rest of the world has to offer."

Martin sees the value in working or studying abroad. "It is just impossible to deny [its] importance [...] and the perspective that it gives you," he said, particularly stressing the benefit of working in Africa.

Martin, who first entered the political world in his mid-forties, suggests that young people do not jump into political careers. "My own advice is that you should go into public life after you have some real experience behind you," he said. "To understand where the world is going and what life is all about [...] gives you an opportunity to make a contribution [that is] probably better than most."

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CAMPUS ON FIRE

Fire at UTM

Despite evacuated buildings, no injuries reported.

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY STAFF

University of Toronto Missisauga's Davis Building and Recreation, Athletic and Wellness Centre were evacuated on February 16 after several 911 calls reported heavy smoke coming from the building's ventilation system. Though the evacuation was successful, two weeks after the incident, most students still remain in the dark about the events of that afternoon.

While contractors were changing the air conditioning pipes at the Davis Building's fifth floor mechanical room, the vent's cork insulation caught fire, causing smoke to spread to some classrooms, the main lobby, and the cafeteria.

"Cutting torches were being used to cut the metal pipes in the room [...] and knowing that they're going to generate some heat and potentially [trigger] the alarm repeatedly, we asked the fire security company to disable the building's alarms until the construction was finished," explained UTM campus police services manager Len Paris, who was directly involved with the operation.

According to Al Hills, Mississauga fire department platoon chief, two pumpers, one aerial ladder truck, and a total of 17 firefighters were dispatched to the university at approximately 11:29 a.m., three and a half minutes after the first 911 call.

As the fire alarm was off at the time, students were told verbally to evacuate the building and take refuge at the nearby Student Centre.

"It took a long time to remove the smoke from the building [but] everything was done according to [the fire department's] policies and procedures," Hills reported.

Fourth-year History major Marcia Soto agreed that the university neglected to give enough information about the incident even though they ensured student safety.

"The Student Centre was packed more than usual and some people told me that it's because of a fire from a chemical experiment in one of the labs," she said.

"To this day I am not sure about what happened that afternoon. I didn't receive any emails during and after the fact, and it was only through the university's Twitter account that I got a rough idea of what was happening," said Matt Arias, a third-year Political Science major and one of the first people to post a picture of the scene on Twitter.

When told that construction work caused the accident, Soto and Arias said they wished they had been notified beforehand.

"[UTM] should have at least warned us that there was construction in the building and let us know that it might pose as a fire hazard," Soto said.

Arias added that "it would have been better if emails were sent informing students about the precautions that the university was taking to ensure [their] safety."

But according to Paris, UTM holds regular fire drills and has over 80 fire wardens trained to execute fire safety procedures on campus.

To prevent any future accidents, he said that the university is implementing more safety measures.

"We recommended that the contractors use a saw when cutting pipes as it's a much safer alternative to the torch, and to cut longer lengths of pipes on the roof where it's not a hazard."

After the smoke was removed from the building at exactly 1:38 p.m., the fire alarm system was restarted and a health inspector ensured that all food products were safe in the cafeteria.

No injuries or damages were sustained.

'LAW' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

have a more challenging experience than those formally educated in law. However they have created spots for business leaders because the faculty is very interested in what strengths and expertise they will provide. They are business leaders who have a lot of interaction with lawyers and legal aspects in their field, so the connection between business and law is a close one.

"Businesses and firms will perceive employees graduating from this program as very, very attractive," says Moran. "Lawyers are generally very interested in life-long learning." Because the demand is so high, Moran added that "there have even been firms that have to limit the number of employees that will be allowed to sign up for this program."

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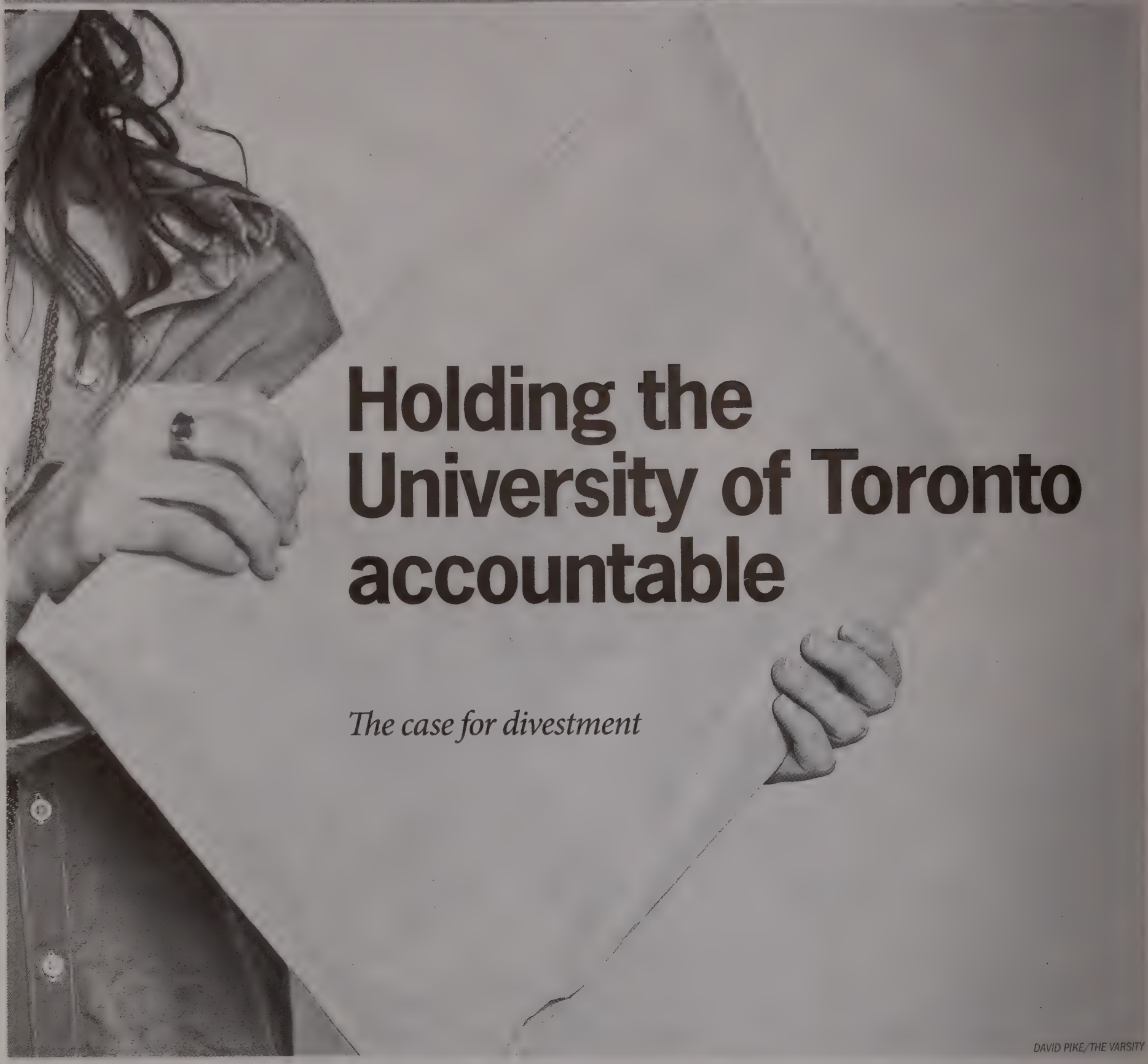
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Holding the University of Toronto accountable

The case for divestment

DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Shozab Raza and Katherine Lapointe
VARSITY CONTRIBUTORS

On Monday March 7, Students Against Israeli Apartheid — heeding the call from Palestinian civil society for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions — launched a campaign demanding that the University of Toronto divest from companies violating international law and perpetuating an illegal apartheid regime. In particular, SAIA has serious concerns with the university's holdings in the following four companies: BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Hewlett Packard, and Lockheed Martin. These companies are actively involved in significant violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and U of T's holdings in these companies make it complicit in the commission of these crimes.

BAE Systems is a global defence, security, and aerospace company and currently the world's third-largest weapons manufacturer. It produced weaponry, including F-16 combat aircrafts, cluster bombs, and weapon components, used in Israel's 2008/09 assault on Gaza. The Goldstone Report of 2009 concluded that Israel committed actions amounting to war crimes, and possibly crimes against humanity in its assault on Gaza. BAE Systems — in which U of T holds $1,746,000 worth of shares — contributed to Israel's weaponry used in these internationally condemned crimes against Palestinian civilians.

Northrop Grumman, another large weapons manufacturer, also contributed to the production of various components and weapons used in the killing of civilians by Israel in its 2008/09 attack on Gaza. Significantly, the company is the sole provider of radars for F-16 combat aircrafts – aircrafts which, according to Amnesty International, played a central role in the killing of Palestinian civilians and the wholesale destruction of Palestinian civilian and economic infrastructure. Shamefully, U of T currently holds $1,157,000 worth of shares in this company.

Hewlett Packard, among the world's largest information technology companies, is implicated in the ongoing collective punishment of Palestinians, through the production of checkpoint technologies used in the West Bank, and information technology infrastructure used to facilitate the ongoing naval blockade of Gaza. In particular, HP aids the Israeli Defense Forces in their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by supplying them with personal computers, servers, and virtualization systems. By aiding and abetting the IDF — an institution which has enforced the illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967 — HP is implicated in numerous violations of international law and human rights.

Finally, Lockheed Martin, an arms manufacturer based in the United States, is currently the largest overseas supplier for the Israeli armament industry. In particular, this company is involved in the manufacturing of F-16 combat aircrafts and Hellfire missiles, which have together contributed to hundreds of civilian deaths in both Gaza and Lebanon. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has condemned the IDF's use of such American-built military weapons, stating that hundreds of Palestinian civilians had been killed or injured in Israeli attacks, largely by tanks deployed in refugee camps and explosives dropped on heavily populated area.

In short, these companies reap profits from the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and violations of Palestinian rights. By investing in these firms, U of T not only reveals the hypocrisy of its stated commitments to human rights and social justice, but also becomes complicit in their breaches of international law. Furthermore, according to Principle VII of the Nuremberg Principles, "complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity...is a crime under international law." In other words, U of T is in breach of international law through its indirect participation in, and profiting from, war crimes.

It is therefore imperative for all students, faculty, staff, and alumni who are committed to principles of equity and social justice, and who do not want to be part of an institution that so egregiously violates these principles, to join SAIA in demanding that:

(1) The University of Toronto Governing Council immediately divest of its stock in BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Hewlett Packard, and Lockheed Martin.

(2) The University of Toronto refrain from investing in all companies involved in violations of international law.

(3) The University of Toronto work with students, faculty, and staff to undergo a democratic and transparent process to ensure accountability to principles of social and environmental justice.

As the BDS movement gains momentum around the world, more and more institutions are cutting ties with apartheid Israel. Notably, in 2009, Hampshire College in the US became the first university to divest from Israeli apartheid. Divestment campaigns have also begun at many universities including Carleton University, York University, and UC-Berkeley.

We must remember that it was only after years of concerted pressure from students, faculty and staff that the U of T administration decided to divest from South Africa in 1988.

Unfortunately, our university was the last in Canada to take a stand against South Africa's apartheid regime. Join SAIA to ensure that this time, U of T is one of the first universities — and not the last — to cut ties with an apartheid state.

Editor's note: Look for the University of Toronto's response in the coming weeks at the www.thevarsity.ca

IRKS & QUIRKS

Where's the beef?

The case against Beefless Tuesdays at University College

Oliver Bailey
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



The University College Residence Council's iniative is another instance of ideology trumping student needs.

If you didn't know already, the Howard Ferguson Dining Hall is the food facility for residents at University College. Affectionately known as "Fung" by residents of UC, this is a burgeoning hub of resident life where many of us come to dine and relieve our "funger."

I write today not to complain about the lack of healthy menu choices or high cost of food that sometimes makes eating in the Annex a more affordable option. I will even avoid mentioning how food often runs out an hour before closing and that the lettuce in the salad bar is frequently frozen or brown. Rather attention needs to be drawn to a new initiative — "Beefless Tuesday" — which the University College Residence Council "proudly presented" at the end of January. The concept for this event is as straightforward as it is ridiculous. Every Tuesday, members of the UCRC harass students not to eat beef. While the meat is still available in Fung, the initiative tries to reduce the amount of beef consumed to help reduce UC's carbon footprint. The event page on Facebook also includes a laundry list of other reasons to go beefless, predominantly religious and dietary in nature.

Don't get me wrong. I think student councils serve an important role in providing services for students. However, I think they overstep their bounds when they take on the advocacy campaigns for special interest groups.

Banning beef creates an institutional precedent for actively lobbying student's consumption habits. It's the beginning of a process that takes away a student's ability to choose what they put in their bodies. It also makes the uncomfortable suggestion that accommodation for special interest groups simply is not enough. Apparently, accommodation also involves limiting the freedom of choice for others. I have no problem with Fung providing halal and kosher options, even if it raises the cost of food. As soon as you take away my steak, I know there's a problem.

As an out of province student with close ties to Alberta, I also resent the residence council taking aim at one of the key industries that still supports many of my family members.

I lived through the mad cow scare that caused the crash of cattle prices and demand for Canadian beef. Ranchers are the backbone of our country's cattle industry, an industry that supports thousands across the prairies. Beefless Tuesday creates an unsafe space that alienates everyone supported by Canada's cattle industry, both directly and indirectly.

Beefless Tuesday is not only offensive, it's illogical. While farting cows certainly contribute to global warming, methane gas makes up a very small part of all greenhouse gas emissions. While a successful boycott would certainly lead to unemployment and economic collapse for Canada, it won't substantially help our efforts to reduce emissions. If student politicians were truly committed to improving environmental responsibility on campus, they would be working with administration to find critical solutions. How about advocating for seasonal and local produce or portion options to reduce food waste?

If you go to Fung you have the option of broccoli or no broccoli. Hoping to have a half portion of broccoli that you can pair with a salad? Either bring your elastic waist pants or get ready to waste some food. In the wonderful world of student politics, irrational ideology always overpowers pragmatic solutions. The standard political hack response to complaints such as mine is that a student government is a representative democracy and individual students cannot be consulted on every single decision. While this argument is applicable to municipal, provincial, and federal governments, voter turnout that floats in the single digits, and with the only awareness of student politicians being a smiling poster during campaign season, we can see that this kind of logic is flawed. Representative democracy is little else but a dream. If student politicians want to impose ideologically driven reforms they have the responsibility to include them in their campaign message, or at the very least host a town hall and plebiscite.

The fact that this article is even being published is indicative of what is wrong with the student experience at U of T. Student politicians are the first to point to Simcoe Hall as the source of the crummy student experience at this otherwise topnotch school. Ideologically driven students forcing their special interests upon their peers are equally to blame. Students should be using their positions in office to do some hard thinking on how to build some unity on campus and get the majority of students to care more about the school they are educated within.

Trying to force dietary choices upon students is simply a step in the wrong direction.

LETTERS

Re: What happened to StudentsFirst?, March 7

Why is this article so small?

Obviously last week's was misleading once this info came out. Shouldn't you be making sure that we know that a team wasn't "banned" or "disqualified"? And that they were "lazy" and "exceedingly lazy"?

Safiya

From my perspective I think it is clear that some of the blame falls on the candidates themselves (particularly Cloe Bilodeau). However, at the same time, I think there are also some systemic inequalities that ought to be addressed. The nomination period this year was actually quite short. Although it lasted 10 days, only four were legitimate class days, two were the weekend at the start of reading week (when incidentally the UTSU office is closed), one was a civic holiday (Family Day) during reading week, and the remaining three were weekdays during reading week (when there aren't as many students on campus). This creates an unnecessary obstacle for candidates, particularly opposition executive candidates. Secondly, did you know that to run to be an MP (you know, those people who govern Canada), all you need is 100 nominations, half what you need to be a UTSU executive? To run to be an MPP you need the signatures of 25 electors (the same number as an UTSU Director). Now, for some comparisons, membership of the UTSU: under 50,000 students; population of Trinity-Spadina: 115,000 people. So, individuals in a more important job, representing more people, need fewer nominations?

Michael Scott

Safiya, both you and the ERC seem to be misunderstanding the meaning of the word "disqualified." I know this is probably an honest mistake, with the logic being that if someone never becomes a candidate they cannot be disqualified. Perhaps this will clear things up.

I happen to agree with you that having the remainder of the slate withdraw was not the best decision to make. The merits of that decision are open to debate, as are the reasons for the disqualification. The fact that one member of that slate was disqualified is not.

From the ERC:

"No candidate has been banned or disqualified to-date for the Spring 2011 elections. […] As outlined in the statement, five nominees were deemed ineligible"

From the dictionary: Disqualify:

1. a. To render unqualified or unfit. b. To declare unqualified or ineligible.

Ryan Campbell

Re: Debating the State of Israel, March 7

I'm struck by the intemperate tone of most of those writing here who believe they are defending Israel. Is there no response to the description of Israel's discriminatory laws and policies, except to change the subject or to start making derogatory generalization about Arabs, Muslims, or "whoever"? Just wondering.

Jim Reilly

Re: Free wired, March 7

From everything I've read on cyber security, so long as there's network access there's vulnerability. For example, in Ghostnet, they found that computers all over the world had been compromised — including in NATO. It's a pretty open secret that all of NIPRNet and (at least from what I've read) SIPRNET is compromised.

Those are military networks that prioritize security way more than is reasonable for Canada to, and they're fairly well-infiltrated. Basically, for anyone funded enough, any networked computer is vulnerable (Stuxnet's USB-based hacks showed that even computers with an air gap can be vulnerable to poor users).

There's a big tradeoff between usability and security, and rebalancing in favour of security may lead to worse results. If what I've read is correct, the Internet itself is not secure-able in its present state and no matter how much you spend, a determined adversary can probably find a way because users have to be able to use. Anyhow, I'm skeptical of the utility of amping up cybersecurity spending when no one seems to do it particularly well (not Google, not the U.S. Military).

Peter W

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Opinions pitches are also welcome.

FACE OFF

POINT COUNTERPOINT

The crisis in Libya: Two perspectives

The West should intervene in Libya

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

Libya has come a long way in the past decade. Not only is it no longer regarded as a state sponsor of terrorism, but it has also renounced its nuclear ambitions and shuttered its biological and chemical weapons programs. However, the Libyan government's repressive actions in recent weeks have seriously jeopardized this progress. In response to widespread protests and even outright rebellion — particularly in oil-rich eastern Libya — Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi has ordered his military to open fire on protestors. So far, mercenaries and Libyan soldiers have killed at least 1,000 civilians and an unknown number of rebels.

There is no end in sight. Forces loyal to Qaddafi are stepping up their attacks on cities and towns throughout eastern Libya. They have used bombers, fighter jets, and helicopter gunships to decimate rebel positions. Though some Libyan military units have defected to the rebel cause, Qaddafi loyalists still control much of the heavy weaponry — including artillery — which they have used to bombard eastern Libyan cities. Whether the current conflict transforms into a protracted civil war or whether, as some fear, Qaddafi prevails in the next few months, the killing will continue indefinitely.

Though it is not clear what a post-Qaddafi Libya would look like, it is clear that the current state of violence is untenable. President Obama and others are right to stand with Libyan rebels and against the merciless killings perpetrated by Qaddafi's forces. Since it is becoming increasingly clear that the current asset freezes and sanctions will not be enough to stop the violence, it is time that the United States and its allies, including Canada, step up their commitment to protect Libyan civilians and assist the burgeoning rebellion. This means putting an immediate end to Qaddafi's ability to have his own people killed.

Due to objections by China and Russia, it is unlikely that the United Nations Security Council will be able to pass a resolution endorsing military intervention soon enough to prevent catastrophic killings. Instead, it is more likely that the NATO members, including Britain, Canada, and the United States will agree to intervene within the next few weeks. The intervention would resemble the 1999 bombing campaign in the former Yugoslavia, which put an end to nearly a decade of ethnic conflict in that country, particularly in Kosovo. If NATO members cannot agree on intervention, it is possible that the United States might act alone or in cooperation with a few other countries as it did when it invaded Iraq in 2003.

No matter which countries are involved (though it is very likely that the United States will take the lead in any intervention) and what level of international approval is secured, the campaign against the Libyan military would likely proceed in three parts. The intervening countries would deploy their air forces to southern Europe and the Mediterranean, from which they would then launch bombing campaigns against Libyan military bases. They would especially target airfields and hangars, in order to deny Qaddafi the ability to use helicopters and jets to attack rebels in eastern Libya.

Once the Libyan military is incapacitated, the intervening force would need to create a no-fly zone. This would ensure that no more mercenaries could be flown into Libya. This would also prevent the Libyan air force from using civilian airports. These must be kept intact so that other states, including Canada, can continue to relocate their citizens and if necessary, launch humanitarian missions. The no-fly zone would require deploying significant air forces to the region, both to bases in southern Europe and northern Africa, but also on aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean.

To further ensure that Qaddafi is forced to capitulate, the intervening force would also need to blockade Libya's ports to ensure that no more weapons are imported and that no more oil is exported. To keep oil prices from shooting up, the United States would draw on its strategic reserves to temporarily fuel the American economy until oil production quotas elsewhere were raised. Without oil revenues, Qaddafi will no longer be able to hire foreign mercenaries nor will he continue to be able to arm his remaining military forces. While it is possible that mercenaries and weapons will be brought in by land, the flow will be slower and easier for Libya's neighbours to control, if they are pressured to do so.

Once these three policies are implemented, it is unlikely that the mass killings or Qaddafi's rule would last much longer. He would likely disappear into exile or be captured and tried by a new government. It is neither clear what would happen next nor what role the interveners would have in the new Libya. While a transitional government has been formed in eastern Libya, it might fall victim to tribal infighting; be co-opted by Islamist forces, which have so far been kept at bay by Qaddafi's regime; or it might quietly succeed. No matter what Libya's future holds, the killings of civilians must end immediately. Only a military intervention can ensure this.

The West should not intervene in Libya

David Woolley
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"The Middle East is on fire!" That is how the popular uprisings from Tehran to Rabat are being portrayed. The usual response of human beings to fire — especially an unexpected one — is to try to put it out. We have a natural inclination to try to solve a problem when we see one. However, we should be wary of trying to "fix" the situation in the Middle East. In the course of recent events, Libya has taken centre stage. Due to Qaddafi's slide into mania and his brutal military attacks against civilians we in the West might feel our presence is needed to help guide the conflict to a peaceful resolution. Luckily, we seem to have learned our lesson when it comes to direct military intervention. Whether from recent misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan or the Western overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq in 1953, which ultimately led to the Iranian Revolution and the creation of a radical theocracy, we seem to understand that, when we attempt to create a more appealing regime, it often ends up worse than when we started. Unfortunately, the appeal of protecting our "interests" in the region may prove too great a temptation for Western leaders. Already, the U.S., Canada, and the EU have independently placed an arms, travel, and trade embargo on Libya. Likewise, the UN Security Council has voted unanimously in favour of similar sanctions.

All these things sound good; it would be hard to argue that we should be selling arms to a murderous dictator, or filling their personal bank accounts with oil money. While such sanctions may seem like a good idea, we should look at what has resulted when we have used our "soft power" on other countries in the past.

In the early 1990s, Bosnian and Serb forces clashed in the former Yugoslavia. During this time, Serb forces undertook a program of ethnic cleansing, murdering hundreds of thousands of ethnic Bosnians. In 1991, the UN Security Council placed an arms embargo on all of former Yugoslavia, in an attempt to prevent the conflict from escalating. Unfortunately, this did not happen. As former Bosnian president Haris Silajdzic later explained, the "arms embargo led to[...] a quarter of a million deaths – an embargo that penalized only the victims, for the aggressors already had more arms than they could handle." Because the Serbian government had inherited the equipment of the Yugoslav army, the breakaway Bosnians were unable to arm themselves in defence. The Bosnian forces were at the mercy of Serbian forces until NATO intervened militarily — which, for over 200,000 Bosnian civilians, happened too late. The Bosnian civilians were, of course, only at the mercy of the Serb army because they were unable to arm themselves with weapons purchased outside of Yugoslavia. By not understanding the military reality on the ground, the UN worsened the situation and condemned hundreds of thousands of civilians to death. Similarly in Libya, or indeed any dictatorship today, the government is already well equipped; the people, though, remain unarmed and defenceless.

What if, instead of stopping arms sales, we simply stopped the flow of goods and capital into the affected country? This was attempted before when, from 1990 to 2003, the UN imposed strict sanctions on Saddam Hussein's Iraq in the wake of its invasion of Kuwait. Instead of toppling his regime, Hussein held onto power while upwards of 500,000 Iraqi civilians died from starvation, lack of access to medical supplies, and other circumstances resulting from the sanctions.

The travel ban is perhaps the oddest to confront. After all, why would anyone want Qaddafi or his cabal in Canada? As a liberal democracy, we are generally averse to murderous dictators. However, by not giving Qaddafi an out, we have forced him to make Libya his last stand. If he loses Libya, he has nowhere to go but the International Criminal Court. If we gave Qaddafi the option of setting up his signature Bedouin tent in Rosedale, despite our initial revulsion, we would free his people from further battles for control of their country.

The last thing we should do is get our fingerprints on these revolutions. Their strength comes from the fact that they are popular uprisings against oppressive and unpopular governments. If we involve ourselves in some vain attempt to right the wrongs of the world, we will rob them of the unique character from which they gain their strength. They will become, whether rightly or wrongly, Western-orchestrated imperialist constructs attempting to put in place a puppet regime. The people will feel their interests lost and their voices once again silenced. Like a tree that occasionally needs forest fires to grow and be healthy, this is not a fire we should try to put out.



BOYS WILL BE GIRLS



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

From MySpace to Canadian Music Week, Josh McIntyre talks to **NAVI LAMBA** *about the rapid rise of Canadian indie rock band Little Girls.*

We can trace Little Girls' career back to 2009 when the music blog Gorilla vs. Bear posted their song "Youth Tunes" with an appropriate caption: "sometimes dropping a link to your two-day-old MySpace page in our comment section can result in having one of your songs given away for free right here on the blog." The result: instant blog fame and the quick release of the band's first album Concepts on Toronto label Paper Bag Records. Fortunately, they are still the band you name-drop into conversations during Canadian Music Week or NXNE so that your peers think you know what you're talking about when it comes to Toronto's music scene. The Varsity took some time to speak to Josh McIntyre, the brains of the operation, about what the band has been up to as well as the ever elusive sub-genre "doom surf."

THE VARSITY: *So what have you been up to since the release of Concepts?*

JOSH McINTYRE: That came out on Paper Bag Records last October. Officially, as of three days ago, I'm not with them anymore, which I'm quite happy with. We got caught up in a bit of a legal battle for a while, which kind of sucked. I'm not going to get in to the details but basically my experience was not so great with them, and it's over now so I'm really thankful. We're signing with some new people soon. We're doing something with Hand Drawn Dracula in Canada, and I'm not sure about the States yet, but we've been talking to some people there about putting out the next record.

TV: *Do you feel that Toronto crowds are familiar with your work now?*

JM: Yeah, we've played a ton in Toronto, almost too much. We've been doing a lot of shows at Parts and Labour and open up for a lot of Canadian and American bands that have come through to tour. We kind of have an ongoing joke as being the Parts and Labour house band because we play there with the band Metz all the time, so we definitely play Toronto shows a lot.

We're doing two shows for CMW this Thursday. One is at Wrongbar with Metz, Austra, Ell V Gore, and Valleys. Then later on in the night we're going to play the Hand Drawn Dracula showcase at the Garrison with Actual Water, Makeout Videotape, etc.

TV: *Is the press still saddling you with weird genres?*

JM: Definitely. Me and my friends have this ongoing joke about calling it "doom surf." When the band first started, NOW Magazine dubbed us as "doom surf," which is nothing — there's no such thing as "doom surf." Then others are saying, like, "surf goth," and just putting together buzz words to create this new genre but it's basically just post-punk.

TV: *So semantics aside, it's post-punk. You're not going to endorse the doom surf label?*

JM: No, no. I've been saying minimalist post-punk just because it's kind of stripped down, and that's not even a buzz genre; that's just what it is.

TV: *I read that you were influenced by a lot of different genres and artists, ranging from hip hop to post-punk.*

JM: I listen to a lot of hip hop. That's basically most of what I listen to right now. I was producing hip hop for a while, so when I make music, it's done the way a hip hop record would be put together. I had been producing hip hop for two years before Little Girls so when I did them all myself I'd have like a drum machine and then do bass and then layer things on top the way my favourite hip hop records were put together. But that being said, I do listen to a lot of other music, including post-punk.

TV: *Does it influence your writing process?*

JM: It's going to change now a little bit because we're writing as a band so that's actually coming together the way a band usually writes music where we just jam. People come in with ideas and we turn them into songs but when I write and record on my own its done like a hip hop record.

TV: *Do you have contemporary hip hop albums or artists to recommend?*

JM: I would say all I ever listen to right now is Odd Future. I've been obsessed with them for quite a few months now. Their videos, artwork...everything they do is just incredible

TV: *What would you be doing right now if you weren't making music?*

JM: Who knows – I don't know what I'd be doing if I wasn't making music. I've been playing music since I was about twelve years old, and that's all I've ever been really good at.

TV: *Are you going to see any bands at CMW?*

JM: I know Kurt Vile is playing on Friday at the Great Hall so I'm probably going to want to see that. Austra, who we're playing with, are really good, I haven't seen them yet. And just a bunch of my friends' bands are really good like Ell V Gore, Actual Water, Makeout Videotape, and Metz.

ROCOCODE, WHALE TOOTH, BIRDS OF TOKYO, MOTHER MOTHER
The Phoenix
Wednesday, March 9

8:10 p.m.: The show is sold out and I'm waiting in a long line to get in. A homeless guy clad in a white sheet and cowboy hat is doing his best to entertain the crowd by rambling on about Rob Ford's erectile dysfunction and singing surprisingly catchy little compositions, such as: "without you and your stinky poo the world wouldn't be the same – it's true"
8:40 p.m.: Opener Rococode takes the stage with a short, beat-driven intro. The venue is still pretty empty.
9:40 p.m.: The second band of the night, Whale Tooth, has started their set and someone just sent a drink onstage. Singer Elise appeals to the audience: "Keep em' coming, baby."
10:50 p.m.: Dear Birds of Tokyo singer, I know you want to be all weird and edgy, but the awkward jerky dance moves you're pulling don't make up for your lame sound. The singer's voice is melodramatic, reminiscent of My Chemical Romance (I hate My Chemical Romance).
11:42 p.m.: Mother Mother has owned the start of their set. They're on their third song right now — a little less energetic than the two before — but still catchy as hell. The lead singer has a feminine quality to his voice that works in perfect sink with the two female keyboard players' harmonies.
11:50 p.m.: The lead singer is rocking the fist-in-the-air pump. That's easy to turn into a frat-boyesque gimmick, but the crowd is really getting into it as the beat of his fist underlies the hook.
12:01 a.m.: They're finishing up a song in a manic, dissonant, hammering on the keyboard while one of the girls is showing off her impressive vocal range. The audience is jumping, dancing, and singing along to their beat-driven songs and their catchy hooks.
—ASSUNTA ALEGIANI

LITTLE GIRLS, METZ, AUSTRA 5
Wrongbar
Thursday, March 10

10:30 p.m.: Arrive at Wrongbar with Design Editor Tom Cardoso. There doesn't seem to be too much going on up in the club, so we decide to casually lean against surfaces until shit starts to go down.
11:00 p.m.: Little Girls have arrived on stage and we are immediately in awe. The once-empty Wrongbar starts to fill up.
11:05 p.m.: Excuse the exaggeration — but the sound is hella good as the band launches into "Youth Tunes." I would happily pay to see this.
11:11 p.m.: The drummer's glasses are falling off of his face and it's effing adorable.
11:20 p.m.: This is the kind of music people should fuck to.
11:25 p.m.: The drummer has played it safe and removed his glasses. More on this as it develops.
12:01 a.m.: A decent crowd has formed for Metz — excellently ominous lighting for an excellently ominous band.
12:20 a.m.: Is this music painfully loud or am I getting painfully old? Though don't get me wrong, I am truly in love with Metz's work.
12:25 a.m.: The band leaves us with their last song, "Negative Space." Goodbye Metz, you were wonderful tonight.
12:26 a.m.: Oh man, the dude sitting next to us has put his legs up on the bar table and he's aggressively bobbing his head around. What an enigma.
1:02 a.m.: Austra is setting up and I'm standing in a crowd of very good-looking people. There seem to be some technical difficulties, and an anxious-looking soundman weaves through the packed house. Oh, and Nasty Nav is here. I feel obligated to tell him that he looks slightly like my dad.
1:24 a.m.: After some technical issues, Austra decides to perform without a DJ (whatever that is). I'm sure my untrained ears will not be able to tell the difference.
1:25 a.m.: Yep, it's true, I can't tell the difference.
1:32 a.m.: Only a couple minutes into the set and I'm quite confident about the fact that I'll be bragging about this show for years to come.
1:40 a.m.: The dance party has broken out.
1:45 a.m.: "Austra, Austra, Austra, Austra!" — this shit should be trending on Twitter.
1:52 a.m.: Everyone recognizes the track "The Beat and the Pulse," and begin to beat and pulse accordingly.
—NAVI LAMBA

MODERN SUPERSTITIONS, MOLLY RANKIN, MEMPHIS, STILL LIFE STILL, ZEUS, RICH AUCOIN, THE WILDERNESS
The Horseshoe
Thursday, March 10

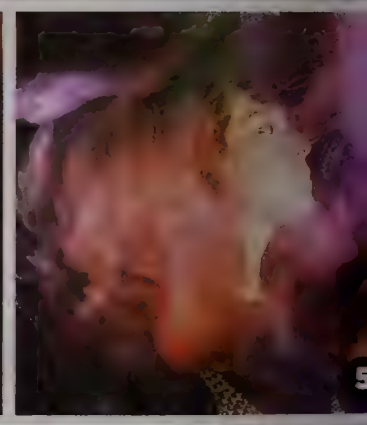
8:30 p.m.: Being the opening band must suck. While most people are probably sitting down somewhere to have dinner, Modern Superstitions is taking on the task of partying it up in front of — well, pretty much no one. The only crowd in front of the stage is a swarm of photographers.
9:20 p.m.: Molly Rankin from Nova Scotia takes the stage. The back of the venue has filled up but front is still empty. I'm not too stoked to hear this band. They're all wearing preppy collared shirts, buttoned up all the way to the top. Did they just stumble out of prep school?
9:47 p.m.: Ok, lesson learned. Don't judge a band by its collars. Molly Rankin's sound is a dreamy, mellow, indie-pop. It's accessible, swing-along music, and Molly Rankin is charming as she narrates the show with deadpan humour and dry wit.
10:15 p.m.: I just spotted Kevin Drew! (Nobody else seems to be as excited as I am — I love Broken Social Scene.)
10:20 p.m.: If I "accidentally" tripped and spilled some beer over him, maybe we would end up talking. And then maybe we would go home together. And then maybe in thirty years we could tell our grandchildren about the day we met.
10:40 p.m.: Memphis has been playing for awhile, but I'm not into it. The band's fans are mainly middle-aged, and it just seems wrong to hear someone talk about 'fucking' and 'weed' when they look like your dad.
11:30 p.m.: Still Life Still is captivating right from the start, building multilayered sound walls and long, elaborative instrumentals.
12:40 a.m.: Zeus's singer gets a dance party started as they launch into "How Does it Feel." The band is at home in their self-described "natural habitat".
12:47 a.m.: This place is a sauna, except that people are fully dressed and unintended touching is inevitable. Gross.
1:34 a.m.: Rich Aucoin is setting up. There's a sheet covering half the stage with the words "New Year Countdown" projected onto it. People are distributing glow sticks, and the place is beginning to look like a neon-wonderland.
2:30 a.m.: A piece of advice: go see a Rich Aucoin show before he gets too big. I've abandoned my notes because I'm completely caught up in an acid user's wet-dream of neon-coloured confetti and glow sticks. Everything Rich Aucoin does involves audience participation. With every song he comes down from the stage and dances with the crowd, forming mo-town dance circles, and cueing everyone to jump at the same time. Eventually he brings out a parachute and everyone gathers around to wave it up and down. People are taking turns running under the parachute and dancing. This is what live music should be.
—AA

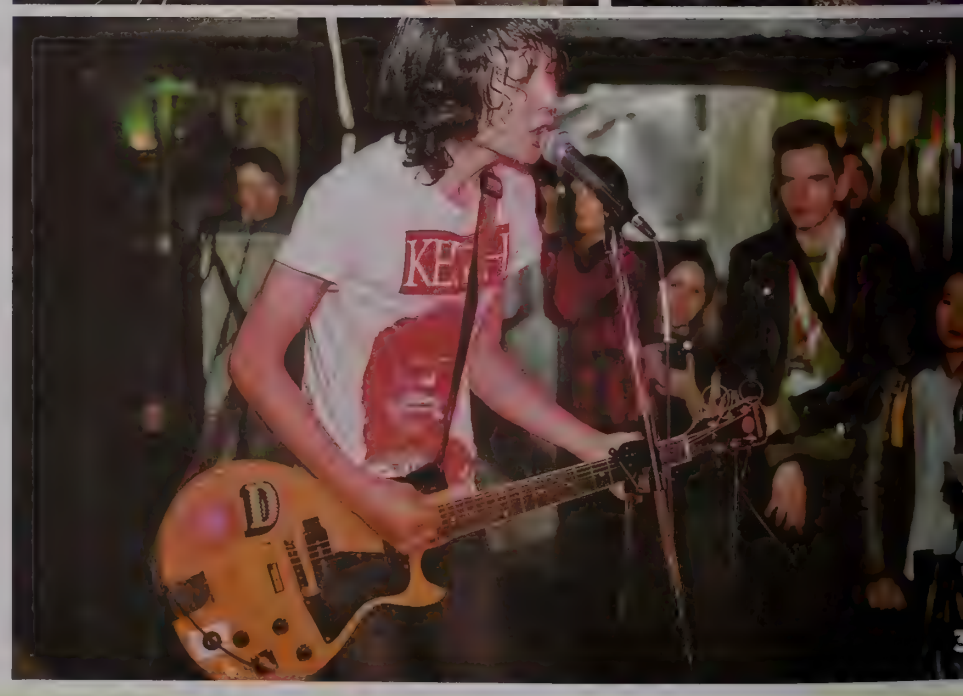


ASSUNTA ALEGIANI, NAVI LAMBA, and **ALANA LEPR**
report from the Toronto music fest's biggest sho
minute-by-minute, to find the answer

Photos by **RYAN KELPIN** and **TOM CARDOSO.** For more


4





NO, BUT REALLY, WHAT IS CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK?

ALANA LEPRICH

Glad you asked. Canadian Music Week is an annual music convention held in Toronto, featuring conferences, speakers, panel discussions, and awards. Its affiliate organization, the Canadian Music Fest, is a simultaneous festival-component, which presents over 800 bands in 60 venues throughout the city. The event is a focal point for music professionals and music fans to meet, consider, and enjoy music, and is in its eleventh year.

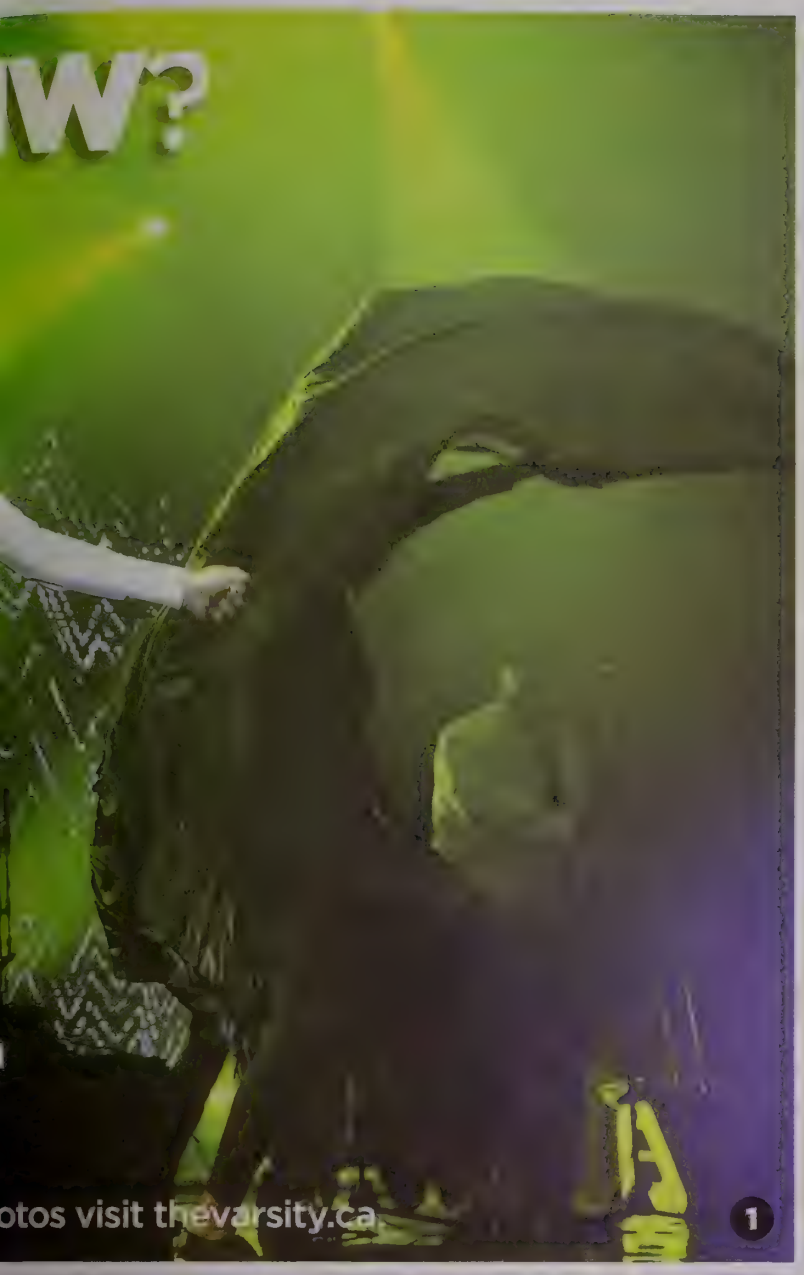
CMW isn't another good-times music festival, like Lollapalooza or Coachella — it purports, in its summits, conferences and panel-discussions — to be something more. I'm not convinced. Without a clear mission, or identity, CMW is mainly confusing, inaccessible, and under-developed.

Though it's a rare and rewarding opportunity to see a lot of bands in a short span of time, the purpose behind the event seems fragmented and underdeveloped. Canadian Music Week calls itself "one of the premier entertainment events in North America focusing on the business of music." The statement goes on to outline what the convention has, but not what the convention actually does. Why the focus on business? What's the point?

The online statement also establishes a distinction between itself and the Canadian Music Fest, the performance component of the convention, which showcases hundreds of live bands in dozens of venues throughout downtown. I am confused by the separation of the two organizations, which seem to work in tandem but have different branding, different websites, and different sponsors. There also seems to be a significant lack of Canadian-ness in the Canadian festival: Canadian bands are not highlighted or necessarily showcased, and instead, the choice of participating bands seems arbitrary and disjointed.

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s Indie award-winner Taylor

Swift is by no stretch of the imagination an indie artist, nor were many other artists. Even stranger was the random assortment of nominees, where highly successful and established artists were pitted against emerging talents in the same category, or where incomparable artists of vastly-differing genres were placed within the same category. The award ceremony, with its strange nomination choices and illogical wins, leaves me with the notion that CMW is ill-planned, arbitrary, and therefore irrelevant.

After a week of shows vacillating from the amazing to the downright subpar — I'm left wondering: What is Canadian Music Week, and why does it exist? Who does this weeklong convention benefit, and what does it accomplish?

JAMES VINCENT McMARROW, KURT VILE, J MASCIS
The Great Hall
Friday, March 10

9:10 p.m.: Arrive to the Great Hall. A long line has formed outside for the much anticipated Kurt Vile, J Mascis show.
9:18 p.m.: James Vincent McMarrow hits the stage. This is a huge change from last night. With this beautiful acoustic guitar, I'm going to have to set my phone to silent. This show is going to cause me to barf flowers or something equally as lovely.
9:20 p.m.: Someone was just shushed — this is so good!
9:38 p.m.: McMarrow is compensating for his lack of a band by sharing Seinfeld-style anecdotes about smoking in airports.
9:45 p.m.: People need to STFU. The shushing is not working anymore.
10:00 p.m.: The main man of the evening, Kurt Vile, takes the stage and receives many woos, the audience is definitely here to see him.
10:04 p.m.: The dude's guitar strap is a piece of string: What a crafty young man!
10:18 p.m.: Vile breaks out fancy electric guitar and feels the need to explain to the audience that it is in fact a Pinto. No one seems to care.
10:20 p.m.: Kurt Vile fits that "I think I went to high school with this dude" archetype perfectly. That is, if you went to high school with socially awkward, long haired, white boys.
10:24 p.m.: And he just made a "your mom" joke – suspicions confirmed!
11:00 p.m.: J Mascis gets on stage! The guy seems to only have one expression, and it is complete ambivalence. (Old) people are losing their shit.
12:15 a.m.: Kevin Drew joins Mascis on stage and makes his Toronto debut. JUST KIDDING. Who gives a shit?
12:20 a.m.: Mascis does an encore; the man has the stamina of a young race horse. Though, it also must've helped that he was sitting on a chair for his entire set.
—NL

BRAVESTATION, ALLIE HUGHES, THE MELIGROVE BAND, DVAS
Sneaky Dee's
Friday, March 11

10:27 p.m.: You can tell Bravestation are experienced and comfortable on stage, and a lot of people are singing along. Their sound is reminiscent of Foals or Yeasayer, with great melodies and rhythmic patterns. Unfortunately, the sound here isn't the best and it swallows the vocals a bit, droning out the lyrics.
11:00 p.m.: "Yes, I am the much-buzzed about band Allie Hughes, but I am also the person, and I believe both are equally important." Allie Hughes begins her show, dressed in a short, purple prom dress, with a long, white veil over her head. Grandeur is for those who claim it. But, I'm not sure if the eccentricity will match the talent.
11:20 p.m.: This is more cabaret than anything else. She is over-the-top and theatrical, self-aware and self-deprecating. More impressively, she is varied in her singing and vacillates from breezy vocals to operatic arias in a matter of moments.
11:21 p.m.: She just asked her boyfriend, Chad, to join her onstage for the next song. Promptly, a short, chubby man in a suit jacket makes his way through the crowd, yelling: "I'm coming through my dear!." Have I already mentioned that this show is hilarious?
11:40 p.m.: Has it become cool to like Britney Spears? Allie Hughes just played a cover of "Toxic," which couldn't have been catchier. I've rarely seen anyone so entertaining, but for some reason the audience doesn't seem to be that into it. Granted her music isn't terribly catchy, but that's not what it's about here. It's more about the projection of a persona.
1:25 a.m.: The Meligrove Band looks like the consequence of a few nerds deciding to abandon their video games and form a band in the hopes of getting girls. Surprisingly, they have a great stage presence that is both assertive and energetic.
2:50 a.m.: Electro dance band DVAS is the closing act, and against all expectations, Sneaky Dee's is still pretty full.
3:10 a.m.: It's late and I'm tired, but DVAS wakes you up. The lead singer and keyboardist has crazy curly hair and sounds like the Bee Gees. Right now he's rapping to some '80's classic-rock-gone-electronic and it turns the crowd into a dancing mob.
3:45 a.m.: DVAS is done – a fun ending to a good night.
—AA

HANNAH GEORGAS 2, BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB, HOLLERADO 4, SHAD, JANELLE MONÁE 1
Canadian Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Saturday, March 12

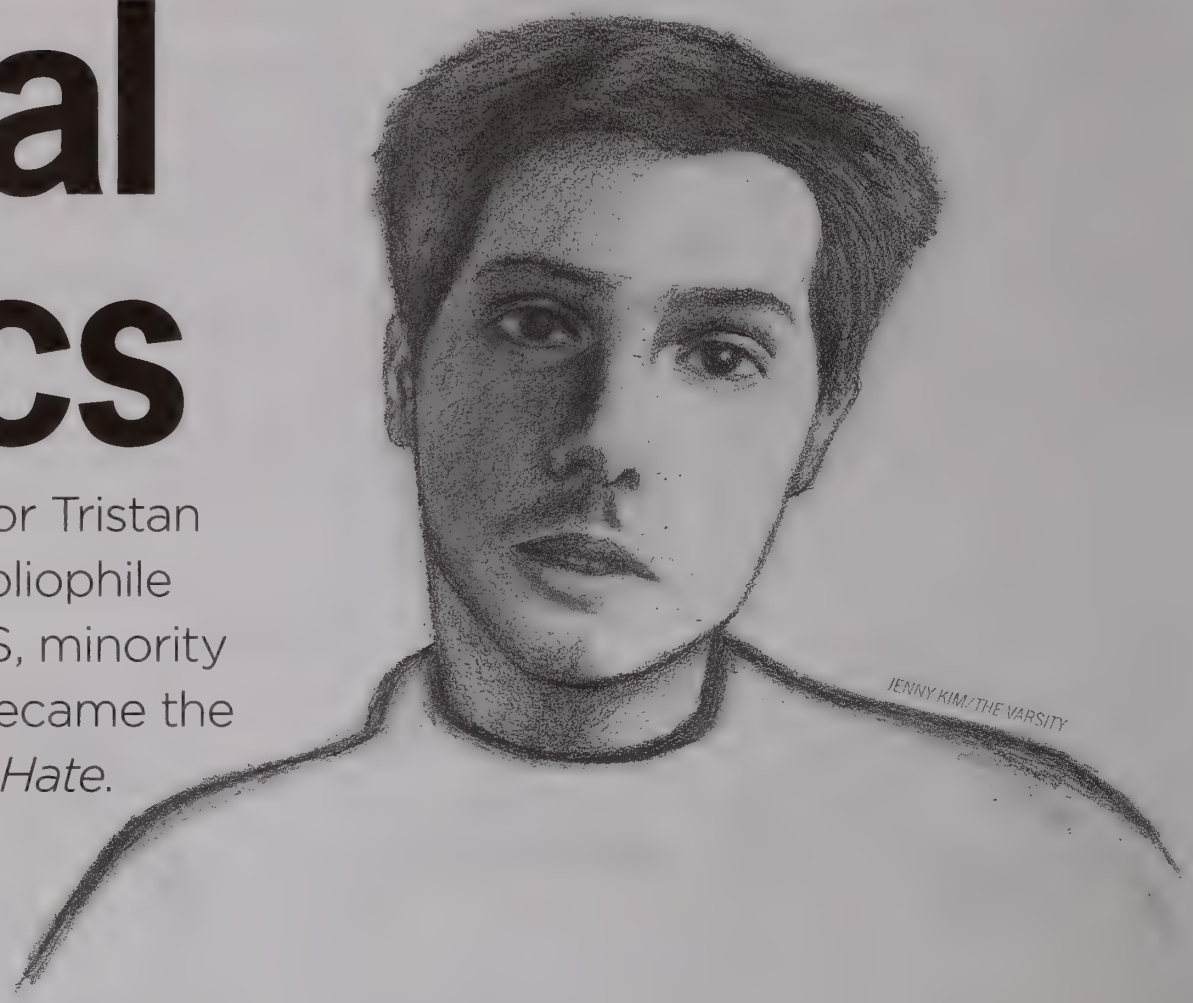
8:10 p.m.: Headed to the Fairmont Royal York, where the Indies — the largest event of Canadian Music Week, purporting to be the 'Grammys-of-the-Indie scene' — is happening. I am most anticipating a set from Janelle Monáe , but not looking forward to the huge crowd.
8:25 p.m.: Enter the concert space — one of the hotel's grand ballrooms — to a set from Hannah Georgas, a Toronto-based singer-songwriter. She's softly singing to me that "we should all be lovers in the sun," but between the crowd, the heat, and the corporate atmosphere, I'm not feeling too amorous.
8:30 p.m.: Bottles of Canadian are $8.50!
8:50 p.m.: Re-enter the concert space to find Sammy Hagar presenting an award. The presenters are an eclectic mix of Canadian celebrities and relative unknowns.
9:17 p.m.: Per an award announcer, the corporate room is at capacity and the Indies have "sold out." While considering the irony of this 'selling-out' statement, I bump into a friend, and we both comment on how non-independent these 'indies' seem to be. A large recap of award winners is shown, and somewhere between Taylor Swift winning Best International Solo Artist of the Year, and Metric winning Best Live Act of the Year — the band hasn't really toured since they released their last album in 2009 — I begin to question the relevance of these awards. If the artists celebrated are largely non-independent, and the nominations seem arbitrary, what's the point?
9:22 p.m.: Hollerado, an Ottawa act who won the Best Video of the Year award earlier tonight, takes the stage. This band sounds like Weezer and Green Day's egotistical baby. Nevertheless, it possesses the most energy of the night thus far, and the act works hard to engage them audience with sing-alongs, clap-alongs, and confetti canons.
10:03 p.m.: Janelle Monáe's drummer just bumped into me. I want his outfit.
10:07 p.m.: Finally Shad takes the stage. He tears it up with a solid opening — he just won Best Urban Artist moments ago — and launches into his most popular track, 'Rose Garden'. He follows this up with an inventive Kanye West homage by rapping over a Smokey Robinson groove, recognized to hip-hop fans as the sample from 'Devil in a New Dress' off of My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy. People go crazy.
11:15 p.m.: A tuxedo-clad man takes the stage, to a sound-collage evoking the frightening noises of a Hitchcock soundtrack. He promises that we are about to partake in an experience like no other, and challenges us to begin the adventure by following his chant of "Janelle!" with our "Monáe!" Through a dramatic monologue, she establishes the storyline of her latest concept album: an android from a future dystopian and oppressive society, she has traveled back in time — to our time — to preach the solution: we must dance, or die.
12:25 a.m.: I'm resting my feet in the lobby, trying to process what I just witnessed. That was one of the most incredible performances I've ever seen. Her performance blended electrifying stage presence, unbelievably talented musicianship, costumed theatrics, and a 15-minute encore that involved crowd surfing, sing-alongs, and a body of people screaming, singing, and passionately fulfilling Janelle's earlier preaching — that we should loose ourselves in the music and dance. She is a passionate force, and the only artist tonight who successfully roused the subdued audience to move.
—ALANA LEPRICH

ZOOBOMBS 3
The Comfort Zone
Saturday, March 12

12:30 a.m.: I'm debating whether to head home — because, how can it get any better than that? — or to continue on to check out an old favorite, a Japanese funk band called Zoobombs.
1:05 a.m.: I've decided to soldier on, and have arrived at Comfort Zone with three close friends — including A&E Editor Emily Kellogg. It's dim, it smells bad, and one friend comments that it is the creepiest bar she's seen in a while.
1:10 a.m.: Zoobombs takes the stage, and immediately engages a small but impassioned crowd. The four-piece screams, sweats, and distorts its way through song after song, each one blending non-stop to the next. These guys work hard to please, and the frenzied and fast-paced dancing of the crowd echoes their efforts.
1:57 a.m.: To much chanting and screaming, Zoobombs returns to the stage to play a long and loud encore tune. People go nuts, and I'm so glad I came. **—AL**

Sexual Politics

Controversial French author Tristan Garcia talks to Varsity bibliophile **JADE COLBERT** about AIDS, minority politics, and "how the left became the right" in his new book *Hate*.



Tristan Garcia may not be well known to English readers, but in France he is a bestselling author, controversy stirrer, and something of an enfant terrible of les belles lettres. In 2008 his debut novel, translated last year as *Hate: A Romance*, won the prestigious Prix de Flore award for young writers, quite possibly the most French of literary prizes. (In addition to 6,100 Euros, laureates win the right to drink a glass of Pouilly-Fumé every day for a year at the Café de Flore, after which the prize is named.)

The book received widespread attention not only for its literary merit, but also for its provocative subject matter (barebacking and the intentional transmission of AIDS) and, as some critics claimed, for its thinly veiled characterization of some of France's leading intellectual and cultural figures (in this interview, Garcia makes his case for why the novel is not a roman à cléf). The young author is also not shy in taking aim at what he sees as the self-absorption and superficial literary stylings of the French contemporary novel.

Tristan Garcia was born in 1981 in Toulouse and studied philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. A lecturer at the University of Picardie, he is also the author of a book of philosophy, *The Image*. His second novel, 2010's *Mémoires de la Jungle*, has yet to be translated into English. The Varsity interviewed the novelist via e-mail.

THE VARSITY: *When you started writing this book, was your intent to explore a historical period through a range of themes, or was it more specific than that? What was the spark?*

TRISTAN GARCIA: I wanted to take on the contemporary world. Since adolescence I've naturally gravitated toward science fiction, fantasy, the literature of the imagination, which for me was like a refuge from the literature they teach in school, petrified literature, and from the contemporary novel, which is too occupied, for my taste, with dramatizing the conditions of its own expression (voice, narrative structure, literary enunciation) and not enough with representing the world.

I therefore tried to write an authentic "almost contemporary" novel. I put the characters in an intermediary period between the past and the present, in the limbo of History and current affairs, somewhere between the '80s and the '90s, in the no man's land of my childhood and adolescence. I wanted to bring back to life a comatose period that hasn't yet entered History books, but is already more or less out of the headlines.

TV: *Did you know when you started that AIDS would figure so prominently in the book?*

TG: No. In the middle of this era that we still have trouble encapsulating, there were the very specific circumstances of the gay community, which experienced simultaneously the joy of emancipation (of body and spirit) and the tragedy of disease. AIDS was like the dark back of the shop of the glittering window displays of the '80s and '90s.

There is in the dramas, the individual and collective heartbreaks of this story of the French gay community, or in the disease herself, testimonies, autobiographic fiction (from Guibert to Dustan). But, in my opinion, none have given it a romantic dimension. It seems to me that the tale of events in the small Parisian gay community could find its place in the bigger story of the end of the millennium in France, in the West, and that this story comes to reflect itself in the tableau of this microcosm.

If I had written a novel about the '80s in France without considering the gay community, its ebullience, and at the same time the appearance of the disease, it would probably have been a dreary, grey, and boring novel: not much happened in these years of decline, of disillusion in large collective movements, of ideas that the twentieth century produced.

Cruelly, AIDS gave the period something tragic and romantic, something that ate at the body but also stimulated ideas, debates.

TV: *Despite the denial at the beginning of the book, so many striking similarities have been noted between your characters and real people that some say this is a roman à clef. How do you respond?*

TG: A roman à clef assumes that each character corresponds to a real person. In reality, each of the main characters of the novel combines different facets of different individuals that existed. The philosopher, Lebowitz, is a type who corresponds to many French intellectuals of this generation, who started their career at the end of leftism, especially of Maoism, and who moved closer little by little to neo-conservatives. The truth is, it's a common trajectory in France, which adopted the end of the intellectual sphere's faith in Marxism.

Will shares certain common traits with Guillaume Dustan, a writer and eccentric personality of '90s France. But Dustan came from a well-off background, he was an intellectual and he took up brilliant studies in law. William — readers of the novel would have remarked — comes from a very humble background, he's more of a little punk, a willing idiot.

The character Dominique Rossi is, in a certain number of details or anecdotes, close to Didier Lestrade, a very important figure in the militant homosexual scene (but not only there). He retired to the countryside and clashed violently with Guillaume Dustan about the problem of unprotected sex, of bareback. But Rossi, in the novel, is Corsican, from a university background, and ends up allied with the reactionary philosopher, which certainly wasn't the case for Didier Lestrade.

To write a novel on the contemporary world, on debates of ideas, of politics, it was necessary to adopt the public positions of certain real personages. But it's as if the novel reconstructed characters by sculpting them from different profiles of real people.

TV: *By the end of the book, we've seen the consequences of Will's ideals, and as someone who willingly infects his partners, it's easy to judge him. On the other hand, it's hard to resist a raw biological empathy with Will in the end, when his body betrays him.*

TG: The idea of the book is that Will appears to be the most incoherent and vicious character, but that unlike others, he doesn't change with the times, he holds on to his hates right to the end, right to his death. This faithfulness, which only the narrator, Liz, is there to understand, is perhaps the best part of men (or humanity) named in the French title.

Empathy in regarding Will is only possible, I believe, through the way he is seen by Liz. The reader's empathy for Will has precisely to do with the disease, with the weakness of his body and with his defeat. The other characters coped with their time period, renewed themselves, changed political sides or returned back to their original social environment: William was used by the media, he served as a clown for a time, then, like all those who no longer amuse, he is sent back to oblivion. His humble social environment promises him no safety net: he falls.

In reality, I'd probably dislike a being like William, but through fiction, we can learn to love what is contrary to our values. In writing the book, I loved William. The reader who will appreciate the book will probably feel some of this love. But it is not an immediate love, flat and common: it's a love that has passed through hate, that has stood the test of its opposite.

Interview translated by Jane Bao. This interview has been abridged for print. For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca/arts.



by ANDREW RUSK

Carmel White Zinfandel

$9.95 at the LCBO (Vintages)

The colour of a rosé can range from a light orange to vibrant purple, but this summer wine is most commonly recognized for its "pinkish" quality. A good rosé is sweet, vibrant, and can be paired with a wide array of foods, from Chinese to barbeque.

Rosé is particularly special because of the three different ways it can be produced. First, sun exposure allows the skins of white grapes to ferment with the wine for a couple days, providing a Tannin flavour to the wine. Second, a process called Saignee produces rosé as a byproduct of red wine fermentation. After a winemaker adds Tannin to red wine some pike juice is removed and fermented into rosé. Third, blending involves mixing red wine and white wine together. It should be noted that this technique is rare except in the Champagne region of France.

Traditionally, rosé was a very dry wine, but after the Second World War it began to assume a sweeter consistency due to changing winemaker preferences. Dry rosés are once again rising in popularity, but the Carmel White Zinfadel is a fantastic example of a sweet rosé (and with a sugar content of 2, that's very sweet, even compared to other rosé wines). Made in Israel, this kosher wine features a floral bouquet and is fairly light-bodied. The limited number of wines produced in Israel makes physically finding a good kosher wine pretty difficult; however, the hunt is well worth it.

Whatever you do, serve this wine cold. Best enjoyed after a smoked meat sandwich at Caplansky's.

FEATURED COMMENTARY

Democracy or Theocracy?

PATRICK BAUD, The Varsity's resident political pundit, offers his insights into the ongoing uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa.

Illustrations of Ben Ali (left) and Mubarak (right) by **JENNY KIM**



The uprisings that have swept through the Middle East and North Africa since January seemed to come out of nowhere. Although few experts doubted that the increasingly young, but disenfranchised populations of these countries would have a major effect on their politics, most expected that these populations would become radicalized and eventually replace the absolute monarchies and dictatorships in the region with Iranian-style theocracies. Instead the movement, which has toppled the governments of Egypt and Tunisia and currently threatens those of Libya and Yemen, is not primarily a religiously-oriented movement. This has reminded outsiders not to discount the possibility that youth might be a moderating, rather than a radicalizing, force in the region.

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Whatever view we take of the situation, both in general and in specific countries, it's not clear what is to come. Some states such as Saudi Arabia, whose governments' hold on power is relatively strong, have nevertheless adopted reforms that would have been unthinkable as little as a few months ago. Other states such as Egypt and Tunisia, whose immediate futures are far more uncertain, are also preparing for their first reforms in decades. For some, this liberalization is a clear sign that this is the Arab world's 1989 moment, recalling the year that communism — especially in Eastern Europe — rapidly crumbled.

For others, however, the reform efforts are unlikely to succeed because an Islamist takeover is not far away. For them, 2011 (or perhaps 2012) will soon come to resemble 1979, the year when the Iranian revolution was co-opted by Islamists who quickly turned Iran into a theocracy. While it's unclear whether the Arab world is on the verge of being swept by a wave of liberalization or Islamism, it's likely that either trend would be tempered by country-specific factors such as the role of the military in Egypt and the influence of the French government in Tunisia.

Due to these factors, it's likely that the next few years will more closely resemble the period starting in the 1950s when several burgeoning constitutional monarchies and republics in the Arab world were toppled by civilian or military coups. This was the case not only in Egypt, where the military has ruled since 1952, and Tunisia, where former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took power in a bloodless coup in 1987, but also in Iraq and Syria. While there had been hope in the 1950s and 1960s for liberalization, as there is now, there is also the possibility that new authoritarian governments could take hold amidst the chaos.

However significant the liberalization that takes place in Egypt and Tunisia, it is likely that whatever form of democracy is developed in both countries will be flawed.

However significant the liberalization that takes place in Egypt and Tunisia, it is likely that whatever form of democracy is developed in both countries will be flawed. In Egypt, this will largely be because of the tremendous role played by the military in Egyptian society, both as a national icon, and because of its involvement in most sectors of the Egyptian economy. The military's interest in preserving its role will give it incentive to ensure that someone sympathetic to its interests prevails in elections planned for the fall, while its broad-based popular support will give it the power to do so. In Tunisia, this will be less for structural reasons than because of the effects of Ben Ali's repressive rule.

Despite these challenges, the West possesses several important tools to influence the future of both states. Chief among these is the American military's close relationship with the Egyptian military, which is based not only on the significant military aid that the United States provides Egypt, but also training programmes which see Egyptian officers studying at American military schools. American military leaders can exert significant pressure on their Egyptian counterparts, which they are sure to have done at the height of the protests in January and February, to ensure that they behave properly. Although it has historically been loath to use its power to issue demands, the French government continues to exert significant influence in Tunisia, its former colony, to ensure preferential treatment for its companies and to maintain the welfare of its expatriates.

Beyond Egypt and Tunisia, the wave of uprisings sweeping the Middle East and North Africa seems to have slowed. The exception is Libya, which has become embroiled in a virtual civil war. It's clear that the uprisings have served as a warning for autocrats and monarchs alike. What remains unclear, however, is what the long term effect will be, particularly in countries which have not seen their governments overthrown. The structural causes that led directly, or indirectly, to the uprisings — such as high unemployment, particularly among youth; high food prices; and the effects of long-term political repression — persist throughout the region.

These structural problems will also be challenging for the caretaker governments in Egypt and Tunisia as well as the new governments formed following the upcoming elections. The expectations for change are high in the wake of the uprisings, but the ability of the new governments to tackle these problems in the near-term is limited. This is especially true in Tunisia, where the first new prime minister since the revolution has already been forced out of office. Due to the influence of the military in Egypt, the lead up to the elections in October will likely be smoother, but protests pressing for faster reform continue.

In order to address these problems, it will be time for governments in the Arab world to once again, for some, and finally, for others, attempt to diversify and modernize their stagnant economies. Maintaining price controls is crucial for basic staples in the near-term, but facilitating and encouraging true competition in other sectors would help fuel growth and provide opportunities for foreign investment. Moreover, gradually privatizing state-owned companies and creating a modern regulatory environment would also help drive economic growth. These economic reforms are especially important for states without significant oil and gas resources. Even relatively oil-rich states can benefit from diversification to insulate themselves against day-to-day price drops and prepare for the inevitable decline in production.

Moreover, it will also be time for governments to dismantle aging and costly war machines and replace them with more modern defence forces. This will be especially challenging in countries such as Egypt which have large conscripted militaries, and whose military leaders exert a significant influence on national politics. However, cutting military spending would immediately reduce the tax burden on economies in the region while also allowing governments to invest in a broader social safety net aimed at curbing the negative effects of high unemployment.

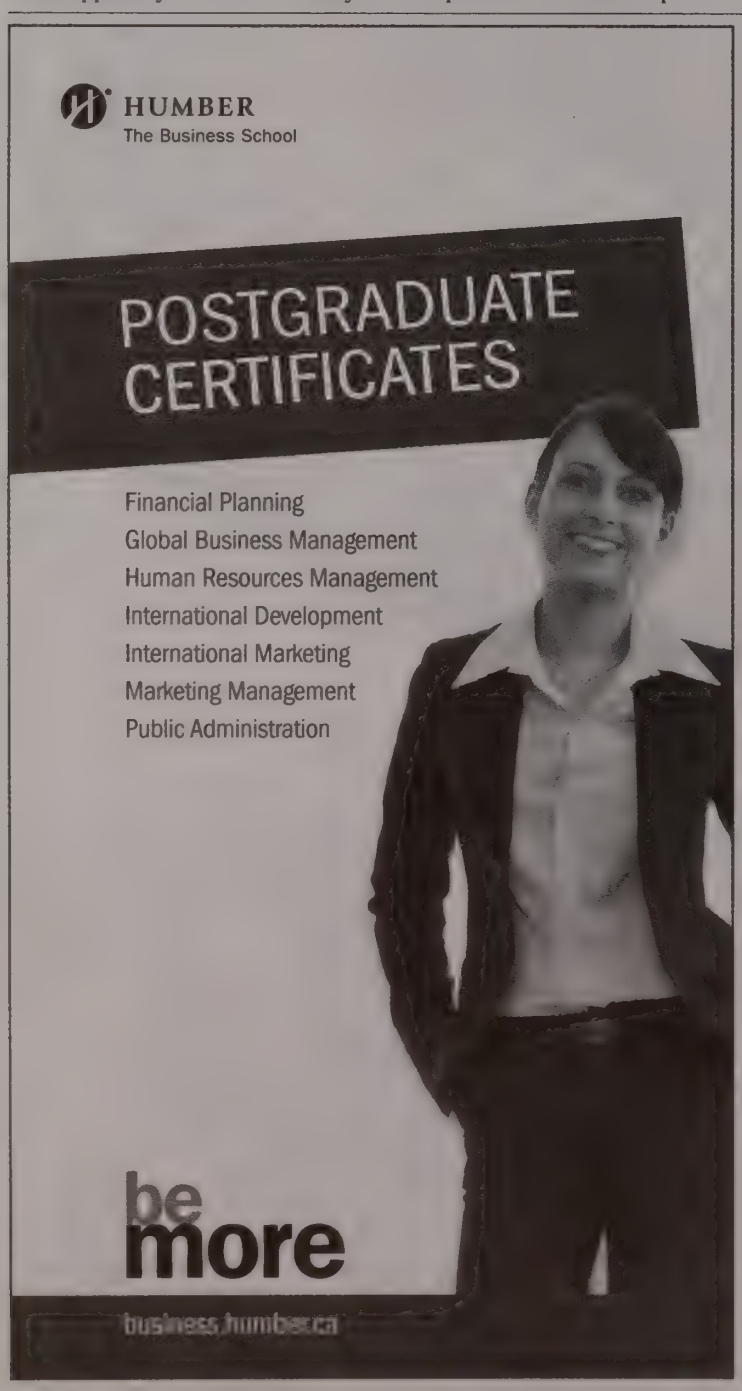
The expectations for change are high in the wake of the uprisings, but the ability of the new governments to tackle these problems in the near-term is limited.

It will also be time for governments in the region to finally embrace fuller civil and political rights, as the governments of Bahrain and Kuwait have begun to do in recent decades. This means not only embracing greater political freedom by allowing free, internationally-monitored elections, but also ending censorship and limits on freedom of assembly. These freedoms will likely not be granted immediately, but will come as part of a package of gradual liberalization. What is less clear is how they will be better protected than they have been in the past.

Constitutions and courts offer little hope, as they have been serially co-opted and suspended. Instead, it may be up to the populations of these countries to hold their governments to account directly, as they have in these uprisings. All of these changes are likely to come piecemeal and would easily be undermined, especially if there are attempts either by the military or by Islamists to unduly influence the future of their countries. The West might attempt to create incentives for change, as the United States has unexpectedly done by having its military cultivate a close relationship with Egyptian military leaders. But the West cannot easily punish leaders who stray from change without fanning the flames of anti-imperialism. Nor should we, except in cases of egregious human rights violations.

Any change will undoubtedly come at the price of stability. Where Western governments had sought to keep autocrats in power in the past because they believed that they alone would keep the oil flowing into their economies and not reinitiate hostilities against Israel and, more recently, because they alone would keep the Islamist tide at bay, there is now a choice. Change has swept the Middle East and North Africa. Hopefully it will eventually mean that new democratic governments will form in Egypt and Tunisia, but it's not unthinkable that parties hostile to some or all of these approaches will come to power.

The hope, however, is that the new democracies will be better able to respond to the concerns of their people and take steps to act on them. If they can do that, the result will ultimately be a more stable region. Since the effect of the revolutions that have swept the Middle East and North Africa will be long term, it's crucial that the West takes a long-term view in deciding how to respond to them. Cautious optimism, in this case, seems to be the right way forward.



THE VARSITY
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Varsity Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
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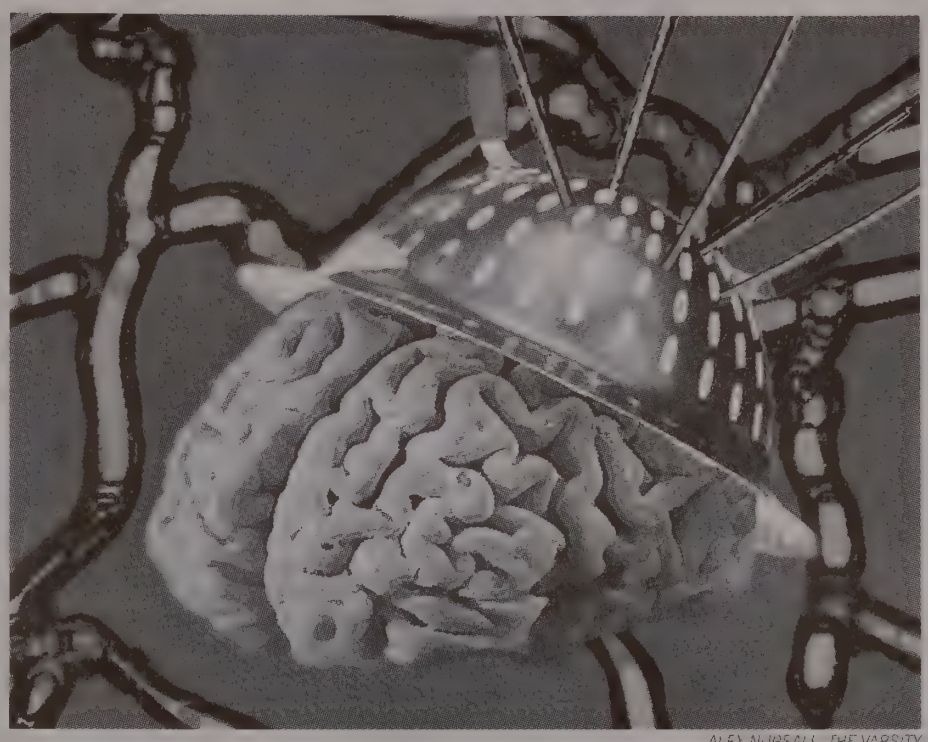
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To think or not to think

Scientist's claim of inventing a "thinking cap" turns heads and stirs controversy

Tina Knezevic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



ALEX NURSALL THE VARSITY

It seems that scientists have known about the differences between the left and right sides of our brains forever. In fact, hemispheric specialization — the idea that each side of our brain is more suited to different functions — was first discovered in the 1960s by Nobel Prize winner Roger Sperry. Since then, the popular media has characterized the left hemisphere as our "wise" and analytical side, favouring logic and past experience in decision making. The right — our imaginative side — is less afraid of taking risks, and prefers symbols and images as opposed to facts.

Using these broad distinctions, there's little doubt that throughout development, children are encouraged to do the type of thinking that occurs on the left side. PhD student Richard Chi and his supervisor, Allan Snyder, from the University of Sydney have been fascinated with the categorical functions of each side of the brain for years. Considering the fact that accident victims who spontaneously experience inhibition to the left side of their brain can develop surprisingly new artistic abilities, they continued to wonder: what if there was a way to deliberately stimulate or inhibit parts of the brain?

This is exactly what Snyder and Chi did. They used a technique called transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) — a fancy way of saying that they switched different sides of the brain "on" or "off." In their study, 60 participants were presented with the same "matchstick arithmetic" problems, requiring them to rearrange matches in the form of Roman numerals to create mathematically true statements.

Each participant was asked to solve a number of math questions, after which they were divided into randomly selected groups to receive varying levels of stimulation on different sides of their brains. Snyder and Chi hypothesized that participants who received stimulation to the right side and simultaneous suppression of the left would solve subsequent questions more rapidly.

Their results indicated just that. Individuals were three times more likely to solve a problem after right-side stimulation. Interestingly, participants who received both left-side stimulation and right side suppression fared no worse than when they received no stimulation at all. Apparently, we are only set in our ways to a certain extent.

This research, while not exactly novel, does bring up some interesting points. Perhaps our prior beliefs and reality-based judgments, characterized by the left hemisphere, can be pushed aside when it makes more sense to take risks and use our imagination (which is typically the territory of the right hemisphere.) Now, this isn't to say that our species lacks creativity; our collective resume is filled with some serious credentials. But Snyder and Chi's work could lead to research on how we can engage different parts of our brains more successfully.

However, it's all fun and games until the thinking cap comes off. Criticized for jumping to conclusions without controlling for possible false causes of their observations, Snyder and Chi's experiment has been widely scrutinized for failing to discuss the short-comings of their research, and forgetting to examine the effects on other areas of cognition. The study was branded as "pseudoscience" by writers for the Guardian in the UK, who claimed that Snyder and Chi have created a biased study geared towards popular media in order to increase their exposure.

The original article by Snyder and Chi does, however, state its limitations. In fact the discussion is filled with explanations of the possible shortcomings and misinterpretations of their research. For example, they state that an improvement in performance is likely due to a combination of cognitive mechanisms that result from the interaction of several neural networks. They go on to say that their interpretation can be classified as an "oversimplified caricature" of the inhibition of the left side of the brain.

Despite the controversy, the research certainly gets people thinking. While brain stimulation won't make you smarter, it will encourage the more dormant parts of your brain to solve problems in a new way. Unfortunately for students, I don't foresee a time in the near future when a professor will excuse you while you put your "thinking cap" on to get a different perspective on question five during your final exam.

If we're learning that certain parts of our brains — and in particular the right side — are suppressed in the majority of the population, then perhaps more research can be directed towards determining potential benefits of being able to access both sides on a regular basis. According to Snyder and Chi, it is three times more useful.

Perhaps if more emphasis is placed on nurturing the right side of the brain, educators might think twice about cutting funds for the arts in schools, or branding kids as "smart" because they excel at math or science. Most importantly, if we can encourage equal development of both sides of the brain at an early age, maybe we won't need a thinking cap to access these parts when we need to.

The right side of my brain is going crazy just thinking of the possibilities.

The healthiest snack foods

Varsity food luminary **MARY SCOURBOUTAKOS** *does it again in part three of the multi-part series on the healthiest munchies*

When you're cramming for that midterm or pulling an all-nighter for an essay, there's nothing like a good snack to keep you going. If you've ever wondered how the nutritional profiles of your favourite snack foods compare, here's a summary of some of the best and worst choices.

AIR-POPPED POPCORN

When it's not soaked in butter, popcorn is one of the best snacks out there. Not only is it a great low-calorie choice (an entire cup contains only 32 calories — which means you could burn it off after only three minutes of jogging!), it also contains modest amounts of fiber, meaning it will keep you full for longer. Oil-popped popcorn contains about twice as many calories, but it is still better than many other snack choices. That said, it's best to steer clear of caramel-covered popcorn, which contains approximately five times more calories that regular air-popped popcorn.

TRAIL MIX

Though trail mix can be high in calories (as many as 350 calories in a half-cup), it is also high in nutrients such as protein, B-vitamins, magnesium, and iron. Not to mention, it is the most satiating of all the foods on this list. Of course, depending on the blend of ingredients, trail mix can vary greatly. If you're making it yourself, don't be overly generous with dried fruit. Avoid candy or chocolate-based ingredients, and be sure to include as many different kinds of seeds and nuts as possible.

CRACKERS

When it comes to crackers, there is great diversity among the different brands and types of crackers that you can buy. For roughly 60 calories and under 130mg of sodium, you could consume seven thin wheat crackers, or three melba toasts. Or, for around 90 calories, you could consume seven soda crackers, or three graham crackers (with 100 and 234mg of sodium, respectively). On the slightly higher end, seven "Ritz"-style crackers contain about 114 calories and 200mg of sodium. Though they're starting to verge on being nutritional nonos, these crackers are still a better option than some other popular snack choices.

PRETZELS

Pretzels seem like they're healthy, but consuming only seven will supply you with 160 calories, and over 550 mg of sodium. This is almost a third of the ideal amount of sodium that you should consume daily, making pretzels a less desirable snack.

CHIPS

If you compare an equal mass of potato chips, dried-potato chips (such as Pringles), corn-based puffs (such as Cheesies), and tortilla chips, there is no huge difference in total calories among these snack choices. For about 28 grams (the standard serving size, equaling approximately ten chips) of any of these choices, you're looking at anywhere from 140 to 160 calories. Nevertheless, some choices are still better than others. In most cases, tortilla chips are the best choice. They contain the fewest calories, and significantly less sodium (79mg) compared to dried-potato chips (109mg), potato chips (147mg), and corn-based puffs (255mg).

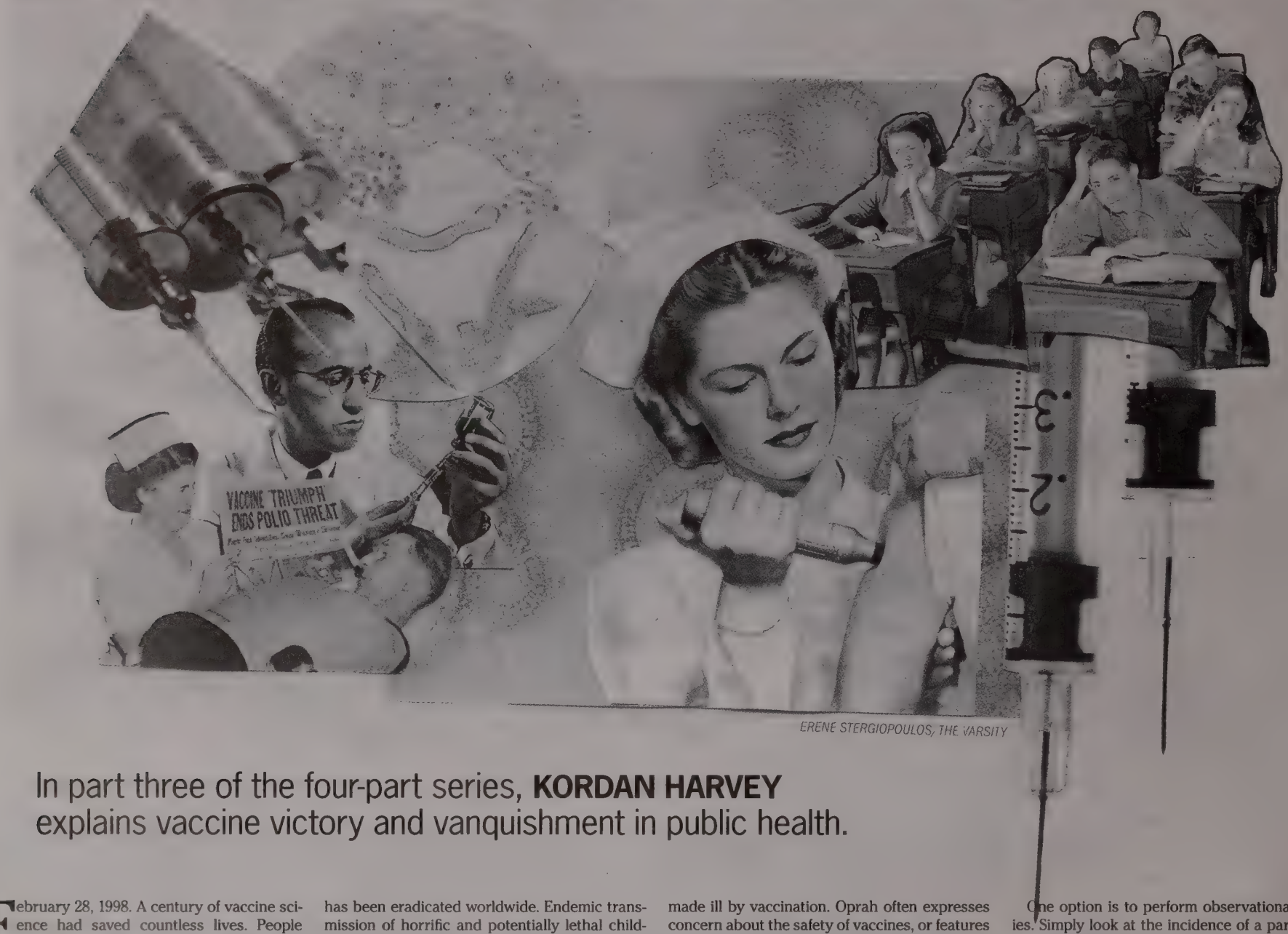


DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

So when it comes to snacking, be wise about your choices. If you're snacking because you're truly hungry, make sure you go for popcorn or trail mix because these snacks will fill you up without filling you out. If you're looking for a tasty treat, be mindful of the volume you consume because the calories and salt add up quickly.

HEADLINES ON TRIAL:

How I learned to stop worrying and love vaccines



ERENE STERGIOPOULOS, THE VARSITY

In part three of the four-part series, **KORDAN HARVEY** explains vaccine victory and vanquishment in public health.

February 28, 1998. A century of vaccine science had saved countless lives. People were happily being vaccinated against a myriad of horrible diseases, nary a worry in their immunized minds.

Enter Dr. Andrew Wakefield who, on that fateful February day, published a paper in *The Lancet* suggesting that the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine caused autism spectrum disorder in children.

The study itself turned out to be massively flawed, and was later retracted by *The Lancet*'s editors, but not before Dr. Wakefield had fired the opening salvo in yet another war on vaccines.

Opposition to vaccination is almost as old as vaccines themselves, beginning shortly after the introduction of the smallpox vaccine at the end of the 18th century. Vaccination was a novel concept, and the public concern centered on both how well it worked and the religious and philosophical objections to mandatory vaccination laws.

Nearly a century later, a concerted anti-vaccine campaign in Stockholm succeeded in reducing smallpox vaccination rates to around 40 per cent, compared to ninety per cent in the rest of Sweden. In doing so, the campaign unwittingly conducted a controlled trial of vaccine efficacy: Stockholm suffered one of Europe's last major epidemics of smallpox in 1874. Unsurprisingly, vaccination rates promptly rose.

There is now little doubt that vaccines are effective. Prior to the rollout of the diphtheria vaccine in the 1920s, there were over 20,000 cases of the disease in the United States annually. In 2010, following less than a hundred years of vaccination, there were no cases. None.

Estimates show that routine vaccination saves 33,000 lives and prevents 14 million cases of disease in every birth cohort in the U.S. Smallpox has been eradicated worldwide. Endemic transmission of horrific and potentially lethal childhood illnesses like polio, mumps, and rubella has been eliminated in the developed world.

There is an argument to be made that vaccination is the greatest public health intervention in human history. Yet the anti-vaccine movement lives on, gaining strength like the mythical hydra, sprouting two heads for every one that evidence bloodily severs. If the benefits are so easily demonstrated, why all the backlash?

Poorly done studies like the Andrew Wakefield example certainly don't help. But since scientific journals are often inaccessible outside the ivory tower of academia, this cannot be the only factor fueling the fire.

In North America, vaccination takes place almost entirely in children, making parental perception decisive in its success. Parents are under a constant barrage of health information. While the 1800s had tracts and journals, we now have newspapers, blogs, and social media.

Unfortunately, many of those involved in reporting the news have no training in examining the strengths and weaknesses behind a health claim. Pressure to increase readership fills pages with sensationalized, credulous reporting of the most eye-catching claims, with little discussion of the evidence behind them, or how the findings might apply to everyday life.

One week, eggs are a health panacea; the next, they cause cancer. One week, vaccination is beneficial; the next, it's too risky to recommend. In this climate, it becomes impossible for parents to know what, or who, to trust. So parental trust shifts mainly to other parents, especially those with a high profile.

Celebrities have had a massive effect on the public perception of vaccination. Jenny McCarthy and Jim Carrey hold up her son as a child made ill by vaccination. Oprah often expresses concern about the safety of vaccines, or features parent guests who are outright anti-vaccine. Nevermind that they have the same amount of medical training as your mailman.

The parents who forgo vaccination are often among the most highly educated. How are they so easily swayed by anti-vaccine rhetoric? It's interesting that many parents cannot articulate exactly why they are against vaccination, suggesting an emotional component to their objection.

Perhaps vaccines are a victim of their own success. Widespread, long-term vaccination programs mean that many parents have never lived in a world where children are regularly paralyzed by polio. They tend to underestimate the occurrence of these vaccine-preventable diseases and the risks associated with infection, but overestimate the incidence of severe complications.

At the same time, disease is seen as something that happens by chance, inflicted by a roll of the cosmic dice. A common theme in anti-vaccination literature is that vaccines are a choice made by parents and inflicted on children, an usurpation of child rights. Parents may feel directly at fault if complications do occur, and may be unwilling to take the risk.

Vaccine safety is an important issue. While stories of sudden-onset autism and other severe complications are terrifying to parents, there are straightforward ways to test if a given intervention is having an observed effect. Anecdote is not evidence.

When it comes to vaccine trials, there are some unique hurdles to overcome. Since no evidence-based argument can be made against the effectiveness of vaccines, they cannot be ethically withheld from patients. This rules out a gold-standard, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial.

One option is to perform observational studies. Simply look at the incidence of a particular disorder like autism in unvaccinated children and compare it to the incidence in children who are vaccinated according to schedule. Far from being science-y and opaque, this is a sensible, straightforward approach.

Multiple studies of this kind have been done for every recommended vaccine. Not one has found a consistent causal link between autism — or any other commonly cited complication — and vaccination.

Faced with evidence, anti-vaccine conspirators simply move the goalposts. Now, it's not just MMR that causes autism; it's the mercury in vaccines. So you demonstrate that there is no link between mercury and autism. You even take all of the mercury out of vaccines. All better? Nope, now the problem is that we are giving children too many vaccines, too quickly. Like Alice and the elusive Red Queen, vaccine advocates must keep on running just to stay in the same place.

It is likely that there will always be an anti-vaccine movement, and that no amount of evidence will assuage every last doubt about vaccine safety or usefulness. But at what cost?

In 2008, ten years after Wakefield's original article, measles was declared endemic in Britain for the first time in 14 years. It was the direct result of a decade of poor MMR coverage. Meanwhile, vaccine-preventable diseases are on the rise again in North America. The longer the trend towards forgoing vaccination continues, the longer children are put at unnecessary risk.

Science provides a set of tools with which we can reasonably test our beliefs. Celebrity "wisdom" or anecdotes play upon our fears and our natural tendency to evaluate the validity of statements based on the status of the speaker. We must instead look to the evidence.

Science isn't everything



ERENE STERGIOPOULOS, THE VARSITY

In the final part of a multi-part series, **DEBORAH CHAN** *looks at the often unexplored side of "rational science," and its negative impact on Western culture.*

Penny: "I'm a Sagittarius, which probably tells you way more than you need to know."
Sheldon: "Yes, it tells us that you participate in the mass cultural delusion that the sun's apparent position relative to arbitrarily defined constellations at the time of your birth somehow affects your personality."
(From *The Big Bang Theory*)

I once had a friend who believed in astrology; she read horoscopes religiously. One time, this friend asked me if I could teach her basic chemistry. I scrawled out some molecular shorthand on the back of a napkin and tried to explain to her, as best I could, how an acid and a base can create a salt and a water molecule.

I think she stopped trying to understand as soon as I wrote down an H and said, "Ok, this is hydrogen."

This same friend works at a coffee shop. One time, I drank my cup of coffee only to sadly realize that there was a massive lump of undissolved sugar at the bottom. She said, "You should have used the sugar water." "Why?" I asked. "Because sugar water dissolves more easily than solid sugar crystals."

I — someone who has taken university-level organic and physical chemistry — failed to even realize this fact. My friend didn't think so, but she was a much better chemist than I was.

I think the reason people don't often care about "real" science, and only care about pop science, has something to do with how we all had to experience science class. I got A-pluses in chemistry class, and I did this by briefly storing arbitrary facts in my brain, then spitting them back out on the multiple choice exam. I then, of course, proceeded to forget them forever. The facts I had to learn didn't seem to have any relevance to my day-to-day life.

Blind devotion to Western science can lead to harmful dismissal of other forms of science. For example, Carl Sagan noted in The Demon Haunted World that Western science was just beginning to confirm the medicinal properties of the herbs traditionally used by indigenous peoples.

I think that psychiatric diagnostic criteria — which, again, are engineering categories, and not theoretical science — have been quite damaging to our perception of people. This has, in effect, led to general public distrust of the scientific institution itself. For example, people with psychotic disorders such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are frequently not taken seriously in today's society. Just look at the popular opinion on the eccentric Pete Wentz, a sufferer of bipolar disorder.

By and large, the oppressive force of science is in its application. Western science has been — and often continues to be — oppressive to minorities. An example of this oppression over minorities would be in the practice of psychiatry, in which psychiatrist Dr. Kenneth Zucker diagnoses gender-variant boys with "Gender Identity Disorder" in an attempt to ward off homosexuality.

Marshall McLuhan was often dismissed as crazy and irrational

One social science theory argues that we evolved psychotic disorders like bipolar disorder and schizophrenia because every society needs a prophet. William Blake would surely have been diagnosed with a psychotic disorder since he was reported to have had visions.

Professor Josh Pilzer once told me that Nietzsche was diagnosed with psychosis when he became hung up on the idea that "Germany must be stopped." This was well before any mentally "healthy" people realized that this was the case. Professor Jordan Peterson shared to his class that Nietzsche also predicted that the removal of Christianity from Russian society [which at least advocated "loving your neighbour as yourself"] would be replaced with a logical, rational ideology (Communism), and that this would result in mass genocide. This was well before Stalin came to power.

To a lesser extent, Marshall McLuhan was often dismissed as crazy and irrational. In fact, he was irrational; he was operating from incredibly perceptive social and emotional intuition, instead of purely scientific rationality. What's more, his predictions have come true — the Internet now exists! Nietzsche made predictions that came true too, in ways that "rational" science, performed by people who did not suffer from "delusions," could not have forecasted.

Today, people with brains that make connections and perceive relationships that psychologically typical brains cannot, are at best being put on normalizing medications. In the worst cases, such individuals are institutionalized. Of course, this is for the safety and protection of "normal" people, who would like to live their lives without having to fear unpredictable behaviour in others. Clearly, the issue is not black and white.

I think the main problem with the institution of science today is that it is "objectivist" like Ayn Rand, and purely materialistic. Ayn Rand believed that science was able to discover absolute, capital-T Truth. But this was a false notion.

Scientists know that there will always be observations made in the future that have not yet been made, and these will — sometimes slightly, sometimes dramatically — alter how we view the world. If we make the mistake of believing that we know everything there is to know, we risk making the same mistake as, say, scientists who did not yet know that Henry Ford's internal combustion engine could destroy our Earth's climate.

The institution of science often forgets that — as Professor Jordan Peterson likes to emphasize — our lives themselves are not based in materialism; they are based in existentialism. Consciousness is immaterial. Pain is not rational; it cannot be logically argued away. In fact, that will make it worse. Pain is a subjective experience that people will not readily admit is a mere epiphenomenon of their neural mechanisms. Pain is more real than that.

The problem with pure science as it is taught in today's schools is that it only looks at the static past and present, with little hopeful gazes toward the future. Traditional and contemporary religion and mythology make it clear that arrogant rationality and logical thinking are not the highest virtues. Neurologically speaking, we unconsciously react with our emotions and motivations first, and then come up with the logic for them after.

All in all, rationality isn't the highest virtue. I think Hermione Granger in Harry Potter said it best:

"Harry — you're a great wizard, you know."

"I'm not as good as you," said Harry, very embarrassed, as she let him go.

"Me!" said Hermione. "Books! And cleverness! There are more important things — friendship and bravery and — oh Harry — be careful!"

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Faculty of Physical Education & Health
COUNCIL OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION
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Nominations **Close Wednesday, March 23 2011 at 5:00PM**
for the following positions on the Council of Athletics and Recreation:

- 12 Student Representatives (St. George Campus)
- 1 Administrative Staff Representative
- 1 Academic Staff Representative
- 1 Alumnae/i Representative
- 4 FPEH Staff Representatives

All positions are for a term of 2 years: **May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2013.**

The Council is responsible for overall Athletics and Recreation policy including–: allocation of funds to Co-Curricular areas; staffing policy; rental and fees policy.

Nomination forms are available in: **the Athletic Centre Main Office; Suite 1040** or the **Co-Curricular department Suite 1064,**
Nomination papers must be filed at one of these offices.
Nominations received elsewhere or after that time will be invalid.

For full information contact:
Chief Returning Officer
Khary Lumley
416.946.7878
Khary.lumley@utoronto.ca
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Why we listen to music



CLAIRE SERINGHAUS/THE VARSITY

Mina Park
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Listening to music is inherently biological — it's even in our genes.

Music has a powerful hold on the human psyche. Hearing an old song can trigger waves of nostalgia, while listening to a cheerful tune can instantly lift your spirits. Not surprisingly, music's ability to captivate human audiences has been the subject of much scientific inquiry. Researchers across the world have made strides in understanding how and why music is able to affect us the way it does.

A simple answer to why we make and listen to music would be because we like it. A neuroimaging study published this year in *Nature Neuroscience* by the Zatorre lab at McGill University found that listening to music stimulates the release of dopamine, the pleasure-inducing neurotransmitter.

However, the reason why we engage with music appears to run far deeper than mere enjoyment. In 1995, neuroscientist Jaak Panksepp conducted a survey on hundreds of men and women, asking why music was important in their lives. An overwhelming majority of all respondents answered that it was "because it elicits emotions and feelings." Anecdotally, anyone who has been brought to the brink of tears by a sad melody can attest to the emotional power of music.

Music's ability to trigger emotions has been explored in a number of studies. A previous experiment by the same McGill group found that the limbic system, a key network for emotions in the brain, is activated by listening to music. They found that when people listened to melodies containing consonant patterns of notes, areas of the limbic system linked with pleasure were stimulated, whereas dissonant melodies caused areas of the limbic system associated with unpleasant emotion to light up. Confirming this neurobiological response, participants in the study described their feelings as respectively positive or negative after listening to the different tunes.

The emotional effect of music has also been investigated at a physiological level. Psychologist Carol Krumhansl at Cornell University measured participants' physiological responses to hearing songs that expressed various emotions. For instance, a song expressing sadness would have a slow tempo and be written in a minor key. Results from this experiment found that bodily functions associated with emotions — in this case, the slower pulse and decreased body temperature associated with sadness — were induced by the different pieces of music.

Multiple lines of research show that music is able to evoke remarkably similar emotions among groups of different individuals. In an initiative led by neuroscientist Tom Fritz, African ethnic groups with no previous exposure to Western music listened to excerpts of classical piano. The emotions they identified in the music were consistent to those identified by Western listeners.

Another study conducted by Dr. Heaton at the University of London involved playing music for both autistic and non-autistic children. Both groups were able to recognize feelings as complex as triumph and contentment in the music they listened to. In another experiment, Dr. Bresin and others at the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden had groups of expert musicians and children alter certain variables in a song, such as tempo and volume, to match an emotion. The tempo of a song to an intended feeling matched in both groups. Therefore, the emotionality laden in music does not seem to lose its effect, regardless of individual variables such as culture, training, age, and disability.

Given music's role as a universal medium of emotion, the question then becomes — why? What is the explanation behind our universal emotional response to music? Is there any functional significance to this phenomenon?

Multiple theories have addressed this issue. One theory claims that music's influence over us happened purely by chance. At some point, the response to music serendipitously became associated with brain circuitry intended for other purposes, such as emotion.

Another possibility is that our response to music developed for reproduction. Darwin himself wrote, "It appears probable that the progenitors of man, either the males or females or both sexes, before acquiring the power of expressing their mutual love in articulate language, endeavoured to charm each other with musical notes and rhythm." In this light, musical ability and its elicited response could serve as a way for our predecessors to size up potential mates.

Throughout history, no known human society has been without some form of what we would classify as music. Even the anatomy of early hominids suggests that they were capable of musicality. Steven Mithen from the University of Reading hypothesizes that our ancestors used a proto-musical language to communicate. He posits that music's role as a direct form of emotional communication was integral for social intelligence and evolution. By singing and dancing together, early humans were able to forge social bonds, allowing for greater cooperation, which was needed for adaptation and survival in their environment. The legacy of this evolutionary history is reflected in our emotional sensitivity to music.

There is no clear answer that fully explains the human compulsion to engage with music. Regardless, we are the beneficiaries to a rich and rewarding musical tradition — one to which we are emotionally tied.

UTSC not sticking to the code

The Athletic Advisory committee is amending dress code regulations at the campus' Athletics Centre

Akihiko Tse
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

It looks like the University of Toronto's Scarborough Campus is going to be showing a bit more skin as the Athletic Advisory Committee is amending dress code regulations at the Athletics Centre after a survey showed that a majority wanted more freedom in choosing their workout gear.

As the only campus to enforce T-shirts only, mid-thigh shorts, and a mandatory towel policy when using its gym and cardio facilities, UTSC came under fire after a Facebook group and an online petition were launched in early February of last year.

"Over the last five years, it has been the most contentious rule we've had," said Laurie Wright, the fitness program coordinator at UTSC.

Under the new regulations t-shirts and athletic tank tops with no exposure of front and back midsections will be permitted. No restrictions will be imposed on shorts but they "should be tasteful in coverage."

Wright said that when the rules were first created over 20 years ago, they were designed to provide a "comfortable and inclusive atmosphere" for students, faculty staff, and outside community members of diverse backgrounds. Since then, rule reviews have taken place approximately every five years.

"We wanted to take away the intimidation factor of a commercial gym... Some people may be conscious about their weight, or have religious or cultural concerns," said Wright.

Soon after the Facebook group was created last February, a sub-committee decided that a rule review was needed after "increasing transgressions" and "an unwillingness to recognize the validity and purpose of the rules" became evident, a report obtained from the athletics department said.

A focus group consisting of invited alumni, staff, community members, and students — including the creator of the Facebook page and petition — was formed later in the month and was intended to meet, provide an overview of the rules, and suggest recommendations. A follow-up meeting was held in October.

Department staff also conducted a web-based survey that opened in July and closed in November. Of the 330 respondents, 52 per cent were male, 48 per cent were female, and 77 per cent were students. Twenty-seven per cent felt that the rules impeded them from frequenting the facility while 58 per cent felt entirely discouraged from working out there at all. Fifty-six per cent disagreed with the clothing rule.

Randy Thomas, the assistant director of physical education and athletics at UTSC, said that at the focus groups, misnomers in identifying certain clothing led to a misunderstanding of regulation requirements. He gave the example that "five or six" different definitions for tank tops were brought up so by deriving a clearer definition, the attendees felt more comfortable.

"It made people feel that we were taking a more liberal stance.[...] We weren't asking them to conform," said Thomas.

Ramona Seupersad, a fitness program assistant who helped mediate the focus groups, stressed that the department and its staff will emphasize hygiene and "etiquette" besides suggesting what types of clothing would be permitted.

"Our strength trainers need to educate users," said Seupersad. "It seems like they were policing and they shouldn't have to."

One reason she said the T-shirt rule was originally implemented was to act as a repository for sweat. The towel rule will still be enforced because the absence of a secondary catch could pose potential health concerns for older faculty and community members who may have "autoimmune disease."

She added that some people at the focus groups were unaware that not returning heavy weights hindered others' workouts because some could not remove or disassemble them themselves.

"At other gyms, anything goes. [...] We want to accommodate for all walks of life here," she said.

On the Facebook group page, subscribed to by 650 members, the creator said she felt "offended" and "unwelcome" because of the treatment she received from staff and criticized the rules for being "vague." In one case, she stated that she was forced to change after allegedly wearing inappropriate "booty shorts" but could not comply in fear of aggravating her ACL reconstruction scars.

"[A strength trainer] informed me that the majority of the school's population came to a consensus when these rules were created," she posted. The creator could not be reached for comment.

In another post, Piratheep Thuraisamy (who goes by Theep T on Facebook) said that having to wear a T-shirt felt constraining and uncomfortable when using free weights or cables. When asked about his assessment of the rules at the time, Thuraisamy said they were "completely ridiculous" and contrary to what should be in place at a gym.

"You want to have a certain image of yourself, and to project your own confidence," he said, adding that with new facilities being built for the Pan Am games, the changes were a step in the right direction. "I feel like it's about time. It's long overdue."

"People must keep in mind that the original rules were based on a committee of some students as well," said Peter Nguyen, a strength trainer and vice president of the Health and Fitness club at UTSC. "From [a strength trainers] perspective, by making [the rules] more lenient, it shifts the emphasis away from attire regulations and towards supervising exercises."

Frequent users of the gym have also welcomed the change.

"It's practical and promotes physical wellbeing so it's a good thing," said Alex Lam.

"Being able to wear different clothes now will be nice," said Brianne Winrow.

Saleha Ahmad, a customer service representative at UTSC's conditioning room, The Key, says that being comfortable in workout clothes is elemental and sees no reason why the new rules should cause any discrepancies.

Ahmad also dismissed speculation that the clothing rule was formed solely for religious concerns as "ignorance" and "scapegoat[ing]."

"People don't complain when others are too covered. They [complain] when they are not," she said.

Andrew Bellerby, the fitness program coordinator at UTM, where a similar transition occurred about five years ago, said that its rules have "relaxed considerably" and supported UTSC's change as a "policy consistency with other campuses."

A user of both the downtown and UTSC gym facilities, David Khachikyan said that though the UTSC gym is more crowded and strictly monitored, the dress code regulations brought about coherence and uniformity.

"I'm not sure how this will play out. It is always difficult to please everyone when change is involved," said Rosie Posca, assistant manager of the faculty of physical education and health.

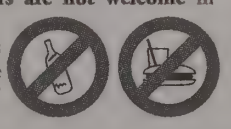
"I think we're still going to have people who may be unhappy with the changes but I think the majority of our users will be appreciative that we've listened to them," said Wright. "We're hoping people will be conscious and tasteful in what they wear."

THE KEY & CARDIO THEATRE RULES & MEMBER ETIQUETTE

As partners in the UTSC community, members of the Recreation Centre agree to the following rules.

1 **Please do not bring personal belongings** into "THE KEY" or Cardio Theatre. To allow for clear paths of access and to prevent accidents, bags, jackets, clothing and purses must be kept in a locker. Please speak to any Staff representative for details on locker use/rental.

2 **Food and glass containers are not welcome** in the Recreation Centre. Resealable plastic bottles and non-spill containers are welcome in "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre.



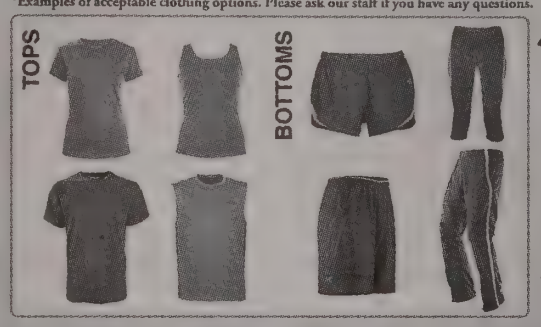
3 **Proper gym attire is to be worn throughout the Recreation Centre at all times. Clothing is to be tasteful and adequate in coverage.** Clothing should be clean to prevent odours and should not be ripped.

Tops • T-shirts & tank tops are acceptable with the exception of the following: bra tops (mid-section must be covered), halter tops, off the shoulder tops, tube tops, or low cut tops.

Bottoms • Jeans or street wear are not acceptable. Shorts should be tasteful in coverage.

Shoes • Athletic footwear is to be worn at all times (with the option of removing shoes when stretching on the mats). Shoes must cover the entire foot, to help prevent injury. No outdoor shoes, boots, dress shoes, bare feet or sandals.

*Examples of acceptable clothing options. Please ask our staff if you have any questions.



4 **Please have and use a towel** large enough to cover your head and torso when sitting or laying on a piece of equipment, upholstery or mat. For your convenience, towel service can be purchased, or rented from the Service Counter. Please help us keep equipment clean by wiping away excess perspiration. Disinfectant wipes are provided in locations throughout "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre.

5 **Music and television selection** in "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre are the responsibility of the Department of Athletics and Recreation. If you would like to listen to your own style of music, we encourage you to bring a personal listening device.

6 **Cell phones are not permitted** in program areas most particularly in changerooms. Cell phones may be used in "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre as listening devices only. Picture taking without written consent from both the Department and **anyone** who may appear in any picture is a violation of University privacy policy. All offences of this policy will be reported to Campus Police.

7 **Laptop computers are not permitted** in "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre as they present both a safety concern and have the ability to take pictures.

8 **Please return all weights and fitness equipment** to their proper designated place after use and leave your workout area accessible for the next user.

9 **Please do not drop or bang weights.** Always train with safety in mind, both your safety and the safety of others.
- Use care with all exercise equipment.
- Use control when lifting your free weights by not banging or dropping the weights.
- Use safety clips or collars (provided) on all free weight bars at all times.
- Use all equipment and machines as they are designed to be used. Modifications of equipment may result in unsafe practices or injury.

10 **Please refrain from using chalk and powder** in "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre. Powdery surfaces provide for a significant possibility of injury.

As a courtesy to other members, cell phone conversations are not permitted in program areas including "THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre. Please have your conversations in appropriate areas at reasonable volumes.

Please be prepared to share equipment and space. Be courteous to fellow members.

Please do not remove equipment from any of the program areas.

"THE KEY" and Cardio Theatre are supervised on a regular basis. We encourage you to consult one of our Fitness Staff regarding your training needs.

The University of Toronto and the Department of Athletics and Recreation are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged belongings.

The final draft of amended rules for UTSC's athletic facilities.

Spotlight on: THE VARSITY BLUES MOUNTAIN BIKING TEAM

with CHARLOTTE TOMES





Blues mountain bikers kickoff a fall race (left), while Ana Komparic (right) pulls ahead of a competitor. *VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

"It's about you trying to push yourself instead of competing against someone else," says Blues mountain biker Ting Cong of mountain biking.

Cong is among many athletes on the team who were new to the sport when they joined.

"I wasn't an avid cyclist," says Cong. "I started out cross-country skiing and always tried to find a sport that was complementary to it for summer and fall."

"Our goal as a team is always to ensure that the sport remains fun and that the team atmosphere remains inviting and relaxed," says Head Coach David Wright.

Although mountain biking is a very demanding sport, the team is relaxed. Practices are not mandatory and athletes can attend as many or as few as they want. The most devoted bikers attend practices during the week, which take place on the Don Valley and Beltline trails. Many train on their own as well.

"The practices tend to be smaller — four or five people sometimes," says Cong.

"Nobody wants to get up at six in the morning, especially in October when it starts to get cold," says Cong's teammate, Theo Theobessiou. "There are 20 that come to every race, but some only make it out for one or two."

Practices begin in September and the season includes four competitive events.

"There are four different courses — one every weekend at different locations," says Blues biker Ana Komparic.

The four competitions are part of the University Cup. There's an A group and a B group for both the male and female athletes. The more skilled bikers ride in the A group, while the less advanced bikers compete in the B group. Each athlete accumulates points when they compete at an event and at the end of the season these points are tallied to determine the rankings of the athletes and of each university team. In the 2010 season, which was from September to October, Queens and Guelph tied for first place with 1861 points, U of T came in second with 713 points.

Individually, Chris McNight was the best U of T male biker in the A division, finishing in 11th place, while Theobessiou finished second in the men's B division. Next year Theobessiou will be advancing to the A division.

"It was my first year racing so it's great to do that well... I'm going to aim to be in the middle of the pack in the A group. It's pretty competitive," says Theobessiou.

None of the female bikers competed in the A division, but Ana Komparic was the top U of T female athlete, placing seventh in the B division.

Blues defensive back one step closer to dream of playing in CFL

Hugo Lopez posts impressive numbers at the CFL Evaluation Camp

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

At the CFL Evaluation Camp held at Varsity Centre from March 4–6, 55 CIS football players were given the opportunity to show scouts and coaches their best stuff.

The only player invited from the University of Toronto was 6'2", 198-pound defensive back Hugo Lopez, and he definitely turned some heads.

Lopez had been training hard for the past few months in preparation for the camp, practicing twice a day and pushing his body to the limit. In the end, Lopez, said he feels it was well worth it, as he lived up to some expectations and exceeded the rest.

"I think I did great. I lived up to my athleticism like people thought I would do," he said. "Some of my numbers were what I thought they would be, and some were better."

His numbers were indeed impressive. He ranked third overall in the broad jump (10'6"), fourth overall in the vertical jump (40"), fourth overall and first among defensive backs in the shuttle (4.10s), and was tied for the fastest 10 yard dash overall (1.56s) and eighth overall in the 40 yard dash (4.65s). As for his direct competition, he ranked in the top four in every single category out of his nine-man group of DBs.

Many coaches at the camp were impressed with his numbers as well. Each of the eight teams can interview up to a maximum of 20 players from the 55-player camp, and Lopez was interviewed by four of them: the Toronto Argonauts, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, the Montreal Alouettes, and the Edmonton Eskimos.

"I connected the most with the Toronto Argonauts and the Hamilton Tigercats," said Lopez.

While his boyhood dream has been to play for the Argos, he would never look down at the opportunity to play for any CFL club, including Toronto's rival Hamilton.



Hugo Lopez in action for the Varsity Blues last fall. *VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

"The main thing is to stay local, and Hamilton is sort of local," he said. "It does kill the dream of being an Argo, but I don't care where I get picked up as long as I get picked up and get paid for what I love doing."

Before the camp, Lopez expected that most teams would ask him to play safety, rather than cornerback, the position he has been playing for most of his career.

"They're giving me insinuations that with my height and weight, there's a little bit too much weight moving around at corner because they're speedy little guys."

Lopez was fairly accurate in his prediction, except for one team.

"Hamilton still wants me as a corner because they are looking for four Canadian individuals to add to their roster, and are looking for a Canadian cornerback," he said.

Lopez felt that though the camp was an overall success for him, but knows that he still needs some work to do for that success to translate onto the field in the CFL.

"My whole college career I have had different coaches," he said. "Either they were released, or I switched schools, so I really haven't had a pat down technique on covering one-on-one. I depend too much on athleticism, and less than technique, but at the next level every player is an athlete.

"I've got to work on technique, and it's nothing that can't be fixed. We've got a new coach, Donovan Carter, he's got a lot of CFL experience, and I do like his technique. I feel comfortable with his technique, but I need a lot of practicing and a little more coaching. I think the best way is to keep on practicing with the guys and a little more one-on-one sessions."

As for the camp itself, Lopez said that it was a valuable experience that he will be able to use in the future, whether it is on the field or on the job.

"It was amazing, talking to all those coaches, meeting all those players from around the nation, as well as meeting NCAA players and seeing their views on things," he said. "The interview process was also a good experience. The Toronto Argos' and Edmonton Eskimos' interview process was pretty brutal. The Argos had an eight foot table, lights, cameras and eight coaches in your face just interrogating you."

The hard work Lopez put in coming into the camp has paid off in his opinion and no matter what happens in the future, his participation in the camp will remain a fond memory.

"I was definitely ready for the camp, and I proved a point," he said. "E-Camp is an incredible experience and I'll never forget it."

The CFL experience hopefully doesn't end there, however, as the CFL Entry Draft is slated to take place on May 8 and Lopez is very optimistic about his chances.

The WWE and me

The story of a a young girl's torrid love affair with the world of professional wrestling

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY STAFF



My brother had an obvious advantage over me, but my passion was indisputably stronger.

"This isn't something a girl should be watching," my mother used to say to me as I stared intently at the television screen every Monday evening from 9–11 p.m.

I tried my best to ignore her remarks and continued on my quest of becoming a devastatingly knowledgeable aficionado in everything WWE-related.

Not only did I learn as much about the professionals as I could, I mimicked their staggering personas to the point of near perfection. This is my life — I am, and always will be, an obnoxious wrestling fan.

To set the tone for how my lawless love for the sport came to be, I have to step back a few years. In hindsight, my mom was somewhat right about the whole intemperate fascination I had with wrestling. My passion was too strong and my judgment too weak, creating a severe imbalance in my ability to discern when I could and could not tell someone to "suck it!"

In my defence, I was only eight years old at that point and it was rather impossible to overlook the powerhouse that was D-Generation X. It was the Attitude Era after all.

Being the little badass that I was, I refused to comply with my older sister's demands to stop performing the gesture in front of cars at stop signs. Although I had no idea what was being implied when I told someone to contract their lip and cheek muscles until I was 16, I doubt anyone has ever seen a more enthusiastic crossing of the arms on the crotch being delivered by a girl and I am pretty damn proud of that. Triple H and Shawn Michaels would have probably considered dumping the she-male known as Chyna for a chance to stand alongside me on the world's greatest wrestling stage.

Watching wrestling was a big part of all my siblings' childhoods. Every action resulted in an immediate reaction by one of us, whether it was a feeling of excitement, anger, or the sudden urge to put someone in a sharpshooter until they cried and tapped out.

As a proprietress to five kids, my mom has always been quick to spot changes in our behaviour and find where to lay the immediate blame.

Although it is easy to deny some of these allegations, there was absolutely no doubt when it came to our conduct after watching wrestling.

My brother's aggression upon coming to Canada was attributed not to mockery in the schoolyard due to his inability to speak English, but rather his keen commitment to the Ultimate Warrior.

My sister, on the other hand, took on the role of household diva by emulating Miss Elizabeth, who she claims to have idolized until the star's drug overdose and passing in 2003.

I never stood a chance against my sister, who was affectionately nicknamed the Helganator, when it came to being put in a headlock.

Fastforward a few years to when my infatuation with Ric Flair and Canada's own Captain Charisma, Christian, became full-fledged. I enjoyed woo-offs with friends and remorselessly attacked a few of them with slanderous statements about their mothers.

I'm so sorry, Mom, but attempting to embrace your moral stance is no match for that of Stone Cold Steve Austin's, which included legendarily ruthless pontificating.

Needing an outlet to help cope with all of the awesome angles running through my mind when I watched WWE Raw, I decided to document every minute of each episode. Speeches were dissected, quotes were taken down, and hilarious fan signs were scribbled in the margins of my Hilroy notebooks.

I idolized the Divas and wanted to be just like them. Then came a realization, and quite a disheartening one at that: my body was nowhere close to how theirs were sculpted.

On the elementary school soccer field, I pompously declared to my fellow wrestling fans that I would get breast implants if it meant they were my sole ticket to WWE Diva stardom.

After nearly two years of being completely committed to the wrestling logs, I began to grow tired of the WWE. Maybe it was because my 10-year-old brother told me it was fake, or maybe it was because My Chemical Romance had begun to take over my free time.

Years passed and friends came and went. Puerile elation had been vanquished.

One night I decided to skip writing an essay and tune in to watch wrestling. I was devastated to find that I was genuinely confused as to who was honing the mat and the microphone.

What happened to the girl who knew every wrestler and every move? I felt as if I had betrayed myself.

Then everything came rushing back to me. That was not a jobber Mexican wrestler on stage — it was Randy "RKO" Orton!

As for that huge Mayan-looking man, well I had no fucking clue. I thought to myself "the WWE must be really desperate for a ratings grab. Who does that douche think he is, the Rooh my God?"

The self-proclaimed people's champion was back. I was forced to deal with multiple emotions coming over me simultaneously. I was happy to see him, but infuriated that he had the audacity to return to the ring he had abandoned all those years ago for a shameful life in Hollywood.

As soon as he started ripping on John Cena though, he won me over. The return of the Rock meant something far more than Dwayne Johnson making a appearance to repair the lull in superstar activity at the WWE.

Calling Cena a "Yabba Dabba Bitch" was the single best thing that has happened to Vince McMahon's Holy Wrestling Empire since the introduction of Muhammed Hassan and his endless barrage of irate affirmations concerning his unwelcomed presence at the WWE, due in large part to his ethnic background.

If you didn't get that joke, I don't give a crap. My love affair with World Wrestling Entertainment had been rekindled in a matter of minutes, even though it had been destroyed for years.

As influential as it may be, I took a little more from the entertainment giant than my mother claims I did. Sure, I became slightly verbally abusive at times, but the hundreds of hours I spent watching wrestling provided me with something else, something ethereal. I became fearless with my interactions with others, hiding barely any feelings and always speaking my mind.

My first year of university proved to be no different. While strolling down Bloor Street one sunny afternoon, I was stopped by a volunteer from the World Wildlife Fund. I pretended to look genuinely interested for a moment, and then dropped a big one.

With conviction, I clearly let the man know that I did not "give a single shit about" him or his organization for the sole reason that they "stole the WWF's identity."

He looked at me in sheer confusion and attempted to mitigate the situation by claiming that the World Wrestling Federation was "greedy" and "did not want to share."

Looking back, I wish I could have altered the way I handled that encounter. Instead of resorting to harsh criticism, letting him know my standpoint with a sickening amount of grace and refinement would have sufficed. A solid "suck it" would have made my point loud and clear.

A good sport

Coach of the Year

Argos' Jim Barker nabs CFL honour



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Jim Barker had to have known that he was taking on an incredibly difficult task when he agreed to lead the Toronto Argonauts back in early 2010.

He was taking over a team that had gone 3–15 in 2009 and 7–29 if 2008 is thrown into the mix. There were numerous problems — the most obvious being the lack of a clear starting quarterback.

But Barker took to his job with a self-assured tenacity. He stood behind embattled CFL rookie Cleo Lemon at quarterback all year, even though there were many times when going to the reserves would have been justified.

And he got results. This year the Argos were, while not exactly masterful, much better than they had been in 2009. They fought to a 9-9 record and won a road playoff game against their arch-rivals, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

They were slaughtered by Montreal in the Eastern final, but it didn't matter much. They had won a playoff game when most fans would have been satisfied with their improved season record.

Through it all, Barker had a poise to him that suggested he fully expected his club to be one win away from the Grey Cup. There's no doubt that it wore off on the players, and he was rewarded for his efforts several weeks ago when he won the CFL's Coach of the Year Award.

To put that into context, his co-finalists were Alouttes' Marc Trestman and Roughriders' Ken Miller, both of whom led their teams to the championship game.

So Ship Argo finally feels righted after several years lost at sea. Barker will be back, probably for as long as he would like to be, and will come out of the chute at May's training camp expecting his team to be Grey Cup champions by season's end.

And while that would be quite the upset, it's not out of the question (which it surely was a year ago today). That's what makes Barker's accomplishment all the more notable, and what will make watching the Argos more fun in the years to come.

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

CONFERENCES:

Deconstructing Humanitarian Aid in the 21st Century

This conference, hosted by the International Relations Society, will present delegates with a comprehensive investigation of contemporary issues relating to humanitarian aid in the 21st century. Panel discussion topics include "The Responsibility to Protect Doctrine", "Militarization of Aid and Emergency Relief" and more.

- *March 25 and 26, differing times*
- *Munk School of Global Affairs, Campbell Conference Facility (1 Devonshire Place)*
- *Free! (check irsociety.ca/ conference for details and to register.)*

COMPETITIONS:

Scrabble Night in Canada

Interested in triple word scores and improving the depth of your vocabulary? The Frontier College Literacy Club is hosting its annual Scrabble competition. Refreshments and prizes are available for players and teams, and all proceeds will go to support Frontier College's literacy programming throughout the city.

- *March 15 at 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Arbor Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$5*

DISCUSSIONS:

Access Denied: Medicine, Trust, and Experimental Treatments

The Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology is presenting this special lecture and panel discussion. Bioethicist Dr. Jonathan Kimmelman will chair a panel of experts who will examine the intersections of science, patient self-determination, and patient protection. It is the fourth part in a series of national lectures, Science and its Publics.

- *March 14 at 7 p.m.*
- *Northrop Frye Hall, Room 003 (73 Queen's Park Crescent East)*
- *Free! (live streamed at ccepa.ca)*

Celebrate Food, It's Good For You!

March is Nutrition Month in Canada, and thus a Nutrition Fair is being hosted on campus. Students will have the opportunity to speak directly with registered dieticians to get their nutrition questions answered, learn about healthy food on campus, and attend a free Zumba class. Healthy food will also be available for three dollars.

- *March 17 at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.*
- *Bahen Centre, Lobby (40 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

FOOD:

EFUT Breakfast

Whether you call them crepes or really, really thin pancakes, they're delicious. Celebrate la francophonie with EFUT by mange-ing on some free crepes. En francais, il y a des crepes gratuits. Was that correct? Guess you'll have to go to the breakfast with a copy of The Varsity to find out.

- *March 21 at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.*
- *International Student Centre, Baldwing Room (33 St. George St.)*
- *Free! (Suggested donation $2)*

OFF CAMPUS:

CONVENTIONS:

Toronto Comic Con

Have you ever dreamed of running into Batman and Wolverine on the same day? Well... that's never going to happen, but this is as close as it gets! Now in its second year, Toronto Comic Con features celebrities, artists, and writers of the comic book world. There are special guests including artists, actors, and more.

- *March 18, 19 and 20 at various times*
- *Direct Energy Centre (100 Princes Blvd.)*
- *$25 (check wizardworld.com/ home-toronto.html for details)*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

THE VARSITY
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Varsity Board of Directors is looking to fill the position of Chief Returning Officer for its upcoming elections. The CRO will be responsible to ensure that campaign rules are followed, communicating with candidates, handling candidates' nomination forms, administering the elections, and manning the polling booth during the elections.

Interested candidates can email a cover letter and CV to ceo@thevarsity.ca Closing date: March 18th, 2011 at 5 p.m.

Arts and Science
Online @ Queen's

Interested in social and mobile media and culture? Whether you're enrolled at another institution, or continuing your education post-grad, consider:

FILM315 Digital Media Theory online with Sidneyeve

Request a Letter of Permission from your university and apply now.

Deadline: April 1
Courses begin: May 2

WWW.QUEENSU.CA/CDS
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada



THE VARSITY MAGAZINE



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Throttling, blocking, & shaping: the net neutrality debate

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Deconstructing the Internet celebrity

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...and more!

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President David Naylor, Laurie Stephens, Jeremy Abbas, Andrew Rusk, our backpage models, Blink-182 and Boxcar Racer, The Wine Rack, Red Bull, New Gen, Snuggies

FRONT COVER
Photo by David Pike

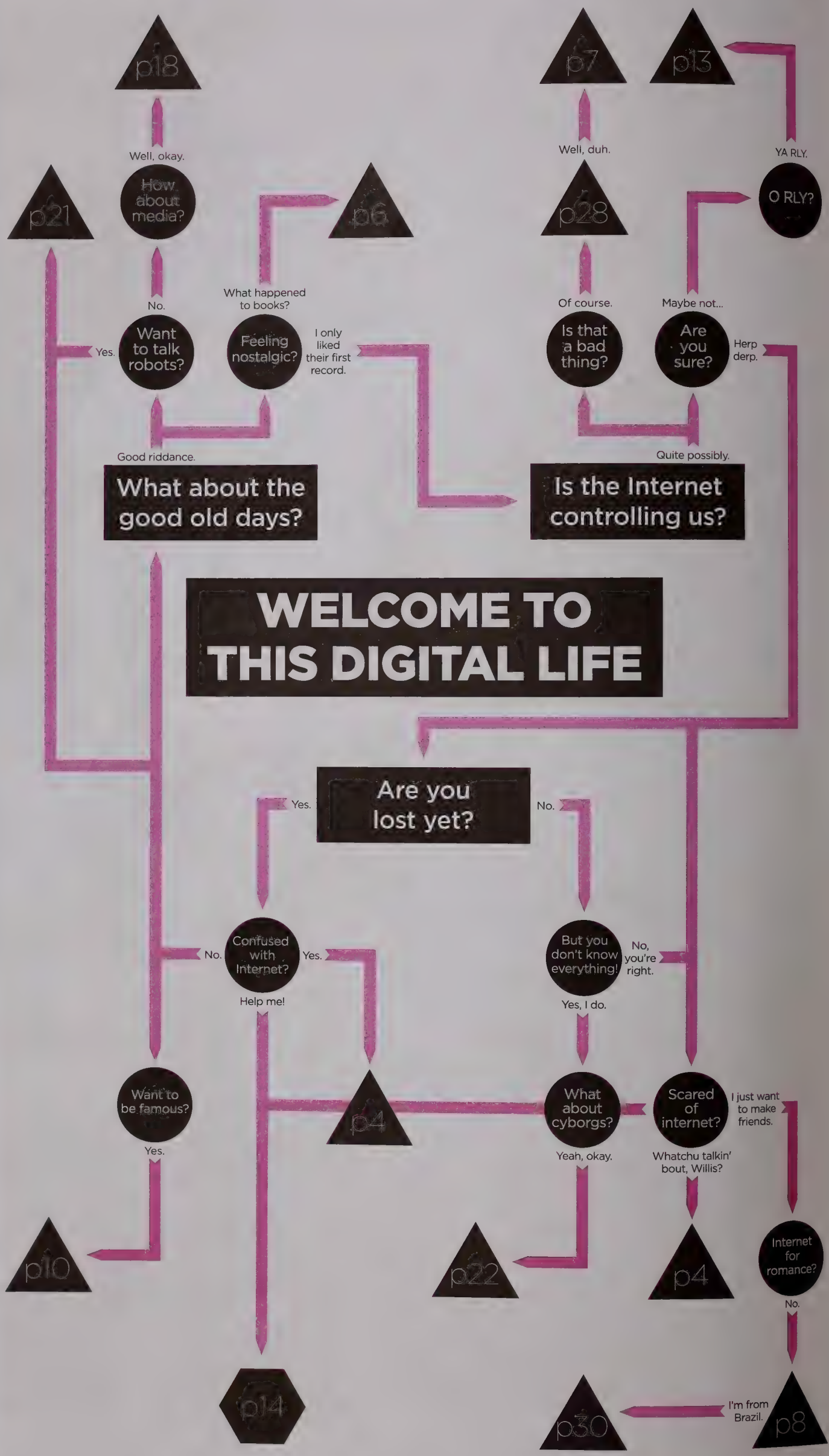
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FROM THE EDITOR

My first memory of using the Internet was at school in grade four. Although I wasn't allowed to watch it, *South Park* had become an obsession for kids my age. I thought it was cool as shit that I could download and print pictures of Stan, Kyle, and the other characters to tape to my bedroom wall. It wasn't as good as watching the show, but it was the closest I was going to get for the time being.

Another memory — one that I would rather forget — occurred a couple years later. I was working on a collaborative class project and the group I was in had to exchange email addresses. I didn't have my first @hotmail address yet, so instead of giving out my parents' email or admitting that I didn't have an address, I made one up and wrote it down on the sheet of paper that was being passed around. I rushed home after school to create my first email account.

Being horribly behind the curve, I didn't realize that every email address required a .com or .ca suffix for your message to actually be delivered to its intended recipient. My messages from my brand new address never were received and, needless to say, my mark was not very good. My contributions to the assignment were lost in cyberspace. I was the laughing-stock of my class and had a hard time living it down.

How far I have come since that display of utter ineptitude! Now I sleep with my laptop on a chair beside my bed. I have difficulty falling asleep without a podcast playing or *Simpsons* episode streaming into my ear. When I wake up, I don't make breakfast or shower until I've checked my email, at least three different news websites, and Facebook. When I leave the house, I continue to check my email and the news from my iPhone. Grade seven Sean would be so proud.

My life is digital. I would be crawling up the wall if I lost my phone or had my Internet disconnected for more than a few hours. While this might sound like a horrifying addiction, I know I'm not alone. There's comfort in the knowledge that most people my age, as well as most who are younger and many who are older, would find themselves in a very similar state of mind if they had their technology taken away even just for one day. I don't think it's my place to say whether this "addiction" is a good or bad thing, but I certainly strive to understand the issues that surround our reliance on technology.

For the third and final Varsity Magazine of the school year we have commissioned a wide array of stories, photo essays, and infographics that examine the subtle and overt ways that digital technology shapes human life in the twenty-first century.

From the ongoing debate over net neutrality, brilliantly elucidated here by iSchool PhD candidate John Harris Stevenson, to issues relating to Internet censorship and cyberwarfare, this magazine aims to explain the serious concerns relating to digital life.

Worried about the future of journalism? Will Sloan sure is! His dystopian vision of media in the late-twenty-first century is both wonderfully satirical and profoundly unsettling.

But not everything in here is written with such an ominous tone. Our tongue-in-cheek "How to Internet" guide (featuring U of T President David Naylor) is just as informative as the net neutrality article, but it conveys more practical information that will help you discover new music, manage (and waste) your time more effectively, and make an educated decision when making the leap to a smartphone.

It's our most ambitious magazine of the year in terms of concept and content, but I think it's a resounding success.

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Sean MacKay
Features Editor, 2010–2011

LAYING CABLE

Exploring the inner workings of the vast network of optical fibre that we call the Internet

by BETINA ALONSO and ADAM SMITH

The best way to understand the inner workings of the Internet is to see it as a massive network branching out into several smaller networks. These become increasingly smaller, until the end user is reached. If a stem of that network is damaged or severed for political or strategic reasons, as seen in the recent uprisings in North Africa, large portions of the population will go offline.

Currently, the online world is supported by a set of underground and underwater cables containing optical fiber, which conduct light pulses traveling through strings of glass. Since nothing travels faster than the speed of light, these cables are the fastest means through which data can travel across the globe. While a satellite connection would be more difficult to sabotage, it would also be significantly slower.

Concerns regarding the reliability of underwater cables came to the fore of national news in 2008, following a mass cable disruption. Internet access in the Middle East and South Asia was interrupted when several major underwater communication cables to these regions were coincidentally severed.

In terms of physical infrastructure, nevertheless, the Internet remains mostly fault-proof. Cable cuts occur frequently, mostly as a result of cables rubbing against the sea floor. However, most Internet users don't notice that they're happening, as connections can be easily rerouted. The number of optical fibre cables and satellite connections allowing the world to stay online means that any efforts to knock the entire web down would require a massive amount of time and coordination. Despite the recent catastrophic earthquake and subsequent tsunami, Northeastern Japan still has Internet access.

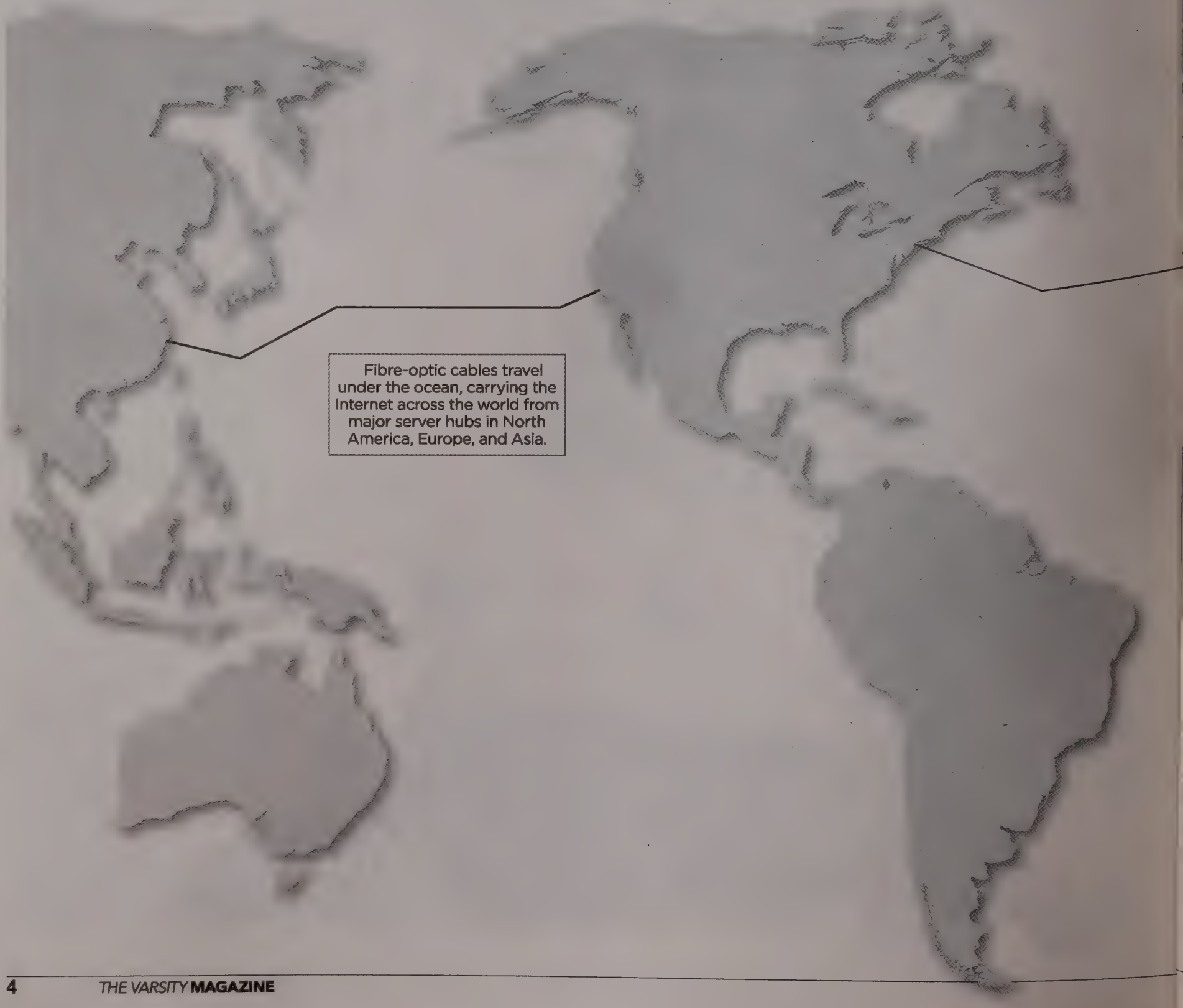
As the conspiracy theories surrounding the 2008 incident in Asia would suggest, the greatest threat to Internet access is not poor infrastructure, but rather the human factor. The circumstances were suspicious, not because the cables were severed, but because these major, geographically related cables were all damaged at the same time. While the servers, cables, and routers themselves may be reliable, they still can be shut off in light of political, personal, or economic difficulties.

This is why in Libya, for instance, the government controls the only Internet service provider, and shut it down as soon as the recent popular disturbances began. In Egypt, there are about four Internet providers. The government interrupted connections going through the country's main IXP in Cairo to cut off Internet access across the country, using a physical shut down, and political pressure. IXPs are Internet Exchange Points, which Internet service providers use to link up to the Internet at large.

While a country like Canada has several IXPs, Egypt only has two. The second, which remained active throughout the Egyptian uprising, and is mostly used by corporations, was not affected. The issue is that Egypt's small network makes Internet access highly centralized, and therefore vulnerable to political pressure.

This is only one example of the wider concern for net neutrality. The cost of laying cables and managing these networks is so high that it can only be taken up by large corporations. It raises the issue of whether these corporations might exploit their control over large chunks of Internet access to restrict freedom of speech, and censor unwanted content on the web.

While the online world can rest assured that the servers, cables and routers themselves are largely reliable and resilient, they still can be shut off in light of political, personal or economic difficulties. In Canada and the U.S., as in many other countries, a highly decentralized system assures that data flow is hard to tamper with. Networks will always have their vulnerabilities and choke points — in this case, humans seem to be the culprits.



Fibre-optic cables travel under the ocean, carrying the Internet across the world from major server hubs in North America, Europe, and Asia.

The new face of warfare

by JORDAN RIVERA and SEAN MACKAY

Throughout history new technologies have revolutionized warfare — think of the chariot, gunpowder, aircraft, radar, and nuclear fission. The same is true about information technology. Modern societies are increasingly reliant on computer systems linked to the Internet, giving enemies more avenues of attack. Cyberspace has become the fifth domain of warfare, following land, sea, air, and space. The threat emerges that the systems that keep our modern world turning suddenly fail.

This form of warfare is new, complex, and multifaceted — making it difficult to describe and understand, let alone predict. What might cyber warfare look like? A computer bug brings down military email systems. Oil refineries and pipelines explode. Air-traffic-control systems collapse. Freight and metro trains derail. Financial data are scrambled. Electrical grids fail. Orbiting satellites spin out of control. Society breaks down as food becomes scarce and money runs out. Worst of all, the attacker's identity may remain a mystery. It is the anonymity of cyberwarfare that has states struggling to protect themselves.

The cyber attacks on Estonia in 2007 and on Georgia in 2008 illustrate this point. These attacks are widely assumed to have been directed by the Kremlin in Moscow, yet could only be traced to private Russian cyber criminals. Many of the computers used in the attack belonged to innocent Americans whose personal computers had been hijacked. Similarly, several companies suspect China of organizing mini-raids to ransack Western intelligence. Yet these attacks could just have easily been carried out by Western criminals, computer hackers showing off, or disillusioned former employees.

The Internet was designed for convenience and reliability, not security. Yet by wiring the globe together, a new virtual wilderness has emerged. Cyberspace does not require a passport, and police forces are confined to state borders, leaving criminals free to roam in this wilderness. Governments are beginning to recognize these threats, and are developing new technologies and policies aimed to enhance their cyber security.

As information technology advances at lightning speed, so does the capacity to wage wars in cyberspace. The first round of attacks have already hit worldwide:

Canada 1
January 2011

The Canadian government alleges that Chinese hackers infiltrated the federal Finance Department and Treasury Board. The Chinese government denies playing any role in the cyber attacks.

Iran 2
July 2010

The Stuxnet computer virus infects 62,867 Iranian computers between July and August 2010. Internet security experts speculate that the virus was targeting "high value infrastructure" in Iran — specifically the country's controversial nuclear facilities. The virus may have originated in Israel or the United States, though this remains unconfirmed.

United States 3
June 2010

United States Senator Joseph Lieberman introduces a bill called Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act, (or, as it was contentiously dubbed by the media, "The Internet Kill Switch Bill.") Lieberman, and the bill's co-sponsor Senator Susan Collins, are forced to defend the bill from allegations that it would give the president too much power to control or even shut down the Internet in the event of a national security emergency.

United States 4
2007

An unknown foreign power breaks into several federal departments, military agencies, and possibly NASA, stealing several terabytes of information. Due to the amount of secret information stolen, experts dubbed the event the "espionage Pearl Harbour."

Brazil 5
September 2007

An attack causes major disruptions over a two-day period in the southeastern state of Espírito Santo, affecting more than three million people in dozens of cities. In the state capital of Vitória, the world's largest iron ore producer, Vale, has seven plants taken offline. This ultimately costs the company seven million dollars. There is no known motive for the attack.

Estonia 6
Late April-May 2007

The first cyberwar to occur between two states is spurred by the Estonian government's decision to move a Soviet World War II monument. The Russians respond by immediately launching a massive assault on Estonia's digital infrastructure. Following the attack, Estonia's Minister of Defense compares the subsequent economic effects to the nation's sea ports being shut down.



ROGELIO BRISEÑO

THE DEATH OF THE PHYSICAL

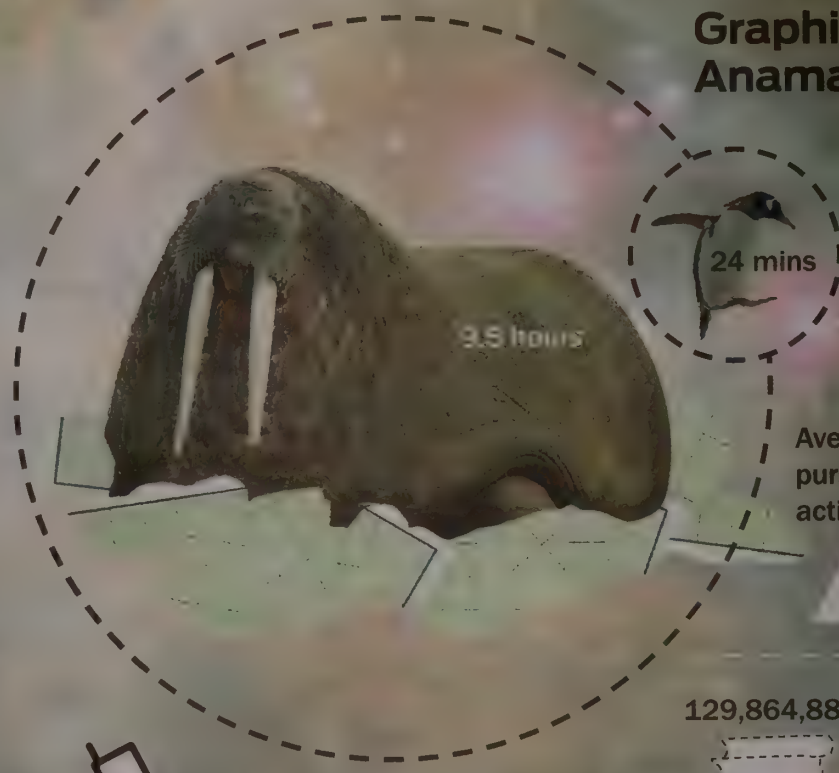
by Erene Stergiopoulos

Graphics by Anamarija Korolj

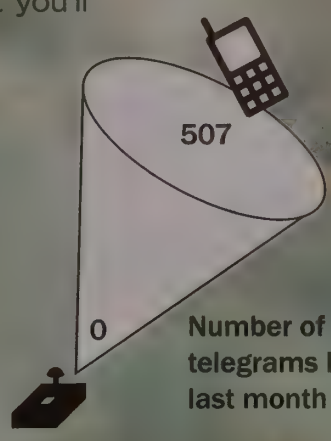
When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I do is check my email. Then comes Twitter, Facebook, and any other rites I can add to my daily Internet rituals. It's only after my Internet upkeep is complete that I'll do the things I usually associate with mornings: breakfast, shower, and, eventually, work.

It hasn't always been this way. There was a time when my digital persona didn't take precedence over my physical self. Now it's becoming increasingly easy to sit in one spot and passively acquire information. If you really wanted to, you could stay at home all week, ordering online groceries, and watching the world from the window of your computer screen.

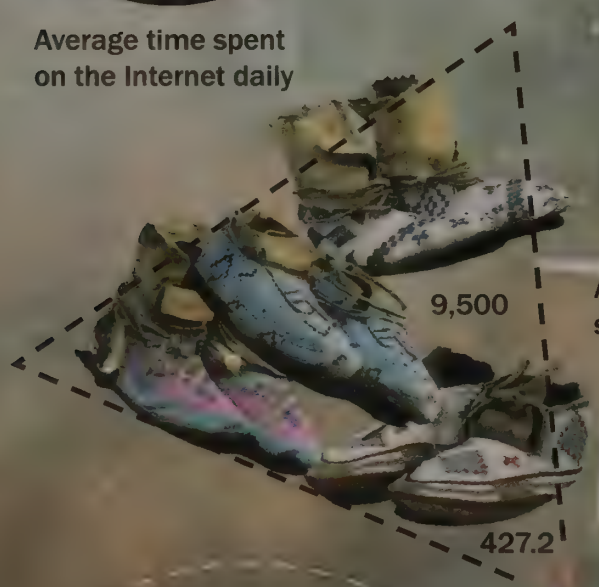
Perhaps technology is foreshadowing the death of the physical. But then again, we do have the choice. I can remember to eat breakfast before emails. I can even pick up an actual book. After all, there may be pages on the Internet, but you'll never be able to turn them.

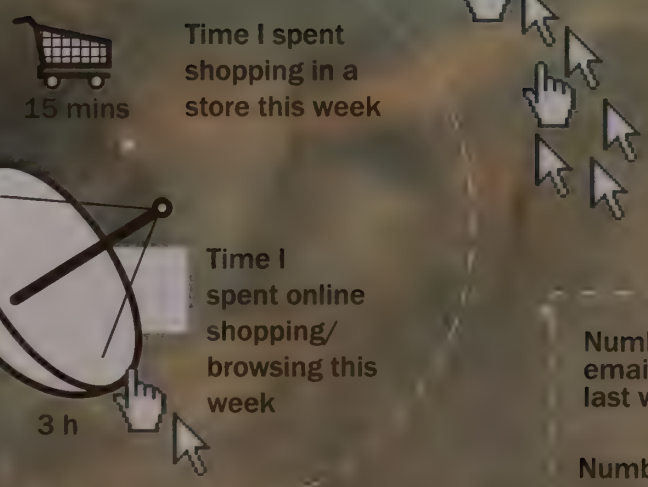






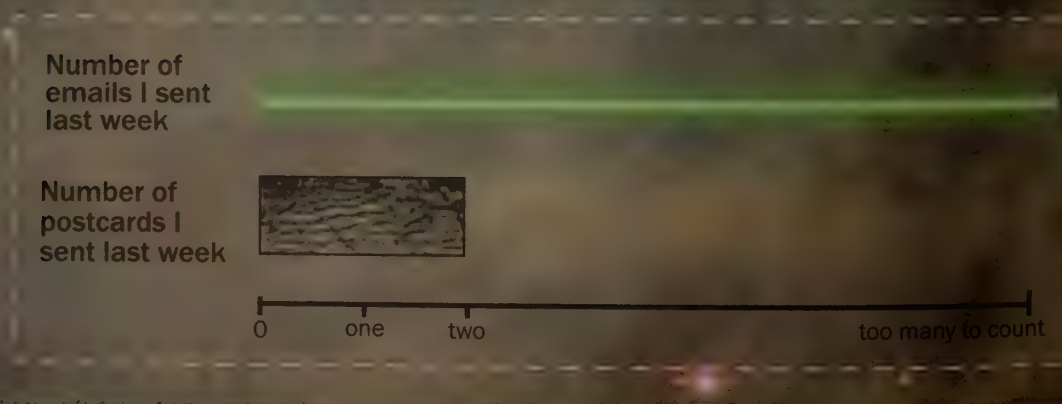












SOURCES
"Radio's Future II: The 2010 American Youth Study" by Edison Research, 2010
"The Canadian Health Measures Survey" by Statistics Canada, 2011

I can haz DEMOCRACY?



LOL culture: massive win or epic fail?

by DYLAN C. ROBERTSON

Last month a 1994 clip of *The Today Show* went viral. The scene opens with three intrigued hosts discussing an email address, wondering what to call "that little mark, with the 'a' and the ring around it." Eventually a puzzled Katie Couric asks her co-hosts, "What is Internet?"

A few years later, people gazed at the potential of the "information superhighway." With a phone line, a modem, and a few hundred dollars, you could read news from across the world, and it only took half an hour to download.

The World Wide Web hype persisted. As the speed, availability, and cost of Internet rapidly evolved, buzzwords like "global village" and "inter-connectivity." These conveyed a borderless world where every human would be connected to the other. Bright-eyed professors spoke of the inevitable world peace and solidarity resulting from the realization of our common humanity.

The academic term for this thinking is media determinism. The theory asserts a cause-and-effect relationship between new forms of media and societal change. This idea was touted most prominently by twentieth century U of T scholars Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan.

The Internet is unlike all other mediums because it allows massive amounts of information to be transmitted beyond the typical confines of time and space. Media determinists believe that the web ultimately creates more transparency, opens up closed societies, and allows previously disparate groups to encounter one another — thus generating a collective consciousness that demands democracy.

Belarus-born journalist Evgeny Morozov thinks otherwise. In his book, *The Net Delusion*, he argues against what he calls "cyber-utopianism: a naïve belief in the emancipatory nature of online communication" that fails to recognize the implications of online propaganda, surveillance, and censorship.

In a chapter titled "Orwell's favorite Lolcat," Morozov explores Russian Internet policy, a rather successful policy of distraction over censorship.

While dozens of websites stream movies and sitcoms for free, many surfers recognize the Russian ruTube.ru as a top source for a wide selection of fast-streaming videos. The site seldom crashes and offers many copyrighted works that almost never get taken down.

Although some sites promoting terrorism or child pornography are censored in Russia, little is done to combat piracy. But it's not just lax copyright enforcement that allows RuTube to thrive. The site is funded by Gazprom, a state-owned energy corporation.

Another popular site adds to this culture of distraction. Russia.ru is a website produced by Kremlin associates. It contains some news — mostly propaganda with a heavy spin — but is known for its high-quality entertainment reporting, profiling Moscow's bustling club scene with liberal amounts of booze, drugs, and bare skin.

Russia doesn't censor much online — it doesn't have to. The theory is that entertainment deters disenchanted citizens from taking to the streets; and it seems to be working. Bountiful access to a variety of entertainment and pornography are small but effective, comforts for those living in what some describe as a mafia state.

In a *New Yorker* article published last October, Malcolm Gladwell played down the role of social media in creating political change. He touched on the plethora of online campaigns, mostly Facebook groups and online petitions, that require no commitment and thus no results.

This phenomenon has been dubbed "slacktivism," a portmanteau for those who'd rather sit in front of a computer than perform an actual sit-in.

Gladwell opined that most online activist movements are, at best, forums that propagate groupthink. He believes social media is ineffective for activism, unless participants engage in causes through traditional means of protest that existed before the Internet.

Russia doesn't censor much online — it doesn't have to. The theory is that entertainment deters disenchanted citizens from taking to the streets; and it seems to be working.

But the Internet allows an exchange of ideas that can lead to mobilization. When Stephen Harper decided to prorogue Parliament for a second time at the end of 2009, tens of thousands of Canadians took to the streets for the first time in recent memory.

A Facebook group called Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament mobilized angry and concerned citizens across the country. While these marches in the streets were organized using traditional means of mobilization, it's undeniable that Facebook played a role in sparking the protests. CAPP provided a forum for Canadians across the country to voice their frustration, and to co-ordinate their tactics.

A similar case can be made for North Africa: While causes of recent uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and elsewhere are multi-faceted, one definite cause is cute cats.

The dictator's dilemma is a political science theory advanced ten years ago suggesting that the Internet poses a double threat for repressive governments. Websites open the door to mobilization and free speech, but blocking the net results in severe economic consequences. The theory can be stretched to fuzzy kittens on Facebook.

Ethan Zuckerman, a senior researcher at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, developed his self-described "cute cat theory" in 2008. He encourages activists to use social media and blogging platforms for a variety of purposes, rather than just activism.

By diversifying content on these sites, users make it harder for their governments to block access. A dictator has little reservation to shut off Tumblr if ninety per cent of content posted is activism. But if a country's Facebook usage is mostly pictures of cute cats and only a small percentage is mobilization, governments would face a huge public outcry by blocking the site — the antithesis of the RuTube effect. Thus, the more people use Facebook for mundane entertainment, the harder it is for activists to be censored.

Many originally associated the Internet with transparency, community building, and the its potential for fostering world peace. Two decades later it's become dominated by entertainment, and the repercussions on civic life remain undetermined. Will the proliferation of fun content harness active citizen voices, or divert our attention? Cute cat videos, porn, and illegal movies could be the end of democracy, or perhaps its saving grace.



Why can't we be friends?

ALEX NURSALL's quest to meet new people online leads her on an adventure rife with sex, lies, and awkward moments.

photos by **DAVID PIKE**

There's a point on lonely Friday nights, after watching about fifteen consecutive *Grey's Anatomy* episodes and stalking every last person on your Facebook friends list, that you eventually find yourself strolling through the darkness that is Craigslist personals. Located between the sadness of Missed Connections and the even creepier sadness that is Casual Encounters lies the Platonic section. Click on that and you'll find a wide variety of people looking for someone to chat/do drugs/sob deeply with.

I decide to try a little experiment: I will attempt to make as many friends as possible through whatever Internet means I can find. Armed with a few sparsely worded ads and a whole lot of cynicism, I set out into the wilderness. I put myself out there, and wait.

I'm chatting with my friend in Brighton as we both look through Craigslist ads and compare notes.

Sietske: man, w4w ads and m4m ads could not be more different

m4m: LOOKING FOR MAN TO STICK A FINGER IN MY BUTT WHILE I INSERT MY DICK INTO EVERY ORIFICE

w4w: maybe we could hang out?

me: what if I tried to meet as many people as possible through craigslist?

Sietske: you should
some of these are so sad
you should have a party for all of them

me: I'm tempted to try that
cos I am definitely not going to fuck them

The women I speak with are mostly in their mid-twenties, usually in some sort of graduate program, and almost always from outside of Toronto. They went to school outside of Ontario and then found themselves in Toronto, alone. The men are a little more scattered. A number of them are just lonely, or bored, or horny.

Within an hour of posting an online ad looking for someone to chat with, my inbox is inundated with emails. Most of them are guys saying yes, we should totally chat, please add my email/BBM or accept my singing telegram. A few of them ask to see various body parts, and almost all of them are poorly written. One guy sends shirtless photos. Another is a single dad in his thirties. One guy states that he doesn't want to see my body because he's a good Christian.

I'm wading through emails at this point, basically picking and choosing potential friends based on the messages with the fewest number of spelling errors. I pick four guys, who vary from a twenty-seven-year-old with family in Japan to a MMA fighter in Scarborough to a twenty-nine-year-old who only drinks coffee from Starbucks. I try to keep conversations away from sex — try to keep things platonic — but all the guys end up trying to flirt, and failing. One asks about the weirdest place I've ever had sex. When I decline to comment, he says that it's okay if I like anal; he's cool with it.

I worry whether or not I'll respond to someone who I find unattractive, and that's when I realize that it might not be me who makes that call, but them. It dawns on me that maybe they would be the one to walk into the bar, see me, and leave, turning the search for a drinking buddy into the lyrics from "Personal" by Stars. I would be the one deemed too unattractive to talk to and, standing alone in my bathroom wearing only a towel, I could feel the insecurities crawling around inside, making me shiver like the cold water dripping down my bare back.

Dunbar's number is a constant that demonstrates the average person's friend network as predicted by the size of the average human brain. Resting at 147.8 (¬± whatever), this number was created by anthropologist Robin Dunbar, who found that there was a correlation between the size of a primate's brain and the size of the social group surrounding it. Dunbar found that the volume of the orbitomedial prefrontal cortex of their brains was greater in his subjects who had many more interactions with people than those who kept to themselves (although causation is still being debated). Hell, studies have shown that people are more confident online, and that even updating your Facebook profile can lead to a surge in self-assurance.

I'm trying my hardest to be honest, but I'm constantly wondering if the people I'm talking to are lying. Are they really who they seem? Are they just some creepy old guy in a basement? I know that creepy old guys need love too, but I really don't think I'm the best candidate for that. All I want is someone to go have a drink with, but so far I'm being faced with mountains of badly spelled emails, boring chat logs, and lies upon lies upon lies.

Finally, I make contact and set some plans to meet with someone after weeks of flaking and weirdness. I meet with K. in a bar on College Street. She's a student, dresses nicely, and seems overwhelmingly normal. I'm already mildly intimidated. She posted an ad saying that she had recently moved to the city and was looking for someone to hang out with.

We get some beer and start up the awkward small talk. She's in grad school, doesn't get too many chances to meet people her own age, and so on and so forth. The experience feels like a cross between a date and a job interview. I half expect one of us to pull out a notepad and jot things down: Why do you want to be my friend? What are your credentials? Are you legally allowed to be a friend in Canada?



We end up talking about missing our childhood dogs and how we Skype with them sometimes. At this point we begin to relax, but I have to go to meet up with someone else. We exchange pleasantries outside and she hops on a streetcar. For weeks afterwards I would see her name pop up on my chat list, but I'd be too nervous to talk to her. She'd already broken past all my initial walls that kept me safe online. Now I was just afraid that if I asked her to meet again, she'd say no. The rejection sucks a lot more after you've met face-to-face.

I find a posting on CL from a British girl traveling to Toronto. She's in town for a little while and would like someone to give her a tour. I quickly send her back a brief email saying that I'd love to drag her around the city and show her all the non-touristy things.

We chat for a bit and she asks for a picture, and while I feel like this is a mildly uncomfortable request, I decide to go along with it. I'm trying to impress her with my wit and zaniness, trying to set myself apart from any bland Torontonians who may have contacted her, and after about twenty minutes of searching for a photo, I decide to send off a shot of me from last Halloween. I went as the Rainbow Fish (from the children's book), and while it's a flattering shot, I'm wearing a ton of makeup, have a cascade of curly hair on my head, and am sporting so much glitter that even the drag queens at the club thought I was pushing it. At the time, I thought the picture said "Hey! I'm quirky and creative!" but in hindsight, I realize that the picture probably just said that I'm a weirdo with too much time on their hands and a lot of makeup from MAC. I requested a picture of her, but never heard back. I'd like to think that I'm better than feeling slighted by someone whom I've only ever spoken to through Gmail, but I couldn't help but feel slightly miffed at her dismissal of my attempts to impress her, no matter how misguided they were.

After a few weeks of wading through the ugly mass of text that is Craigslist, I finally give in and log on to ChatRoulette. Venturing into this site is like revisiting yourself on all of your most boring nights. Everyone is sitting in the dark, hand on chin, not really paying attention, and if you're not completely zoned out and lonely, then you're masturbating furiously, hoping that someone will be nice enough to help out.

I sit there for about ten minutes hitting the next button, seeing mostly bored looking guys, dicks, teenage girls, more dicks, and finally come to a stop on a guy holding a sign that reads, "THE ORACLE SAYS YOU WILL PRESS NEXT." I take my finger off the mouse and stare at him. He eventually puts the paper down and stares back, almost unsure of what to do.

"The oracle is wrong," I type. "I don't know what to believe anymore."

"A five per cent failure rate is ok," he says. "This is just a minor setback."

We talk for about forty minutes. He's from Germany, married, and learning French. He starts asking me questions about my life. "We are strangers on a train," he writes, "and we can say anything to each other and it won't matter. We'll never see each other again."

I talk to some teens from Russia, a guy wearing a witch mask, and a quiet dude who ends the conversation when I ask him if he likes rap music. In the end, I skip through the feeds until I find the ones of guys jacking off into the camera, upon which I start singing show tunes and making faces at the screen. This is what my life has become: killing strangers' boners on a Sunday night, alone in my apartment.

A friend of mine has a slightly different take on things: "I'll go up to guys in bars and just strike up a conversation, and they'll be weirded out because I didn't try to talk to them on Grindr or something beforehand. It's fucking weird that that's the point we're at now where it's way more uncomfortable to talk to someone face-to-face than it is to ask a stranger to fuck over text or through email."

After hearing this, I get the feeling that not only am I failing to make friends this way, but I'm probably never going to get laid ever again at this rate.

I end up with a stack of emails, a few new pen pals, and a lot of missed chances. I don't end up with any more friends than when I started; just a full inbox and an empty schedule. But sometimes, late at night, I'll fire up the webcam, warm up my voice, and go back onto ChatRoulette. I'm not here to make friends anymore; I'm just here to wreak havoc, one erection at a time.



BROADCAST YOURSELF



Reflections on the anatomy of an Internet celebrity

by Emily Kellogg

What is an Internet celebrity?

It's 3 a.m. on a Tuesday night. You're a twenty-something student and you have work to do for the morning and so, naturally, you're surfing the Internet. You're on Tumblr,* a site that compiles blogs into a single feed on its homepage. Think Facebook's newsfeed, but instead of text-posts from your friends, it's a culmination of pretty pictures, memes*, Gifs*, and blog-posts from anonymous strangers.

You start to notice a pattern; some girl who looks like she's thirteen is dominating the site. You have no idea who she is, but a meme with the words "Theatres stress me out. So many seats," has over 10,000 notes. Essentially, this image has either been "liked" 10,000 times, or has shown up on 10,000 different personal blogs. It turns out to be a combination of the two.

You start to realize that you're missing out on the joke, so you start to investigate. (This is much more compelling than reading the overly-convoluted, theoretical text that was assigned for tomorrow morning's philosophy class.) The girl is Rebecca Black, a singer whose tweeny-pop single "Friday" went viral* the weekend of March 12. The song features the bizarre musings of a thirteen-year-old girl, as she tries to decide whether to be "kickin' in the front seat" or "sittin' in the back seat"; implores us to have "fun, fun, fun, fun"; and reminds us that "tomorrow is Saturday, and Sunday comes afterwards." Nobody knows who this girl is or where this video comes from (yet), but her name is Rebecca Black and her Youtube video has over ten million views. She is the trending topic* on Twitter* — globally — meaning that more people are talking about her song online than any other topic in the world.

Internet celebrity is a specific kind of celebrity. An Internet celebrity isn't someone you can find and research on Wikipedia. Instead of possessing a clear-cut sort of fame; instead of being the kind of person the paparazzi stalk at LAX airport; the Internet celebrity wriggles its way into the social consciousness through Youtube, Tumblr, Twitter, and Facebook. The individual begins to pop up in different locations on the Internet, until they have become a household name amongst the online-literate, and nobody seems to know how or why. References to the individual become a kind of universal inside joke. Everyone who's visiting the same pages, watching the same videos, and giggling at the same memes is in on it.

For an Internet celebrity, nothing is centralized; there's not a fan page, and it's unlikely that they'll make it onto the cover of *People* magazine for their antics at some club in Hollywood. Instead, they become your go-to for a clever hash-tag* on Twitter, the thing you post on your Facebook stream to show that you're hip with the current global joke. They're a commodity of the absurd; a multi-media expression of societal cleverness and ironic detachment.

But the individuals who become Internet celebrities have the last laugh. The commodity of the absurd Internet celebrity has an unlimited potential for monetization. Internet celebrity can be an end in itself, but it doesn't have to be. Just ask Justin Bieber, the most notable example of someone who went on from YouTube fame to make it big; or, alternately, "Your Friend in a Box"; a third-year Ryerson student and filmmaker who became a YouTube Partner* when his Canadian Music video attracted 10,000 views overnight. "Your Friend in a Box" currently has over 5,000 subscribers,* and is paid by YouTube for every video upload, and every page view.

The web 2.0* generation

The thing that ultimately distinguishes an Internet celebrity from the more traditional variety of celebrity is user involvement. Rebecca Black would never have achieved her current viral status without numerous users who took her image and her work, and created their own content. Internet celebrity is celebrity 2.0. Instead of being a policy of entertainment consumption, it is an entertainment of creation. Rebecca Black, in the first week of her viral fame, is fascinating because her public image is not controlled by publicists and major media outlets. Instead, she is an enigma.

Finding out who she is is a process of investigation. Watching her music video "Friday" is not an end in itself; rather, it is an access point to creating new websites and web-based content that make people laugh. Her exposure is hinged on a typical user's desire to create something to entertain other users; her exposure and relative fame is a statement of the dynamic relationship between user-generated content and an individual. An Internet celebrity, as such, requires an ambiguous power to fascinate users; an ability to cause users to want to find out more, through any method available. It is a reflection of a new

era of entertainment; our generation, the children of a web 2.0 era, no longer want to simply consume, we want to be involved with our entertainment. We want to create.

Voyeurism and Cory Kennedy

The first person I ever e-stalked* is a party girl by the name of Cory Kennedy. In the summer of 2005 she met photographer Mark Hunter, who maintains the party-photo website The Cobra Snake. She's a skinny hipster — she looks like she's on drugs most of the time, she wears a lot of eyeliner, and when I was a sixteen-year-old high schooler she was everything that I had ever wanted to be. For an inexplicable reason, Mark Hunter realized that every time he posted pictures of Cory, web traffic on his site increased. Her photos were constantly reposted on other blogs, and she fascinated me. I didn't know exactly who she was, but that was part of the appeal. Through these party photos, I was gaining access to a world of hipster parties, fashion, and club-culture that I wouldn't experience until much later in my life.

Her Internet fame peaked in 2006, when she appeared in a Good Charlotte video for the track "Keep Your Hands Off My Girl." All she does is listen to the song on her iPod and dance as she eats Indian food. Anyone could have done it. She looks emaciated and kind of drunk. She's not the prettiest girl I'd ever seen and she's not extraordinarily talented at anything in particular. She's not even especially fashionable. But she was still fascinating to my sixteen-year-old self, mainly because through these limited channels of exposure; through The Cobrasnake and her Wordpress blog (itscorykennedy.wordpress.com/) she allowed me to gain access to a different world. I identified with her, and I began to feel like I knew her on a personal level. I wasn't alone in my fascination with her, she has since forged a fairly successful modeling career. She has over thirty-one thousand followers on Twitter, and works as an interviewer for *Nylon* magazine's online vlog.

Through the channels of the Internet, we have access to different worlds without ever having to take part. When a vlogger* makes a video, we gain a limited access to the spatial constructs of their world. When photos are posted — either on personal blogs, or Flickr accounts*— we see a little bit more through the eyes of the object of our fascination. Without ever having to experience the vulnerability of personal interactions we are drawn into the world of another. We can have experiences with no consequences. We can feel the fulfillment of knowing someone without bearing the responsibilities of real human relationships. The object of your e-stalking will never judge you; because they have no idea who you are. An e-stalking relationship is one with all the benefits of getting to know a person, but without the risk of rejection or judgment.

The key to being an Internet celebrity is to capitalize on what seems to be a societal desire for voyeuristic experience; to construct an alternate sense of reality around yourself; the goal being to make your life seem much more interesting than anyone else's, and worth paying attention to. Through the elements available to you — Flickr, Tumblr, Twitter, Wordpress — an Internet celebrity creates a fragmented persona that is a strange balance between exposure and concealment. Anyone could do it, but not everyone can do.

So, if anyone can do it, why doesn't everyone do it? How can I become an Internet celebrity?

I tried vlogging. I really did. I sat in front of my web-cam and tried to speak to the audiences of YouTube. I think I'm an interesting person. I'm artsy, I live in a major metropolis, I go to cool bars, I try to dress fashionably, I have nearly a hundred followers on my personal Tumblr blog, and something like one hundred and fifty on my Twitter account. But hardly anything in recent memory has made me feel more vulnerable than the experience of seeing my face projected on my webcam and addressing an anonymous and potentially infinite audience. I couldn't do it. I'm not cut out to broadcast myself.

The interesting thing about the online apparatus before us is that nearly every twenty-something has the technology and the skills necessary to connect to an infinite audience. All you need is access to a web cam, some kind of photo-taking device, and a reliable Internet connection. But there's also a certain je ne sais quoi to the equation. There needs to be something about you that has the ability to go viral. You don't need to be talented, you don't need to be good-looking — you need to be relatable and, for lack of a better term, someone who inspires others to stalk you.

There are different facets of this; you can be absurd like Rebecca Black, whose latest single has been dubbed the "worst song of all time"; you can be fragmented and fascinating like Cory Kennedy, the unsung hero of wannabe hipster girls everywhere; you can be adorable and genuine like Justin Bieber. Celebrity is no longer dictated to us by the powers that be. Instead, it is directed by a fickle, web 2.0 generation that is just looking for entertainment, and something to distract them from their philosophy readings at 3 a.m. on a Tuesday night.

E-Glossary

E-stalk: To follow someone's online persona obsessively; generally through use of Facebook, but also applicable to overly thorough Google-searches.
Flickr: A social-networking site based on photography. Users upload their own photos on their Flickr and connect via groups centered around photo genre and visual interest.
GIF: Stands for Graphic Interchange Format. In layman's term it is a single file that switches back and forth between several still images, with the appearance of a soundless film-loop.
Meme: A concept that spreads via the Internet; usually some kind of an inside joke. Popular memes include lolcats, and "Rick Rolling." An Internet meme can be a website, a phrase, a parody, or a video clip.
Viral: An Internet meme that is fast spreading with a pervasive online presence due to its high-re-postibility and re-playability.
Trending topic: A list of the most popular and talked-about topics on Twitter that is updated in real time.
Tumblr: A micro-blogging platform and community. Members of Tumblr maintain their own blog and follow others; all blogs are conglomerated together in a personal Dashboard, and all posts can be 'liked' and 'reblogged.'
Vlog: A video blog, usually hosted on YouTube.
Web 2.0: The ideology behind web applications that require user involvement. Notable examples of sites that have emerged from this ideology include Wikipedia, social networking sites, and photo and video sharing sites.
Wordpress: A simple and free blogging platform.
YouTube channel: The site that hosts all of a specific user's uploaded videos.
YouTube partner: A program offered by YouTube for users who attract a significant amount of views to their channel. The program offers services to analyze the user's audience, protect your copyright, and earn money for each upload.
YouTube subscriber: A YouTube user who has officially followed another YouTube channel, and therefore receives updates every time the followed-channel is updated.

E-Famous



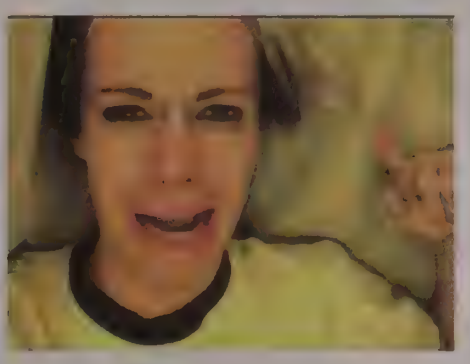
Justin Bieber

Even if you're not a Bieliber, by now, everyone in the public sphere is aware of Justin Bieber. The American talent manager, Scooter Braun, discovered the teenager from Stratford, Ontario in 2008. Braun came across Bieber's YouTube videos of his singing, and Bieber has since achieved international acclaim for his musical career, most recently peaking with the 2011 bio-film, *Never Say Never.*



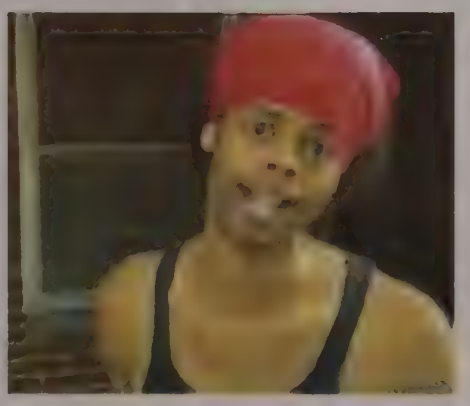
Cory Kennedy

The troubled-teen made her way into the public sphere through her involvement with hipster-party-photographer, Mark Hunter in 2005 (http://www.thecobrasnake.com/). Hunter recognized that traffic to his website increased every time he posted a picture of Kennedy, and soon introduced her to the editors of fashion and culture magazine, magazine. Now 21-years old, Kennedy has been dubbed at 'It' girl by theLos Angeles Times, has been featured in a number of fashion magazines, and in an major exhibit at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, PA.



Chris Crocker

Crocker gained international attention for crying in his now-infamous 2007 YouTube video "Leave Britney Alone" in which he ardently urged the public to stop criticizing Britney Spears for her performance at the MTV Video Music Awards. Crocker has since received over fifty million plays on his YouTube channel. Post "Leave Britney Alone" Crocker has utilized an autobiographical comic strip to state his plans to star in his own TV show, and to leave his grandparents home. In 2008 he was featured in Weezer's music video for the song "Pork and Beans," and has acted as an Internet correspondent on the BBC show *Lily Allen and Friends.* Crocker has also released two singles, and has announced that he will be self-releasing an album in 2011.



Antoine Dodson

On July 28, 2010, Antoine Dodson from the Lincoln Park projects was interviewed by NBC affiliate WAFF-48 News after a break-in and attempted rape of his sister, Kelly Dodson. The clip of his interview became a viral sensation as he addressed the attempted rapist, while staring directly into the camera. His words,"You are dumb, you are really dumb, "and "Hide yo' kids, hide yo' wife," have become viral catchphrases, and his interview was auto-tuned and turned into the hit "Bed Intruder Song." The video has been viewed more than seventy-five million times; and he has made quite a bit of money through sales of the song on iTunes, and selling T-shirts and other merchandise featuring "Bed Intruder Song" quotes. Dodson has also used his Internet fame to launch a donations website to get his family "out of the hood."

The Great Net Neutrality Debate

How business and politics may change your online experience

by JOHN HARRIS STEVENSON
illustrations by ERENE STERGIOPOULOS



Imagine that one day you flipped open your laptop and the Internet as you had known it was changed forever. You try to do a Google search, but the results now come from Microsoft's search engine, Bing. You visit the *Eye Weekly* website, but a large banner across the top of the page suggests that you might prefer the *Toronto Sun* instead. YouTube and Netflix won't load at all, but a popup informs you that customers of your Internet service provider will now be served by a new online video service that only gives you access to programming from the ISP's parent television networks — and it will cost an extra fourteen dollars a month. Want to play World of Warcraft? That's also extra, part of your ISP's new nine dollar "gaming access pack."

This is the future of the Internet, feared by advocates of network neutrality: the notion that all Internet traffic, regardless of source or content, should be treated more or less equally, and that you should be able to access it just about any way you want. It is one of the founding ideals of the Internet, a system that was designed to make interconnection and the free flow of information and content not only possible, but easy. However, with the massive growth in Internet traffic and use in the past twenty years, this fundamental notion is now being questioned, with some ISPs saying that it is no longer technically practical, or good for business.

Net neutrality and other arcane aspects of networking technology have only become important to the public in the past few years. In the early days of the Internet, prior to the mid-1990s, users simply assumed that one could send or receive anything using the network. It was a low-volume world dominated by email, text documents, and remote computer logins. While there were concerns about traffic growth and congestion, they were fairly easily managed, and data flowed back and forth among interconnected networks with few obstacles. Network neutrality was assumed.

In the 2000s, the Internet changed, becoming a conduit for just about any type of media, including large audio and video files. The success of Napster early in the decade drove what would become rapid increases in Internet traffic. High-speed broadband became mainstream, and the networks of many traditional ISPs began to creak under the load.

The way people accessed the Internet changed as well. In the 1990s, North America was filled with scores of small competing ISPs. By 2005, massive consolidation in the ISP market resulted in a landscape dominated by large telephone and cable companies. Today, more than ninety-five per cent of Canadian consumers connect to the Internet through either a large cable or television company.

By 2005, major ISPs had noticed two things about their sections of the Internet. First, bandwidth use was increasing significantly thanks to online video and audio. Second, they weren't receiving any revenue from some of the Internet's biggest companies. Google, Yahoo, eBay, and others connected to most ISPs through other networks and weren't paying ISPs a cent to access their customers. This was because of another principle of the Internet called 'peering,' which means that when an ISP connects to another network, they exchange traffic with few restrictions. Peering also means that ISPs can't easily charge extra for some Internet services and cannot package sites and services as they might do with their traditional businesses: cable television and telephone.

What ISPs realized is that even though the Internet is broadly decentralized, they have the technical ability to control traffic entering or leaving their networks. Most do just that, blocking their customers from accessing illegal websites and limiting spam coming into the network. But your ISP could just as easily block or limit what you can see and do online, or give preference to some Internet traffic over another.

That's what then-CEO of SBC Communications (now AT&T), Edward Whitacre, suggested in 2005. When asked about the possible competition to SBC from web services provided by Google and Microsoft, Whitacre was blunt. "How do you think they're going to get to customers?" he asked. "Now what they would like to do is use my pipes free, but I ain't going to let them do that because we have spent this capital and we have to have a return on it. So there's going to have to be some mechanism for these people who use these pipes to pay for the portion they're using." Whitacre's comments encouraged the American communications regulator, the FCC, to impose network neutrality rules on SBC when it merged with AT&T that year.

Canadians also learned something about the powers of their ISPs in 2005. Embroiled in an acrimonious labour dispute, Telus, one of Canada's largest ISPs, blocked a union website, arguing

that it contained confidential information that put the company's employees at risk. But rather than seeking a court order or taking other legal action to shut down the site, Telus simply made it invisible to its customers, along with several dozen other sites that happened to share the same web host.

The labour dispute passed, but the concerns remained. Would once-neutral ISPs now play favourites with websites, blocking disagreeable content or charging extra for some services? That was the model of cable television and wireless telephone networks; what would stop ISPs from doing the same to the Internet?

Electronic communications are regulated in both Canada and the United States through a series of rules mostly designed for the pre-Internet world. In the US, the FCC has long been attempting to form rules about network neutrality, a significant challenge in an environment of ongoing deregulation. In 2005, a small ISP in North Carolina started blocking the traffic of Internet telephone service Vonage. The outcry was immediate, and the FCC ordered the ISP, Madison River Communications, to stop. It later realized that its rules for managing cable and telephone companies might not be quite up to date enough to manage these sorts of disputes. Michael Powell, then chair of the FCC, issued a policy statement on broadband that included four principles: that users were entitled access to lawful content, to run applications and use services of their choice, to connect legal devices to the network, and to a choice among network providers. But Powell's statement created guidelines rather than rules, and didn't have the force of law.

The FCC's commitment to net neutrality would be tested in 2007 when the Associated Press and other media outlets reported that Comcast, the second-largest Internet service provider in the United States, had been preventing subscribers from using BitTorrent, a popular peer-to-peer file sharing technology. An investigation by the Electronic Frontier Foundation revealed that Comcast actively interfered with P2P traffic by masquerading as a user's computer and resetting peer-to-peer connections. Comcast subscribers hadn't been told about the practice, and the company at first denied that it was blocking BitTorrent traffic. Later in the year, Comcast admitted to the blocking, arguing that the practice was necessary to limit network congestion.

The FCC disagreed with the approach, finding that Comcast's network had not been designed to effectively manage peer-to-peer traffic. Rather than update their technology, Comcast had decided to rely on a less eloquent approach to the problem. Calling Comcast's traffic management unreasonable and overreaching, the FCC ordered the ISP to make technical changes to its network that would allow individual cable models, rather than the entire network, to be throttled. Comcast complied, but nevertheless went to federal court to have the decision overturned, arguing that the FCC did not have the authority to regulate their Internet operations.

It was not until 2008 that the issue of network neutrality came before Canada's media regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Canada's largest ISP, Bell, was throttling peer-to-peer traffic in a manner similar to Comcast. The Canadian Association of Internet Providers, an organization of small ISPs that resell wholesale bandwidth from Bell Canada to retail customers, asked the CRTC to order Bell to cease the shaping of Internet traffic. CAIP argued that Bell was violating the Canadian Telecommunications Act, which forbids a telecom company to "unjustly discriminate or give an undue or unreasonable preference" to anyone using their services, nor to "control the content" carried by the service. CAIP also noted that in order for Bell to limit BitTorrent traffic, it had to peek into customer's data — a violation of Canadian privacy laws.

By the time the CRTC issued its own policy on Internet traffic management in late-2009, other Canadian ISPs, including Rogers, had also introduced peer-to-peer throttling. Unlike the FCC, the CRTC did not order ISPs to change their network management practices or network infrastructure. They also did not rule that the ISPs had violated provisions of the Telecom Act. Instead, the CRTC reaffirmed its general commitment to non-discrimination, and established a complaints-driven process on traffic management. The result: Canadian ISPs can manage their networks as they see fit, and the CRTC will only intervene in response to complaints. Many supporters of network neutrality were disappointed with the policy.

Many agree that Canadian consumers would benefit from greater choice among ISPs, and not just in the area of network neutrality. Steve Anderson, national coordinator of media advocacy group OpenMedia.ca, has argued that the wholesale and retail services of large ISPs should be operated separately. Called functional separation, large ISPs would be forced to sell their bandwidth to retailers who could provide a variety of services at various price points. According to a 2009 KPMG study, retail prices decreased after the United Kingdom implemented functional separation, and several other jurisdictions, including New Zealand, Italy, and Sweden, have followed suit.

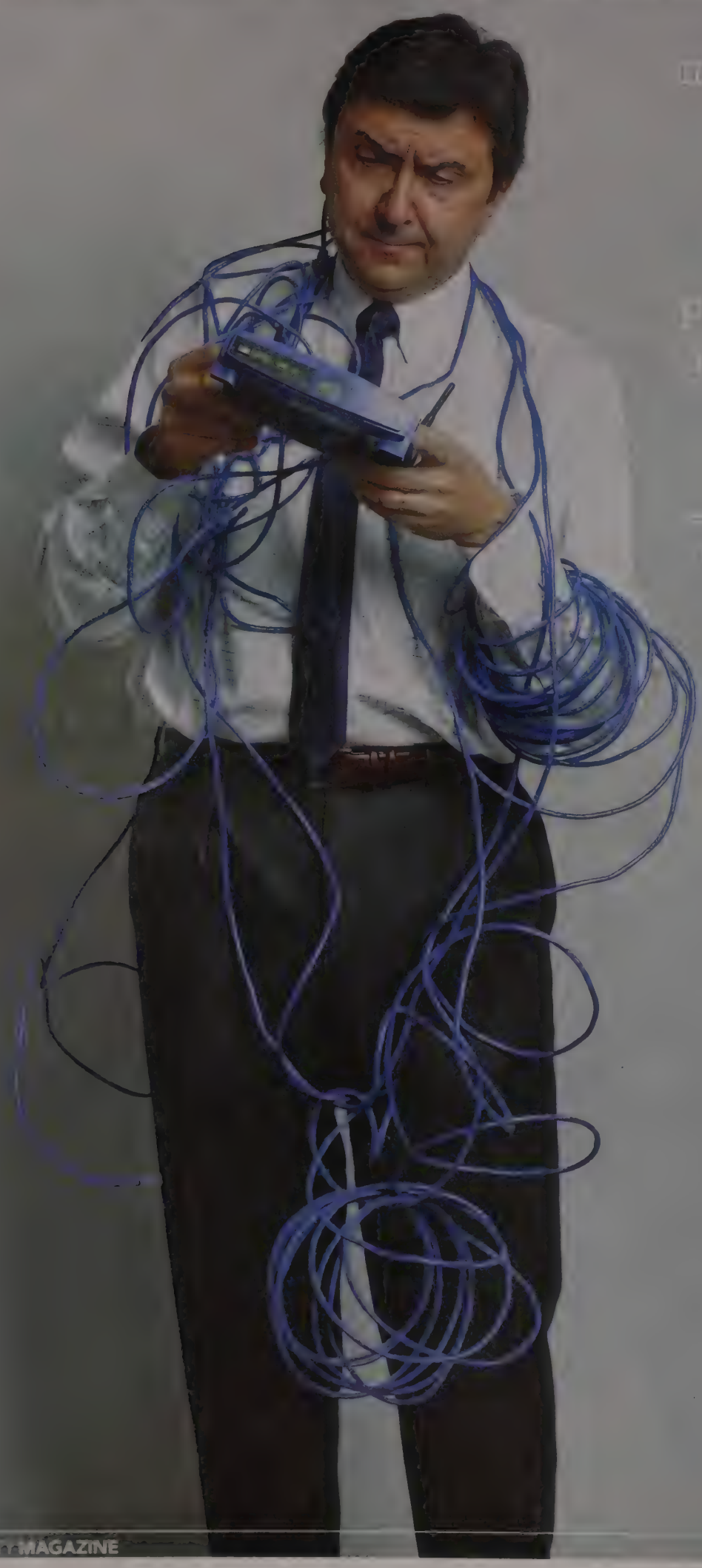
Some critics have suggested that both sides of the network neutrality debate might be missing some important points. Columbia Law School Professor Tim Wu, who coined the term "network neutrality," has noted that treating all Internet application traffic equally puts time-sensitive traffic, such as live video and voice-over-IP, at a great disadvantage. He has suggested that classes of data, though not data from specific providers, should be given preferential treatment, for example by prioritizing streaming video over email. Bram Cohen, the creator of BitTorrent, has urged governments to be cautious when introducing net neutrality rules, arguing that overreach and absurdities are a likely result, such as ISPs being unable to block spam or malware attacks.

The debate about the future of the Internet is far from over. In the past few days, Republican lawmakers in the United States attempted to block new FCC net neutrality regulations, while Tony Clement, the Industry Minister of Canada, has stated that he will overturn a CRTC's decision that would see restrictive bandwidth caps applied to Internet resellers. When contemplating the notion of network neutrality, it's important to keep in mind that decisions made today will most likely impact how we will be able to use the Internet in Canada for years to come.



How to...
Internet

Even if you grew up making Geocities websites and watching Homestar Runner, there's still a lot about the Internet that you probably don't know. University of Toronto President **DAVID NAYLOR** is your host as The Varsity helps you navigate our often overwhelming online universe



Own a smartphone



Face it: you're going to have to buy one eventually. It's about time you get out of the cellphone stone age and become a valuable member of society. You can't just arbitrarily pick a smartphone though — each type has its own distinct personality and set of features.

iPhone

It's hip and beautiful and huge. The only touchscreen popular for a reason.

Blackberry

You're old-school. You still keypad all the time. Old but gold.

Android

Android has the largest system currently known to man.

Anything else

You're joking, right?

Order take-out

You're hungry, but you're too lazy to go out. In fact, you don't even want to use the phone. Why not order online? Each of these websites has an extensive list of restaurants that'll deliver. Pick your restaurant, add items to your order, punch in your credit card info, and enjoy

JUST-EAT.CA

FOOD-DELIVERY.CA

GRUBCANADA.COM

Get your groove on

Cruising for some tunes, but don't want to run afoul of the law? No problem! These three sites will expose you to more music than you have space for on your iPod, and they'll do it nice and legally, too.



Stereogum

One of the first mp3 blogs to debut online, Stereogum offers the ideal mix of music news, criticism, and free downloads. Based in the eye of the hipster hurricane — Williamsburg, Brooklyn — the site's writers are knowledgeable but avoid the pitfalls of pretentious writing that plague many other music blogs.

HypeMachine

This mp3 blog aggregator is the best destination for remixes, mashups, and the latest hip hop, electronic, and indie rock tracks. Create an account and "love" your favourite songs — that way you'll have a rad playlist ready wherever you have access to a computer.

Grooveshark

It doesn't have all the newest songs, but this site's library of full albums that are ready for streaming is unparalleled. Perfect for playlist creation and collaborative mixes at parties.

Get o iTun

If you own an iPod, you're k iTunes for syncing and m your music and video libra everyone wants to be fully in Apple culture. It's like St peering over your shoulder you buy a song or install a

There are dozens of alternatives to iTunes you can install if you're or Windows user. Free music library — down and install **Songbird**, or **Yamipod**.

Make friends

Since Facebook is sooo 2008, you need to get with the times and move to the social networks that matter.

LinkedIn

Eventually you'll need to leave school, and when you do, LinkedIn will keep you in touch with all your professional contacts. It's not as flashy as Facebook, but you'll praise its existence the first time it leads to a job offer.

Foursquare

Using GPS, Foursquare lets you "check-in" at locations you visit. Earn points, see nearby locations, and find out who else is eating nachos at your favourite bar. Despite the creepy factor, at the end of 2010 this app reportedly had over 6 million users.

Manage your time (or not

We get it. You're busy. Blowing OSAP on cheap drinks seemed like a good idea until the papers and exams started piling up. If you aren't using these time management tools, stop complaining!

Dropbox

The next time your hard drive decides to self-destruct, you'll be fine. Dropbox creates a folder on your computer that stores files on a cloud, allowing you to easily retrieve them from any computer. You can even use it on your phone!

Doodle

Group meetings for class projects are almost tolerable with Doodle. An easy scheduling application, Doodle lets you schedule meetings fast. This web-app is great for school, friends, and even family lunches.

Google Calendar

The most robust calendar solution that doesn't cost money, Google Calendar looks great in your browser and syncs in your phone. Let your anally-retentive self shine through as you share calendars between friends and keep tabs on your significant other.

Evernote

Evernote stores ideas in the cloud for easy access from your desktop, browser, or phone. Never forget anything again, whether its a new photo on Reddit or the date of your mother's birthday.



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Path

This incredibly simple app allows users to share photos of special moments in their day using their iPhone or iPod Touch. It limits your number of friends to 50 so you only share with those who matter. This is a truly unique app. You'll love it.

Twitter

Twitter isn't as young as it once was, but it's still got spunk. Use this service to post updates, share photos, and chat with friends and strangers. Be careful not to over-share: nobody needs to know what kind of cabbage you just bought.

Start searchin'

You don't know search until you know these tricks

Keyword

Before you start, pick out words that are specific and relevant to your search topic. Like a library search, stay away from sentences and focus on the big idea of what you're looking for.

Want to know how much J. Bieb's hair sold for on Ellen*? (We still can't believe he cut it off!) Try "Bieber," "Ellen," "hair," and "auction."*

Wildcards

It can be pretty difficult to search for something if you don't know exactly what you're looking for. In these kinds of cases, consider using a wildcard (represented by an *).

*You've forgotten the chorus for Justin Bieber's Baby — and you can't keep swooning until you remember it. Try "Baby, baby, *, ohhh".*

+ and – signs

After you've picked out your keywords use + and – signs to narrow what you're looking for. It further refines your search. Using a + is like saying "and," and – is like saying "but not this."

You're searching for JB but you're tired of hearing about his magical locks. Try searching "Justin Bieber" "-hair."

Plan a trip

WHERE TO GO

Wikitravel

Explore potential destinations on Wikitravel — a free, user-edited travel site with over 24,000 destination guides.

GETTING THERE

Travelocity

Featuring a disgruntled gnome as their mascot, Travelocity provides discounts and deals on virtually every aspect of travelling. Want to save 44% going to Europe this spring? Yes, please!

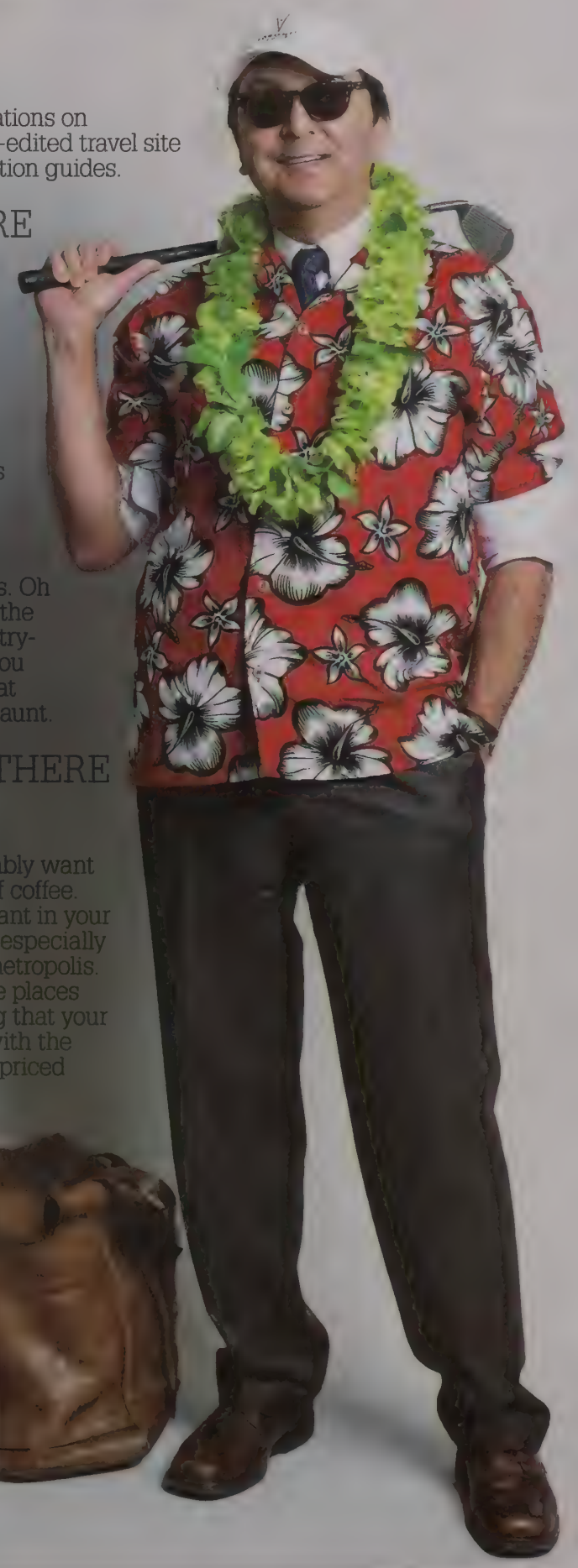
Expedia

Cars and tours and trains. Oh my! Expedia is based in the US and includes 20 country-specific sites to ensure you get the lowest rate on that cruise with your second aunt.

ONCE YOU'RE THERE

Yelp

Upon arrival, you'll probably want a decent meal or a cup of coffee. Picking a quality restaurant in your price range isn't easy — especially if you're in a sprawling metropolis. On Yelp, users review the places they've been to, ensuring that your choice won't leave you with the taste of horrendous, overpriced food in your mouth.



You have an essay due in the morning, three presentations on Thursday, and a job interview on Friday. Clearly, you're going to procrastinate as much as possible.

Sporcle

A procrastination tool that you don't have to feel so bad about, Sporcle is a trivia site divided into categories, including entertainment, history, music, and science. Be it Irish history or terrible Nicolas Cage films, Sporcle has something for you.

Wimp

Wimp links to six funny or interesting videos every day. The team is usually a few days ahead of the online video zeitgeist, so expect to see new videos that your friends will be linking you to days later. This will make you cool.

Omegle

A Chatroulette without the naked dudes, Omegle allows for maximum anonymity. You can't see who you're talking to, but the conversations you can have on here are absolutely outrageous.

The Daily What

The Cheezburger Network popularized LOLCats and runs FailBlog. Their website, The Daily What, is a diverse collection of videos, images, and news items. Often it's funny, but sometimes it will deliver breaking news more quickly than the *New York Times*.

Read some comics

Consider reading these webcomics if you like...

XKCD

Problem sets on a friday night
Cory Doctorow
"The algorithm"
Stick figures

Achewood

Being weird
Long, disjointed story arcs
Stuffed animals
Cute otters

Buttersafe

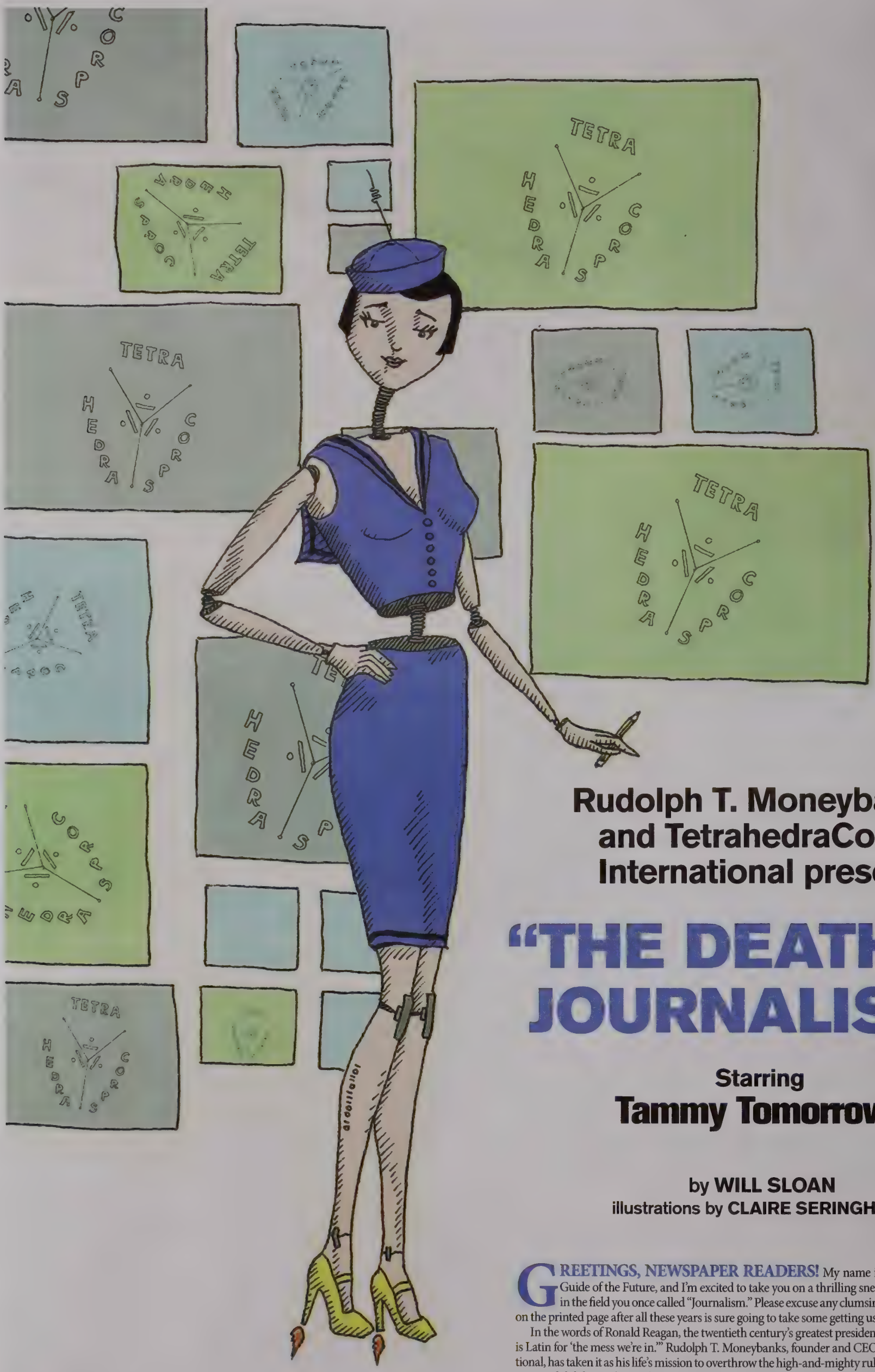
Awkward silences
Veins
Dogs
Veiny dogs

Hark! A Vagrant

History
Mr. Darcy
Fat ponies
Canada

SMBC Comics

Graph jokes
Theoretical physics jokes
Non-chronological jokes
Math jokes



Rudolph T. Moneybanks and TetrahedraCorp® International present

"THE DEATH OF JOURNALISM"

Starring Tammy Tomorrow™

by **WILL SLOAN**
illustrations by **CLAIRE SERINGHAUS**

GREETINGS, NEWSPAPER READERS! My name is Tammy Tomorrow™, Tour Guide of the Future, and I'm excited to take you on a thrilling sneak preview of things to come in the field you once called "Journalism." Please excuse any clumsiness on my part — being back on the printed page after all these years is sure going to take some getting used to!

In the words of Ronald Reagan, the twentieth century's greatest president, "The status quo, you know, is Latin for 'the mess we're in.'" Rudolph T. Moneybanks, founder and CEO of TetrahedraCorp International, has taken it as his life's mission to overthrow the high-and-mighty ruling class. Ever since 2025, the year Rudolph began his multimedia empire, he knew that the American people needed to be freed from the so-called "experts" and "authorities" who oppressed them. He knew that we were smart enough to think for ourselves.

Imagine a world where media bias is a thing of the past. Imagine a world where you can get your news straight from the source, without some downtown elite telling you what to think and how to feel. Imagine a world where you need no longer slog your way through a long, tedious article to find the information you need — information that may have been corrupted by some ivory tower pseudo-intellectual who wants to impose his way of life on you. Imagine a world where the media reports — and you decide.

Welcome to a future where you can receive information straight from politicians, businesspeople, and your favourite celebrities in quick, easy-to-read infobites of one hundred and forty characters or less, beamed straight to your brain. Welcome to a future where you have power over the information you receive. No more ink-stained fingers. No more killing trees. No more newspapers and periodicals. It's time to move forward from such outmoded forms of thinking. It's time to democratize the media. In the words of twentieth century musician John Lennon: "Power to the people™!"

YOU MAKE THE CALL!

How do you feel about this article so far?

- ☐ Intrigued: I want to see where it will take me
- ☐ Inspired: I feel empowered by this bold vision of the future
- ☐ Other

TETRANEWS UPDATE!

- ***MONEYBANKS SAYS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT McLINTOCK OVER FEDERAL FUNDING GRANTS IS "PRODUCTIVE"!***
- ***FORMER ELIMINATION: PALAU CONTESTANTS NICK AND LACEY DIVORCE AFTER THREE MONTHS; CITE IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES!***
- ***VICE PRESIDENT HENDERSON SLAMS SENATOR THOMPSON'S ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE AS "RADICAL," "EXTREMIST"!***
- ***McLINTOCK REVEALS FAVOURITE SNACKFOOD IS POTATO WEDGES!***

A modern-day Renaissance Man. Dreamer. Visionary. Innovator. Humanitarian. Legend. The greatest businessman of his age. He is many things to many people, but who is the real Rudolph T. Moneybanks?

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the future founder and CEO of TetrahedraCorp was just "Little Rudy." A working-class kid and computer whiz from Queen's with nothing more than determination and a dream, Rudy made it to Yale in 2020 on a scholarship. Between graduating at the top of his class, serving as student council president and vice president of Skull and Bones, Rudy found time to perfect the innovative and groundbreaking Tetrahedron®, a cuticle-sized chip that transmits music, movies, books, games, news, the Internet, and social media directly into your brain. A sensation from the moment it hit the market in 2025, advancements in brain surgery technology meant Tetrahedron® insertion stations sprang up around the country, and by 2035, over eighty-five per cent of American families were Tetrahedron® users!

While his electronic business grew to encompass all manner of fast, easy-to-use audiovisual technology, this was not enough for Rudy. It wasn't long after he made his first hundred billion that the TetrahedraCorp empire expanded to include TetraRadio, TetraPictures, TetraFoods, Tet's (a popular coffee and culture franchise), Rudy's Kitchen (a popular restaurant chain), Tets 'n Tats (a popular clothing line), and dozens of other hugely successful companies in an unprecedented winning @#dgh$^f&&$f23streak.

But Rudy's ambitions were greater than simply manufacturing and distributing high-quality goods and services. From a young age, Rudy knew it was his calling to revolutionize the media — to truly democratize the way we exchange ideas, free from the arbitrary coercion of the so-called "experts." In 2046, having already joined with most of the major networks, TetrahedraCorp founded TetraNews, television's leading fair-and-balanced news source. With popular pundits and anchors who simply reported the news free of spin, bias, or manipulation, TetraNews quickly became TV's most trusted twenty-four-hour news source. When a crucial 2052 Supreme Court decision overthrew America's archaic antitrust laws in a narrow 5-4 vote, TetrahedraCorp was free to merge with the other, irrelevant news sources that remained and create a single, unbiased voice in American news and views6Aw$@ejioj1at90jg#$^adoi(nahi5adgitbgvq2po$%Y#Qshitpissfuckcockrudolphmoneybanksgrewupinthehamptonsmotherfuckertits

***

Hello. It seems that this article was briefly hijacked. Not to worry: the brave men and women of the TetrahedraCorp Security Force were able to apprehend the guilty party. Fortunately, in this age of new media, these types of people are a much more negligible sector of the population than they used to be.

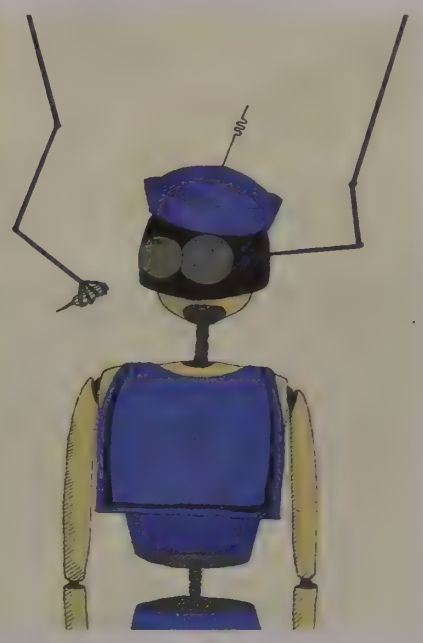
The success of TetraNews has been overwhelming. For the first time, voters are no longer browbeaten into voting for unqualified candidates by agenda-driven columnists, and are instead presented with nothing more or less than hard facts. Beamed straight from our Washington News Headquarters into every Tetrahedron® owner in America, hourly one hundred and forty-character TetraNewsBriefs transmissions keep every member of the citizenry informed.

This rise of a truly unbiased media source has reaffirmed our common values. Americans are free to rediscover the universal beliefs that unite us all, proven by the fact that ever since its foundation, an astonishing ninety-seven per cent of all elected government officials had been endorsed by TetraNews.

***

TETRANEWS UPDATE!

- ***McLINTOCK VOTED "MOST POPULAR PRESIDENT SINCE REAGAN" IN TETRANEWS POLL!***
- ***SENATOR THOMPSON HINTS AT RUN FOR PRESIDENCY; FELLOW SENATORS QUESTION LIBERAL VOTING RECORD!***
- ***McLINTOCK "WON'T BACK DOWN" FROM CHINESE THREATS!***



While Rudy never imposes his opinions on his customers, he is still an informed and active citizen who enjoys debate and likes making his opinions known. An outspoken supporter of free-market capitalism, Rudy values that only in America can anyone become a self-made millionaire. His crusades against antitrust laws, income tax, and government regulations on business are legendary, and it was largely through his efforts that Canada and Mexico's economic unification with the United States came to pass in 2068.

Time has not slowed him down. Earlier this year, Rudy gave an important endorsement to incumbent presidential candidate John F. McLintock, and has contributed over five-trillion dollars to his campaign. It will be interesting to see, however, if Rudolph Moneybanks sticks with McLintock in the next election or if he'll throw Thompson a bone it's not too late for him Thompsonnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnthompsonthompsonthompsonthompson

***

Hello. I would like to apologize for the elements of my speech had become corrupted and biased by forces beyond my control. The responsible parties have been reprimanded, and I hope that you will forgive me for this unfortunate occurrence.

I would now like to present to you a selection of interesting facts about Rudolph T. Moneybanks which I hope will provide illumination into his life and personality for your edification.

Rudolph T. Moneybanks is the founder and CEO of TetrahedraCorp International. He was born in New York on December 13, 2002, and is turning seventy-three this year. Historical figures who inspire him include Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Thomas Jefferson, Ayn Rand, Ronald Reagan, Adam Smith, Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, William Shakespeare, Albert Einstein, Jesus Christ, and Mahatma Gandhi. He enjoys football, music, art, politics, business, crafts, fishing, golf, spending time with friends and family, and curling up with a good book.

In his spare time, Rudolph T. Moneybanks enjoys playing piano, and each year plays a medley of carols on the TetrahedraCorp Christmas Special. Rudolph T. Moneybanks has authored two autobiographies, entitled *Reaching for the Sky: My Life as an Innovator* and *Where Trouble Goes, Greatness Follows: How Innovation Shakes the Status Quo*. He has coined many inspirational aphorisms, including: "Shoot for the moon — even if you miss you'll land among the stars,®" and, "The status quo, you know, is Latin for 'The mess we're in.®"

Rudolph T. Moneybanks is very active with charitable organizations. In 2065, he donated one trillion dollars to the Rudolph T. Moneybanks Foundation for Education, and over the past fifteen years has donated five trillion dollars to the Rudolph T. Moneybanks Foundation for Cancer Research. His TetrahedraCorp International Artist-in-Residence program is an exciting opportunity for young and struggling artists to compete for a coveted position as the official annual TetrahedraCorp artist.

Rudolph T. Moneybanks is committed to making education come alive for students and the general public alike. With TetraPictures he has produced popular biographical films of many of his favourite historical figures, including Adam Smith, Ayn Rand, and Ronald Reagan. His TetraLit Company produces over ninety-five per cent of the textbooks commonly used in elementary and high school classrooms, including popular titles on history, science, civics, and religion. In his spare time, Rudolph T. Moneybanks enjoys scuba diving, and even though he can afford to dine at the world's finest restaurants, his favourite meal is a cheeseburger at Gerry's Deli in Queen's, where he spent so much of his childhood.

YOU MAKE THE CALL!

What word do you think best describes Rudolph T. Moneybanks?

- ☐ Wealthy
- ☐ Charitable
- ☐ Innovative
- ☐ Down-to-earth
- ☐ Sociallyconciu9999999999999999999999999999die99999999

TETRANEWS UPDATE!

- ***TERRORISTS INFILTRATE TETRAHEDRACORP HQ! MONEYBANKS CALLS SITUATION "UNDER CONTROL"!***
- ***McLINTOCK LAUGHS OFF EVIDENCE TAMPERING ALLEGATIONS AS "ABSURD," "EXTREMIST"!***
- ***CHEESETRAVAGANZA BURGER COMBO NOW JUST $149.99 AT RUDY'S KITCHEN!***
- ***THOMPSON CANDIDACY CONSIDERED "DANGEROUS," SAYS ANALYST!***
- ***TETRAPICTURES' LATEST PRODUCTION, MACRO MAN, STARRING TODD JACKSON AND JENNIFER O'BRIEN, EXPLODES INTO THEATRES MEMORIAL DAY!***

Innovatorleaderleadingbesttopuniquegreatsolutionlargestawardwinningexclusivepremier extensivedynamicstateoftheartsmartflexiblecuttingedgebiggestworldclassamazingnextgenerationrevolutionarysustainableleverageuserfriendlyextraordinarybreakthroughsavvylegendaryStuff Rudy enjoys – cottaging; skydiver; regular joe stuff. Contributes to charities.

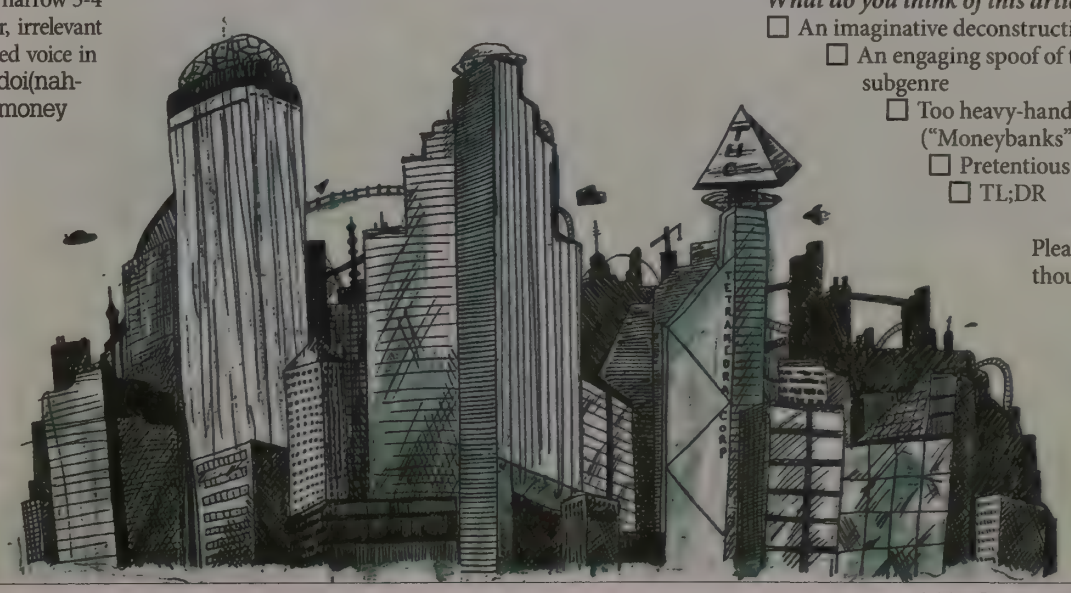
I hope that you enjoyed this exciting glimpse into the world of TetrahedraCorp. Please drop by the gift shop, where you will be able to purchase collectable Tammy Tomorrow™ products for you and your family. Please also remember to tune into the TetrahedraCorp Easter special, featuring guest appearances by Rudolph T. Moneybanks, TetrahedraCorp comedian-in-residence Lance Dorner, and a special fireside chat with President John F. McLintock. Until next time, this is Tammy Tomorrow™ reminding you that only when the people are empowered can the status quoooboooooooooooo1-35015@%$%@$@$

YOU MAKE THE CALL!

What do you think of this article?

- ☐ An imaginative deconstruction of the "article" form
- ☐ An engaging spoof of the dystopian science-fiction subgenre
- ☐ Too heavy-handed in its satire ("Moneybanks"? Seriously?)
- ☐ Pretentious and muddled
- ☐ TL;DR

Please share any miscellaneous thoughts about this article:



Choose YOUR OWN ADVENTURE...

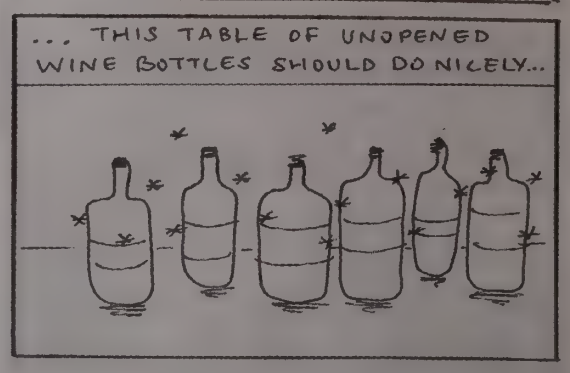




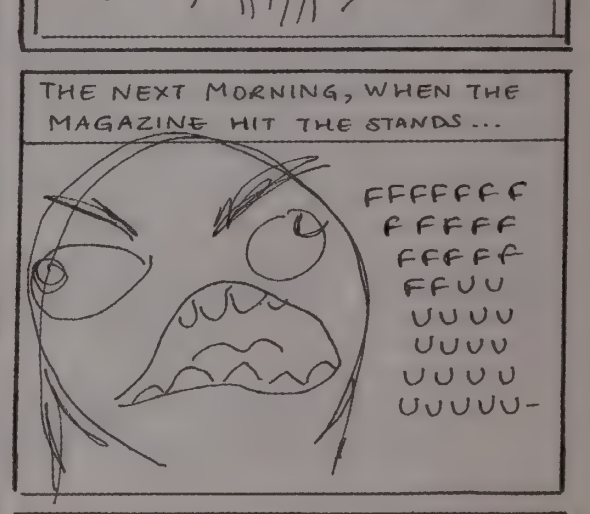






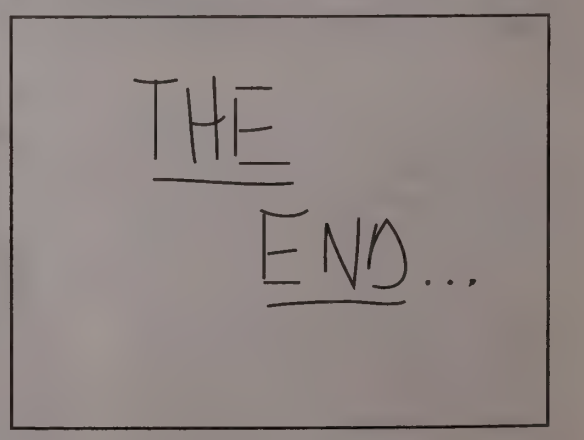








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So what's the deal with robots?

Robot stand-up comedian Data knows how to make you laugh

by **ARIEL LEWIS**



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

A doctor says to his patient, "I have bad news and worse news. The bad news is that you only have twenty-four hours to live."

"That's terrible," says the patient. "How can the news possibly be worse?"

"I've been trying to contact you since yesterday."

It's a joke we've all heard numerous times over, with a punch line that no longer provokes much in the way of laughter. But what if the joke were told by a child-like robot comedian who stands half a meter tall with a round head, opaque shell, and suave high-pitched voice?

Such was the case when Heather Knight presented her robot comedian, Data, to an audience at the TEDWomen conference on December 9, 2010, and the audience erupted with laughter and applause when this one liner was delivered. Knight's invention easily sheds light on the conventions of comedy, the nuances of timing, and how pushing an audience out of its comfort zone (say, by the presence of a technological being) can affect an audience's reaction.

"This is a whole new genre of exploring entertainment," says Knight. "What does it mean if you have a robot on stage; what does it mean if there can be censors; what does it mean if you can put humans and robots on stage together?"

Currently conducting her doctoral research at Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, Knight also runs New York City's Marilyn Monrobot Labs, which focuses its research on social intelligence and artistic performance in robotics.

Data is by no means the first robot to dip into the realm of performing arts, but he is unique in his abilities to interact with his audience. Through microphone and visual aid colour-panels, Data is able to gauge audience feedback. He carries a large database of jokes in his head, each characterized by topic, length, interactivity, movement-level, appropriateness, and hilarity. So when Data goes for his next joke, he can choose one that is either similarly or differently characterized by any of these qualities, depending on how the last joke fared.

Due to this social programming, each time Data engages with an audience, he develops more of the shades and mannerisms that come with human socializing.

Since his debut, Data has performed to audiences overseas and has a regularly updated Twitter account. On March 9, the robot comedian was named a Fellow at the Hybrid Reality Institute, the first non-human entity to garner such a title.

"We thought we would begin to see Data as someone who is really pushing the frontiers not only in the future of theatre but also [as someone who] would help us, as a group, really begin to feel what human-machine interaction will be like in the future," explains Ayesha Khanna, managing partner of Hybrid Reality. "The fact of the matter is, [human-machine interactions] are becoming inevitable. We will not only begin to become very comfortable in their presence, but we will begin to have a two-way relationship with them."

As for the robot's entertainment value, Toronto-based comedian Bob Kerr is not convinced of its lasting impact. "I think human audiences will still want humans to do what they do, or to entertain them at least, because a robot can't connect with a human. [...] Maybe there will be an uprising of robots that can entertain us, but we will eventually get bored of that and we'll move on to another new thing."

"The fact of the matter is, [human-machine interactions] are becoming inevitable. We will not only begin to become very comfortable in their presence, but we will begin to have a two-way relationship with them."

While Data is certainly a step up from Robin Williams' 1999 attempt at a robot-comedian infusion in *Bicentennial Man*, Knight's invention may not yet be the instigator for a new genre of robotic-comedy. But its social implications are certainly paving the way for robot-human interactions on an everyday level.

"I'm interested in a world where we can have robots in our everyday lives," Knight explains. "I think one of the interfaces that is missing for that to happen seamlessly or for that to be a desirable thing is this idea of having charismatic machines."

In defense of "textese"

Our colloquialisms and abbreviations represent the evolution of the English language, not its regress.

by **SAM BOWMAN**

"Texting is ruining the English language." We regularly hear it from parents, professors, and English specialists, and the argument is usually the same. The quality of people's vocabularies is being destroyed. "Lol" and "omg" don't have obvious meanings and — worst of all — students are turning in papers using texting language. While all of these arguments seem to make some sense on the surface, it doesn't take much to point out their flaws.

The argument seems to rest on the common assumption that language is something so static and flawlessly codified that it can be spoiled. Yet language is not static; its composition and nature is constantly in flux. With this in mind, it is more useful to think of dictionaries and other language handbooks as snapshots of the state of a language at a specific historical moment, rather than an eternal owner's manual for the English language as a whole. Usage changes; meaning evolves.

Text speak can be broken down into a few approximate categories: colloquial spellings and abbreviations (u, txt); letter-number homophones (sk8r); and symbols or emoticons (;), <3). As in, "Txt u L8r, sk8r ;) <3." Unsurprisingly, the use of short forms is somewhat varied in different circumstances, but most become intelligible through their context or through a basic understanding of how these categories work.

The idea of making a qualitative judgement regarding someone's use of language seems to rest on the assumption that there is a perfect vocabulary which stays more or less the same. However, the English language (and its vocabulary) is not something that lives in the abstract; there is no ideal form. It is more useful to look at it as a set of shared meanings associated with certain symbols, or noises that vary based upon the many intersections which occur within society around issues such as class, region, gender, education, and race. Think of Pygmalion.

The issue of seemingly unintelligible acronyms and shortened spellings can be similarly discarded. With this more flexible view of language, we can understand the meanings behind the components of a language largely as a reflection of social factors. It makes sense that our grandparents think "lol" means "lots of love" in the same way that many of us have no idea what "australopithecine" means. It's merely a reflection of where we sit within the English-speaking world.

As for the matter of using text speak in an academic setting, the criticism is most often aimed at students from authorities. The flaw here is not that its use is appropriate, but rather that the criticism is aimed in the wrong direction. Academic institutions largely make their own rules; it is their right to decide what language they wish to accept. With this right, however, comes the responsibility of clearly communicating and enforcing these standards. Framed in this way, the issue becomes structural rather than individual.

Keeping all of this in mind, do the usual complaints about texting still hold up? Thts 4 u 2 d-cide.



THE BODY ELECTRIC

JORDAN RIVERA examines the philosophy of Steve Mann, U of T's famous cyborg professor.

by **JORDAN RIVERA**
illustration by **SAM BOWMAN**

"Cyborg envy stems from society's overall failure to implement and explain technology as something that human beings develop and control."

Steve Mann attaching electronic devices to his body in his youth. The purpose? To experience a reality that has been technologically mediated. Steve Mann is a cyborg. That is, he's a human with both biological and artificial parts. Others know him as a professor of engineering at the University of Toronto, and a devoted techno-futurist. Mann's signature invention is the WearComp, a series of wearable computer devices. One example is the EyeTap, a set of computerized glasses that enhance or diminish objects entering the wearer's field of view. Using computer technology, he can control what he wishes to see and not see.

Precisely ten years ago, Mann released a book detailing his life as a cyborg. *CyborgL Digital Destiny and Human Possibility in the Age of the Wearable Computer* is Mann's manifesto. He's an inventor with purpose — one deeply rooted in a personal ideology that has shaped his life. Although Mann's understanding of technology ten years ago was considered radical, his writings forecasted what we have now lived over the past decade of our digital revolution.

VICARIOUS SOLILOQUY

Over the years, Mann has delivered talks at universities and conferences about wearable computers and technologies. He does so in the comfort of his own home. Wearing the WearCam, a camera attached to his head that projects onto a screen in the conference auditorium, Mann presents his talks using pictures he draws at his desk. He also occasionally looks at himself in the mirror to assure the audience that it is in fact he who is speaking.

The point is to let the audience connect with him on a different level. Instead of simply watching him speak, the audience can "become" him by seeing exactly what he sees. Mann describes this as a deeper identification with another person.

The implications are compelling. How will our perspective on human rights change when we can experience, at least visually, exactly how repressed and mistreated individuals live in their societies? How will aid to a country following a natural disaster change when we can experience the disaster for ourselves?

HUMANISTIC INTELLIGENCE (HI)

Artificial intelligence aims to create intelligent machines that can fulfill roles previously played by humans. Mann argues against this goal. Instead, he advocates the advancement of humanistic intelligence.

HI is about using technology to enhance human capacity. Under the HI model, users of a given device can take control any time they wish. The technology is responsive to the users: we shape the computer's behaviour, rather than having computers shape our activities according to pre-programmed assumptions.

Do we want to wake up in a world where only a computer knows how to drive the bus? Mann hopes for a world where a human bus driver is equipped with a brain-implanted microchip that enhances his attention to make him a safer and more efficient driver.

FREE AGENT

In his book, Mann openly acknowledges that he is alone. He is a one-of-a-kind being, a self-made mechano-human entity. However, he is not alone as a cyborg. Techno-culture has given us the means to become cyborgs — think of your wristwatch, pacemaker, or cellphone. While we rely on techno-culture to mass produce our electronic enhancements, Mann is the only one who creates his own enhancements; he is the free agent.

The free agent tailors technology to his life. Everyone else is forced to embrace the technologies available on the market. Think of every computer operating system you have ever used. Now ask your friends what they use. Are the answers mostly the same?

CYBORG ENVY

Mann describes the hostile reactions he has received from strangers he encounters. Instead of curiosity, they show an aversion to his weirdness. This, he says, is a symptom of our existence in a world of mass-produced technologies.

Cyborg envy stems from society's overall failure to implement and explain technology as something that human beings develop and control. Many of us are uncomfortable with the idea of biology and technology merging in one person. Such encounters are, after all, the stuff of myths and legends. Frankenstein's monster, the Golem of Prague, and even the Terminator are incarnations of the fear that we will one day endanger our humanity through technology.

The free agent embodies these apprehensions because he can create his own artificial self.

I AM A CAMERA

The impact of social networking on social movements is older than most people realize. In fact, in the era of the wearable computer, the term social networking will take on new meaning. Every cyborg will be equipped with a wearable camera. Knowing where someone is and what they are doing will no longer be limited to text descriptions. People may be able to see and eventually feel the conditions of where their friends are and what they are doing.

Using his WearCam, Mann can browse the produce aisle at the grocery store while his wife shops from home, essentially shopping through him. Facebook and Twitter have certainly changed relationship dynamics by allowing for the constant supply of updates on what others are doing. How will relationships change once you can "live" the other person, too?

THE VIRUS

Pervasive systems like Windows are like viruses. A friend creates a document in Microsoft Word and sends it to you. You need to buy Word to open the document, and so you need to buy Windows to run Word. Hence the virus has spread to you. Now you start learning Word and send documents to your friends. You then become a carrier of the disease.

Mann argues these operating systems are designed to function independently of us. We do not need to know how they work; we only need to apply our needs to their functions. But what happens when something goes wrong? Our total ignorance means we cannot sharpen our own pencils. There is a gap in what should otherwise be a closed loop.

Microsoft only allows us to operate on the principle of a straight line: either the computer tells us what to do or we tell it what to do. The system can't enhance our intelligence or understanding. If we want to change Windows to operate in a fundamentally different way, we cannot. When our pencils snap, we must hire someone to come and sharpen them for us.

We are only permitted to function in the way Microsoft wants us to. We are trapped in what Mann calls a "desktop prison."

TOTALITARIANISM

In a world of increasing surveillance, individual privacy will be determined by the large bodies that control surveillance technology. These bodies could also regulate the flow of free information to the public.

Mann fears a world where our ability to communicate with one another will be suppressed. We currently live in a panopticon: a prison where we cannot know when and where we are being watched.

According to Mann, the WearComp helps us reclaim our individual and collective freedoms. By constantly monitoring those who monitor us, individuals gain power over the governing bodies' primacy in surveillance. Using his WearCam to conduct his own surveillance of surveillance systems and employees in stores, Mann was met with hostility from the corporations' security guards. This, he argues, is the suppression of the individual's right to freedom of information.

In the WearCam age, everything an individual sees will be recorded. This information will be distributed freely and will be available to anyone. Similar to the Internet's impact on civil society, the WearCam will allow for surveillance information to be spread more freely around the world.

CYBORG BEAUTY

Mann's original motivation in inventing the wearable computer was to mediate reality, and to experience the world in different ways. He discovered that this ability is as much of an aesthetic experience as it is an intellectual or technological one. Currently, artistic endeavors are not considered a particularly potent means of reflecting how new technologies might affect society. This attitude towards the arts hinders our culture's ability to grapple with technological change in a meaningful way. WearComp can potentially close the gap between art and technology, requiring the user to respond creatively to the world by shaping it, changing it, and exploring it in novel ways. The view through a computer's lens is essentially an honest one: it demands that we accept artificiality as a given.

We are all cyborgs. As our digital age grows beyond infancy, technology will continue to amaze even the most committed skeptic by changing what it means to be human.

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- 1 Alumnae/i Representative
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Nomination forms are available in: **the Athletic Centre Main Office; Suite 1040** or the **Co-Curricular department Suite 1064,**
Nomination papers must be filed at one of these offices.
Nominations received elsewhere or after that time will be invalid.

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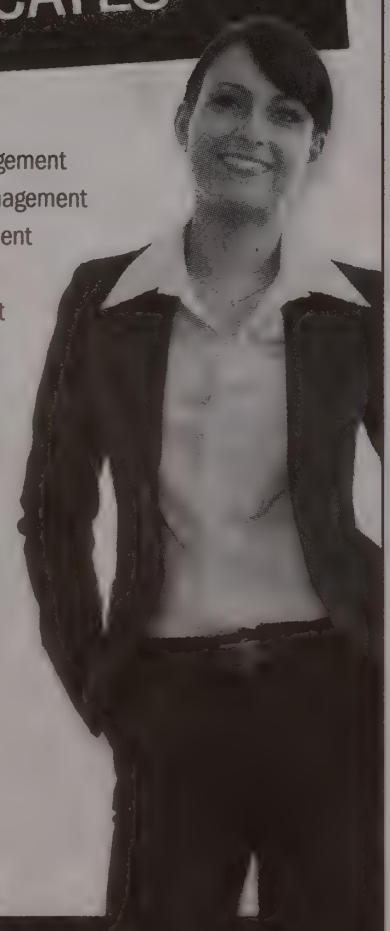
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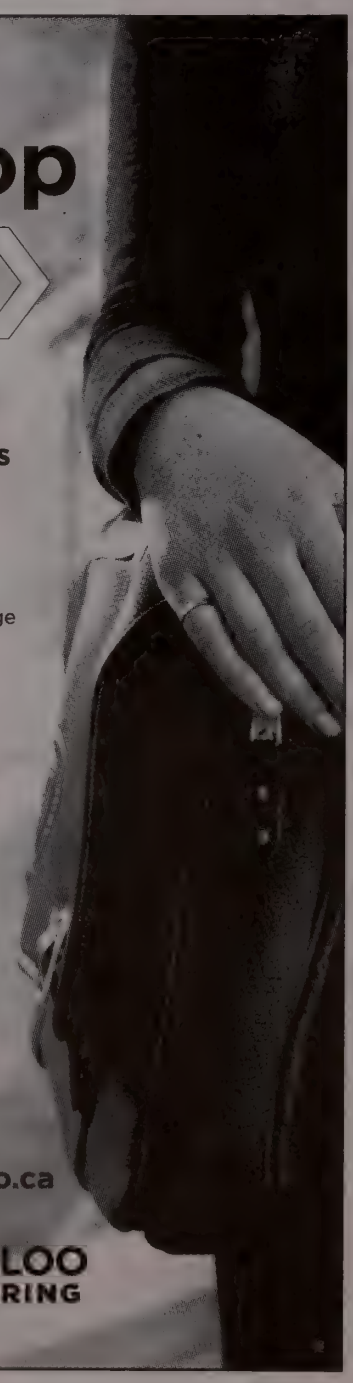
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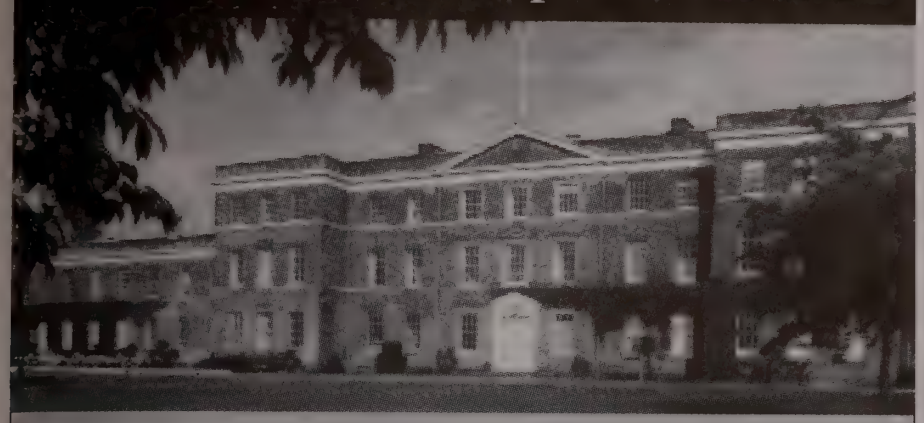
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Toronto, Saturday, March 26th, 2:00pm, Rm 1170, Bahen Centre, 40 St. George Street, U of T
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OPIRG TORONTO

Members of OPIRG-Toronto are invited to the Annual General Membership Meeting. Please join us for a report-back on the year's activities. A light dinner will be served. Members are kindly asked to bring their student identification for registration.

Date: Thursday, April 7th

Place: OISE, Rm 5250 (252 Bloor Street West)

Time: 5:00PM – 8:00PM

Nominations for the OPIRG-Toronto Board of Directors open Monday, March 21st Please contact the Chief Returning Officer at opirg.cro2011@gmail.com for a nominations package and for more information. Nominations close Friday, April 1st @ 5:00PM.

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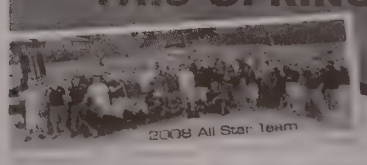
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NOTICE TO MEMBERS:
2011 GSU Elections March 22, 23 & 24
POLLING STATION LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Tuesday March 22

GSU – Main Flr
16 Bancroft Ave.
11am-4pm

Medical Science - Lobby
1 King's College Circle
2pm- 8pm

OISE – Main Flr Lobby
252 Bloor St. W
2:00pm-8:00pm

Robarts Library – 1st Flr Escalators
130 St. George St.
11am-9pm

Sidney Smith - Lobby
100 St. George Street
11am-4pm

Wednesday March 23

GSU – Main Flr
16 Bancroft Ave.
11am – 9pm

Robarts Library – 1st Flr Escalators
130 St. George St.
11am – 4pm

Sanford Fleming – Cafeteria
10 King's College Road
11am – 4pm

Wednesday March 23 cont'd:

Princess Margaret Hospital
7th Flr Atrium
11am – 4pm

EJ Pratt Library- Lobby
71 Queen's Park Cres. East
11am-1:30pm

Aerospace – UTIAS Cafeteria
4925 Dufferin St.
12pm-2pm

Mississauga Campus – Room 1100
South Building
3359 Mississauga Rd. N
12pm – 2pm

Scarborough – Meeting Place
1265 Military Trail
12pm – 2pm

Sunnybrook Hospital – EI Lobby
2:00pm-6pm

Thursday March 24

GSU – Main Flr
16 Bancroft Ave.
11am- 4 pm

Robarts Library – 1st Flr Escalators
130 St. George ST.
11am – 4pm

For finalized poll and voter information go to: www.utgsu.ca
Members must have a valid U of T student card in order to vote.

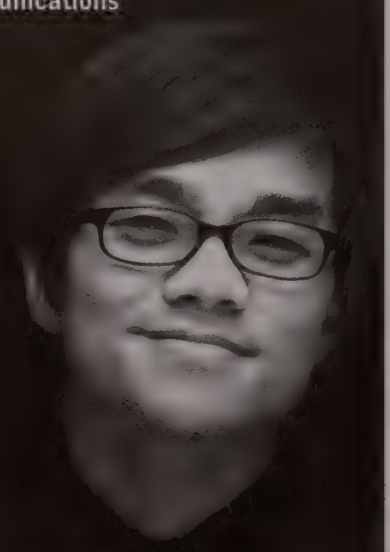
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Entrepreneurs for the 21st century

The Varsity profiles two popular mobile apps that got their start at U of T

photos by **ALEX NURSALL**



DRINKOWL

by **JAKOB TANNER**

In the last few years, technological developments like GPS and Google Maps have changed the way we understand directions. A group of University of Toronto graduates have harnessed this geo-location technology, and have applied it to what they believe is an important part of life as a college student: partying at bars. On February 3, the group released an iPhone app known as DrinkOwl, a tool for finding drink specials at the closest bars in your neighborhood, or wherever you may be on a Friday night. The app also has a catalogue of every liquor retail store in Canada. Since its initial launch, DrinkOwl has gained over ten thousand users, and has now accumulated information in thirty cities across North America.

DrinkOwl was in development for a year before its launch in February. "When we would go out at night, the question would come up: What's going on? Where are the specials tonight? That question would come up over and over again," says Ryan Cooley, DrinkOwl product manager.

Using their technical know-how as engineering students, the group of friends wanted to create a system which would have the information regarding drink specials and make it available to the masses in an accessible form. "It started as a localized thing, just a bunch of students trying to help other students," says Cooley. Since its launch, DrinkOwl has expanded into the United States.

The DrinkOwl team has the future in their sights. In upcoming releases, they hope to incorporate a social networking feature within the app — this feature will not only inform the user where the drink specials are, but will also provide the thoughts and opinions of people who have been to the bar and a list of those currently at the location.

"Such technology [...] is pretty new," says Cooley. "The accuracy and power of it, and the speed, is amazing. But the fact that we can take technology and add on specific things, like how to find this and how to get there, exactly from where you're standing is a technology we are excited about. Communication is a key part of our app, and also a key part of new technologies."

"It's amazing to see that you can be anywhere in [the] country and have your mobile device be able to pinpoint you and tell you exactly where you are," he adds. For a bunch of students, using this technology to find a great bar with drink specials seemed to be the next logical step.

The team is also developing a feature for bar owners to input information about their business in the DrinkOwl database. Android and Blackberry versions of the app are also in the works.

OOHLALA

by **MEGHAN LAWSON**

Danial Jameel spent last summer holed up in a U of T library, running on little more than four hours of sleep a night. Whether it was midday or creeping into the early hours of the morning, Jameel could be found glued to his computer screen in the cramped residence library with two fellow undergrads, James Dang and Alice Dinu.

"We basically hijacked our residence library in the basement at UC until they kicked us out," Jameel recalls. It was a routine more reminiscent of the spring exam crunch than a scorching summer afternoon.

But Jameel, Dang, and Dinu weren't writing essays or cramming for exams. Instead, they were building their own mobile application from scratch, enduring marathon-like coding sessions à la *The Social Network* for months on end.

The final product, launched in November, is OOHLALA Mobile, a free downloadable app geared toward university students. It combines coupon deals with a chatting service and a calendar of student life events. Think GroupOn meets instant messenger meets student listserv — all in the palm of your hand.

Now available to users on various mobile platforms in both Toronto and Montreal (Queen's University in Kingston is the next target audience), this student-designed, student-centric app has already gathered more than 3,000 active users. Earlier in March, OOHLALA was also featured as one of the top fifty free applications in the Lifestyle category of Apple's App Store.

Like so many startup success stories, OOHLALA began as little more than a pipe dream for its creators, who first proposed the idea at a business competition for the Rotman School of Management.

"Apparently, the idea was good enough that we actually won the competition so we thought, 'Wow, maybe there's something here,'" says Jameel, who currently divides his time (not altogether evenly, he admits) between OOHLALA and studies in political science and economics.

The OOHLALA team, which now includes seven students, predict their app will begin turning a profit by the end of March. Considering there are more than 350,000 applications available for download on the iOS platform alone, this will be no easy feat.

Equally impressive, however, is the team's ability to stay afloat in the face of long hours, little money, and the looming odds of failure — not to mention the regular demands of being a student.

"When we're not studying, this is pretty much all we do," admits Jameel. "Most of our expenses come from our head and our heart; how much time and effort we can put in.

"But that's what we love: helping students out," he explains, pegging OOHLALA's success on the team's passion. "If we did not have fun, honestly, we would not be doing this."



Are computers just a "little bit pregnant"?



Cory Doctorow diagnoses the future of computing technology

by **ALEX ROSS**

Suppose someone designed a television that monitors the programs you watch and blocks access if it detects you watching an objectionable program. Or an mp3 player that shuts down if you start listening to music from an illegal file-sharing website. Or an e-book reader that prevents you from reading anything on the Vatican's Index of Prohibited Books. Would you buy it?

The answer is probably a resounding No. Yet there are corporations like Apple and Viacom who intend to design computers that are capable of betraying their users.

As an expert on this terrifying subject, Canadian blogger and journalist Cory Doctorow gave a keynote address on March 5 at the third annual University of Toronto iSchool student conference, "Boundaries, Frontiers & Gatekeepers." Doctorow is a noted science fiction author and technology activist from Toronto, and currently resides in London, England. His first book, *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom*, was the first book released under a Creative Commons license online so that users could copy and share the work.

His other novels, *Little Brother*, *Makers*, and *For the Win*, have garnered commercial success and critical acclaim. Much of Doctorow's fiction addresses contemporary issues in a near-future setting.

Doctorow regularly lectures on issues such as copyright, digital rights management, and technology regulation. His talk, A Little Bit Pregnant: Why it's a Bad Idea to Regulate Computers the Way We Regulate Radios, Guns, Uranium and Other Special-Purpose Tools, explored attempts to regulate technology to prevent copyright infringement. According to Doctorow, "Building a general-purpose PC [a desktop or laptop computer] that is just a little bit locked down is like finding a woman who is just a little bit pregnant. Once the facility can be used for a legitimate purpose, it can also be used for illegitimate purpose."

He began his talk by listing a series of scenarios and asking what they had in common. These included Viacom demanding Google create an artificial super-intelligence that can instantly delete copy-righted videos, and mobile network providers locking their phones so customers cannot take them to rival characters. The commonality was that these were examples of regulating the general purpose computer.

"Historically, we've thought of computers as a special purpose object," said Doctorow. "It seems the expense and bulk of computers was an extremely temporary condition; and that every year we've seen an accelerating trend of computers that become cheaper, smaller, more powerful."

Computers are now becoming less and less specialized. They do everything: radio, Internet, videogames, word processing, self-publishing, graphic design, and more. Anything can be accessed, hacked, rebuilt, and broken down into new forms. This is exactly the "maker" culture Doctorow addressed in his book of the same name.

To illustrate this issue during his lecture, he brought up the example of BBC's iPlayer, a device allowing users to download and view BBC shows. Despite its aim to make these programs more accessible, it featured "strange characteristics."

"For some reason or another, they only want you to be able to look at those files for thirty days and only be able to download it for seven days after the program airs, giving those files on your computer a maximum life of over thirty-seven days," he noted.

This seems an absurd and heavy-handed approach to policing what people watch on their computers, and the response from users has been typical. The software meant to delete these files has been easily hacked with the result that every program from the iPlayer ends up for free download on the Internet.

The response of those corporations who consider themselves copyright holders has not been to look to user-based solutions or even give up their attempts at enforcement. Instead, they are trying to find more ways to lock down computers and networks.

"Internet service providers are being told all over the world that they should act as copyright police and they block certain websites," he said. If this violation of net neutrality isn't bad enough, there is finally the attempt to embed these kinds of copyright protections in hardware.

> They want to design computers from the ground up that have this ability to run programs that their users can't control or inspect, or are designed to work even if the user doesn't want them to.

"They want to design computers from the ground up that have this ability to run programs that their users can't control or inspect, or [are] designed to work even if the user doesn't want them to," Doctorow explained. "They could run even if the owner of the computer does not believe it could be in their best interest for them to be running." Locked phones and Apple products that only allow you to use apps that have been approved by Apple (apps that give Apple a thirty per cent cut) are early examples of this type of technology.

"Indeed once you start calling this what it is, a computer that is designed to betray its owner's interest, it becomes immediately obvious why we shouldn't do it," argued Doctorow. "We are adding the legal and technological infrastructure to arbitrarily prevent code from running on computers, or to covertly run software on a computer to eavesdrop on all network communications, to block certain websites and services, and to have websites remove content on an even greater set of nebulously defined pretences with greater penalties for failure to act."

Frightening. Corporations are creating a regulatory framework that would seek to put Big Brother on your PC and punish the people who use their products. Imagine accidentally visiting a website that may be deemed "copyright infringing" or even illegal and having the government or a corporation sending you a friendly email explaining that you will be fined or arrested.

But why are corporations hitting the panic button now? "Well that didn't work the first time, so let's try something harsher and more draconian."

To put Cory Doctorow's talk into context let's consider a discovery made by designers of artificial intelligence that can explain some reactions to technology. This discovery is the "frame problem" and it denotes the inability to understand or see all consequences of a particular object. One cannot properly see outside of their "frame" of reference.

For example, no one was able to foresee that the car would have uses or implications beyond moving a person from point A to point B. Cars not only revolutionized the structure of cities, they also became the most efficient emitters of harmful pollutants into the atmosphere. Communications theorist Marshall McLuhan referred to it as "rearview mirror thinking" — the attempt to apply the concepts and approaches of the old technology to the new. Think of "horseless carriages" and you get the idea.

In the case of the computer, it was never foreseen that it would be a device that could not only connect people, but could also allow users to quickly and efficiently share music with one another or even create whole other areas of "cybercrime." Having failed with the traditional "top down" regulatory framework, corporations are now looking to bottom-up hardware solutions that do nothing to solve the problem and will inevitably punish the rest of us.

"These rules and systems have the effect of magnifying the advantage of the powerful and unscrupulous at the expense of the scrupulous and the honest," explained Doctorow. Attempts at blanket solutions for computers and networks only aid and abet such groups as medical quacks who use, in Doctorow's example, Britain's strict libel laws "to pursue science writers who make such outrageous claims as 'AIDS cannot be cured by vitamins' or 'chiropractors won't cure your cancer by holding their hands over you.'"

Doctorow was himself a victim of a blanket solution to solve copyright problems over the Internet. Copies of Doctorow's book *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom*, which was published online under a Creative Commons licence, were removed from Scribd, a site that allows users to share text files with each other. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, using the Digital Millenium Copyright Act as justification, argued that a number of works on

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

2011 Varsity Board of Directors Election

Positions Available:
- One (1) Director elected by and from members at UTM
- One (1) Director elected by and from members at UTSC
- Four (4) Directors elected by and from members from the Faculty of Arts and Science of the St. George campus
- Three (3) Directors elected by and from members from the Professional Faculties
- Two (2) Directors elected by and from the Varsity staff
- One (1) Director who is a current member of the masthead, other than the Editor-in-Chief, and is elected by the staff

Eligibility:
Any student registered for full-time undergraduate study at the University of Toronto is a member of the Corporation, upon payment of the membership fee as collected by the University and remitted to the Corporation.
Any other student of the University as defined in The University of Toronto Act, 1971, who has paid the annual membership fee ($1.25 per term) to become a member of the Corporation.

Nomination Period:
Candidates seeking election in UTM, UTSC, St George and Pro-Faculty constituencies: Monday March 21st to Wednesday March 30th at 8:59pm
Candidates seeking election in staff and masthead constituencies: Friday April 8th to Wednesday April 13th at 7:59 p.m.

For nomination forms and more information, please see thevarsity.ca/BoD

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Scribd were infringing on the copyright of SF writers Isaac Asimov and Robert Silverberg. However, the list only included their last names and pulled up every work on Scribd that mentioned Asimov or Silverberg even if they didn't write the books themselves. Included in the takedown were a high school teacher's SF bibliography and the back issues of an out-of-print publication called *Ray Gun Revival*. The works, including Doctorow's, were restored when SFWA realized their mistake.

"Designing general purpose computers that sneak around their owners' backs is a terrible idea. We've already seen what happens when you add just a little bit of control to networks and computers — most recently we saw Iran's and Egypt's secret police mining Facebook to figure out whom to arrest," he explained.

Furthermore, imagine if you're a virus writer, an identity thief, or a hacker. These hidden programs that users would not be able to control or access would be the perfect ones to break into since you could adversely affect the normal functionality of their computer or spy on them without their knowledge. Locked down computers are the bad guys' paradise.

Doctorow's conclusion can only be described as a stirring call to action not only for librarians, archivists, and information studies students, but for anyone who regularly uses technology.

"This fight is the leading edge of a series of regulatory battles that are going to take us through this century and have at stake whether the infrastructure of the information society is going to have embedded in it control surveillance technology that will do nothing to mitigate harm, but put us all in harm's way," he concluded.

Computing technology stands at the precipice of an exciting frontier in which all of us can become "makers" and enjoy a world in which we can innovate and recreate old technologies to make something better and new that can be easily shared across free networks. Or it might succumb to a dark future of locked-down computers and monitored networks that will be used by the unscrupulous, the dishonest, and the distrustful to control us all.

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Around the world

by **SIMON FRANK**

WHEN a young person in Toronto, Nairobi, or Jakarta goes online to check out what their friends are up to, they're probably not logging onto Facebook. But this may not be the case. Although, in North America, Facebook has captured both the social network market and cultural zeitgeist, it is not the only option out there.

Whether it's thanks to linguistic and cultural differences, or simply a government blocking select foreign websites, the planet is dotted with unique social networks and media, often unheard of beyond borders — with some exceptions being stalwart users in the University of Toronto community.

When social lives are increasingly driven and defined by online activity and communication, these distinct, yet oddly familiar websites almost present an alternative digital reality. In the face of cultural globalization, it's heartening that even if a person halfway around the world is accessible in a few clicks, not everyone uses those clicks in the exact same way.

China - REN REN

Referring to Ren Ren as "Chinese Facebook" isn't necessarily oversimplifying or diminishing it — that's literally what it is. From profiles to the newsfeed, the site almost completely resembles the layout of Facebook. Even if you're Mandarin-illiterate and not trying to keep in touch with friends in Beijing, you've probably already seen Ren Ren. Much like with Facebook, it's a common sight to see a student logging onto Ren Ren in the middle of a Sid Smith lecture hall.

Ren Ren owes its Facebook-aping interface to the twin factors of laissez-faire copyright law enforcement, and the fact that Facebook has been blocked in China by the so-called "Great Fire Wall" since May 2009.

Founded in 2005 by graduates of Beijing's prestigious Qinghua University and the perhaps slightly less esteemed University of Delaware, the network was originally called Xiaonei, referring to its nature as an internal network for University campuses. In 2009, the name was changed to Ren Ren, "ren" being Mandarin for people, and thus implying a network open to all. Although Ren Ren users are still generally college-age or younger, the network has undergone massive growth and now reportedly hosts 160 million users.

France & Russia – BADOO

Badoo is not the most popular social network — but it is arguably the sketchiest. Headquartered in London, owned by a corporation in Cyprus, and ultimately linked back to a Russian owner, the site has been accused of having some of the laxest privacy and security settings in the field. The site earns its keep by having members pay to have their profiles briefly posted on the homepage.

The result is a disquietingly sleazy combination of a dating site and social network. Badoo is mostly popular in South America and Europe, especially France and Russia. Visiting the homepage reveals a checkerboard proudly declaring 110 million users have signed on, as well as the profiles of users in the general geographic area. Apparently Badoo does have some users in Canada, one boldly declaring that he's looking to "Smoke a fat joint with a girl, age 18-25." Perhaps there's a reason for Facebook's popularity after all…

South Korea - CYWORLD

"When I was in Grade 7 or 8 I really wanted a Cyworld," laments literary studies major Janet Son. "But I tried to sign up and discovered that I needed a South Korean government identification number. I don't have Korean citizenship, so I couldn't get it." Such is the heartbreak caused by social network and blog hub Cyworld. Though it may not possess as many users as other networks (it's in the neighborhood of 20 million), Cyworld manages to sustain itself by selling digital goods used to decorate users' online rooms.

The site's graphic design aesthetic is perhaps overwhelming, hemmed by advertisements, and controlled by the whims of users. The network ambitiously expanded into North America in 2006, believing the market ripe for a takeover, but had to retreat and shut down its operations there two years later.

Accordingly, the number of users on Cyworld has declined somewhat in recent years, but it remains popular, and retains a foothold in Toronto: The University of Toronto Korean Commerce Community club keeps in touch with its members both through a Facebook group page and also with an exclusive club page on Cyworld.

Brazil & India - ORKUT

Orkut Büyükkökten's parents must be proud. Not only did the Turkish software engineer invent Google's social network, he also got it named after him. Orkut, the man notwithstanding, is an intriguing entity, barely known even where Google is ubiquitous, yet highly popular elsewhere, namely in Brazil and India.

Out of roughly 100 million Orkut users, Google reports that around half are in Brazil, with much of the remainder located in India, along with a smattering of users in Pakistan, Japan, and America. The numerical dominance of Brazil and India emerged organically, with the site initially registering far more users in America. But now Orkut works hard to promote itself in these strongholds, both re-designing special headers to celebrate Carnival in Brazil and offering giveaways for tickets to film screenings in Mumbai. Orkut's predominance in Brazil seems to be waning somewhat due to Facebook's encroachment, but the site does offer unique features for a social network, such as video chatting available thanks to Google technology.

The Chinese Underdogs - WEIBO & DOUBAN

Thanks to its potential for political use (dissenting artist Ai Wei Wei was an early adopter), Twitter has also been blocked in China since 2009. But the format still proved hugely popular, leading to a flurry of imitatos, frequently shut down or edited when tensions rise. For the moment, Weibo, run by Sina (the country's largest web portal) is the most popular. In fact, it's occasionally presented as a potential Twitter competitor. Weibo itself faces competition from a spin-off of QQ, a ubiquitous instant messaging service.

The slightly more bohemian Douban is far less popular than Ren Ren, but still widely used. The site presents a sort of Facebook-Amazon.com fusion. Users set up groups to share their love of the Velvet Underground, but can also search a database of books, CDs, and Criterion Collection-worthy DVDs. The site's event pages serve an integral role promoting art exhibits, film screenings, and music festivals.

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THE VARSITY

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED?



The St. Michael's College Student Union is donating their entire budget surplus to the Japan relief effort, and they're challenging other colleges to do the same.

FOR OUR STORY, SEE PAGE 2

CHARITY

St. Mike's sends surplus to Japan

SMCSU's Send the Surplus program hopes to raise $20,000

Betina Alonso
VARSITY STAFF

Instead of allowing their surplus to pass through to the following year's council, the St. Michael's College Student Union has donated their remaining funds, around $2,000, to the Red Cross earthquake relief in Japan. The council is also challenging other student groups to do the same.

"I expect positive results," says Phil Wigmore, Finance Commissioner of the SMCSU. "We agreed unanimously as a council to the donation, and it'd make sense to receive unanimous support from all the student councils, too."

Wigmore created the project, now dubbed "Send the Surplus," and is confident that other councils will also participate. "Honestly, we're expecting around $20,000 to come out of this."

SMCSU sprung to action after a March 11 earthquake severely crippled northeastern Japan's population and infrastructure. While SMCSU President Justin Rodrigues understands that some colleges may not be able to donate their surpluses, he thinks that asking colleges to commit to Send the Surplus, "when dealing with a unique and tragic situation [...] is truly not asking for much."

"If we felt that this donation was not financially possible, or if we felt that it would compromise the events that we put on for our own students in any way, then we would reconsider the donation," said Rodrigues, who claims that student council financial surpluses are common at St. Mike's.

"We rarely come together as a school, and efforts stop at the college level," believes Wigmore, who also hopes this will inspire subsequent joint action between college councils in the future. "I want this to happen year after year."

"We are so content at times to remain at the status quo and continue with the student council norms, whether that be free BBQs, formals, or open mic nights." claims Rodrigues, "Not to say there is anything wrong with events like that, but we should never be limited on what we can do to improve not only our university community, but also the world around us."

At press time, only Victoria College had responded to SMCSU about the Japan donation, and promised to debate it at their next council meeting. However, Wigmore ascribes this to how recently the project has been put together, and consequently how little time other councils have had to respond.

Meanwhile, Woodsworth and OISE are holding a student-led event on March 31, to debate and improve Canadian aid efforts for towards Japan. The panel's wide array of speakers will include: Mr. Masaya Otsuka, the Consul of Japan; Mr. John Saunders, the Red Cross Ontario Director of Disaster Management; and Ms. Kristin Kobayashi, an eyewitness to the earthquake.

After the panel, there will be a showcase of Japanese dance, music, and art. The event will also feature a silent auction of Japanese crafts, with proceeds going to the Red Cross and Ashinaga, a Japanese charity that provides education to misplaced and traumatized children in Japan.

CFS REFERNDUM

UTSU prez campaigns in BC referendum

Awad latest to fly CFS flag out-of-town

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UTSU president Adam Awad was seen last week campaigning at the University of Victoria in BC.

Members of the University of Victoria Student Society are set to vote in a Canadian Federation of Students membership referendum. The CFS comprises most university student unions in Canada, making it the largest national student lobby group. The referendum, which came after a lengthy court battle, is scheduled for March 29–31.

Eye on the UVSS, an anti-CFS blog run by UVic student David Foster, alleged that Awad was seen campaigning for the CFS side.

"I think it is incredibly important for students on any campus to hear about the experiences of other students across the country within the federation," wrote Awad in an email to The Varsity.

"This is particularly necessary when the local students' union has been antagonistic to the work of the students' movement all year. When it comes time to vote, students should be well-informed, and that includes taking other students' experiences into account. All students benefit when we are working together."

Awad, who is National Deputy Chairperson-elect for the CFS, said he paid for his own travel expenses and is on vacation leave from UTSU. He said he was in Victoria for a local Canadian University Press conference. Awad is former queer issues co-ordinator for CUP.

Foster also alleged that York Federation of Students President Krisna Saravanamuttu was seen on campus. In an e-mail to The Varsity, he later admitted mistaking Saravanamuttu for former YFS president Hamid Osman. Former UTSU President Sandy Hudson, who has held positions with the CFS, was also seen campaigning.

Osman, who is Ontario representative for the CFS, left Toronto during the 2008 York University strike to campaign during a CFS membership referendum for the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa.

External student campaigning has become common on Canadian campuses. During the 2010 UTSU election, Toby Whitfield, then president-elect of the Ryerson Students' Union, was spotted campaigning for the incumbent slate for the second year in a row. Whitfield attempted to avoid The Varsity and refused to identify himself when approached. Darshika Selvasivam, VP campaigns and advocacy at the YFS, was also seen campaigning for the incumbents.

In the lead-up to a 2008 defederation campaign at Simon Fraser University, the BC branch of the CFS mistakenly emailed campaign plans to each CFS student union in BC.

The document contained campaign tactics and rated student politicians from across the country on their ability to campaign in the style of a report card. The document also listed non-students, including full-time staff from the NDP and unions.

When the one student union made the campaign plans public, they received a legal threat from the CFS' lawyer demanding a public apology.

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FROM THE UTM WIRE

Low turnout for All Candidates Forum

Stefanie Marotta
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The UTMSU All Candidates Forum was held last Thursday in the Student Centre. The debate took place in the Board Room on the second floor of the Student Centre while students celebrated St. Patrick's Day in the Blind Duck Pub below.

The All Candidates Forum gives students the opportunity to pose important questions to executive candidates. The slate UTM Students First and the independent candidate Thomas Kristan responded to questions about their campaign platforms, as well as concerns regarding low participation in this year's elections.

The slate UTM Students First was in yellow t-shirts, promoted topics such as transparency, lobbying the administration, and equity. The slate, led by Gilbert Cassar, presidential candidate and current VP Internal, wants to negotiate a Student Centre expansion with the administration, increase club funding, introduce a 1.0 drop credit, and lobby for a bottled water free campus.

Kristan, the independent VP University Affairs candidate, discussed his desire to make UTMSU more accountable, encourage environmental efforts, increase accessibility on campus, and efficiently approach negotiations with the administration. As a past member of the Erindale College Council, UTMSU Board of Directors, and founder of the Accessibility Committee, Kristan believes that he possesses the experience and qualifications to be a UTMSU executive.

Kristan, the opponent of Dan Dicenzo from Students First, admits that he hasn't been as involved in UTMSU in the past year as his opponent. Regardless, he feels that his passion for student issues and his past commitment to matters concerning campus accessibility make him the ideal candidate for VP University Affairs. Kristan wants to foster a good relationship with the administration to pursue student interests.

"I can't say that I've done as much as my opponent has," Kristan said. "But with regards to the year before when I was involved in the student union, I took steps to increase accessibility, because I myself am an accessibility student and I felt the union needed more representation. I also worked on various campaigns and fundraising for different groups. Should I get elected, I'll focus my efforts on UTM."

Dan Dicenzo, the VP UA candidate on Students First, also discussed efforts to lobby the administration for longer library hours, implement the 1.0 drop credit, and continue the bottled water free campaign.

"We want to get students involved in it, aware of it, and have students voice their opinions," said Dicenzo. "We're working for the students to make their experience at UTM better. I believe that this team can achieve these goals."

This article was originally published in the UTM publication The Medium on March 21.

For the full article, please visit MEDIUMONLINE.ca

HUMAN RIGHTS

Dallaire visits UTSC

Speech urges students to gain international experience

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

"Get off your butts and get engaged," was Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire's message to students when he spoke to an audience of over 400 at UTSC's 35th Watts Lecture on Wednesday night. He challenged students to get out and experience the world and then return home to make Canada a global leader in humanitarian causes.

"The youth of this nation should have [...] a sort of rite of passage," he said. "Under their bed, [they should have] a pair of boots that have been dirtied with the soil of [developing] countries.

"[It is] so that you can see, you can feel, you can hear, you can taste, you can sense what is happening to [...] humanity."

Rather than visit London and Paris, he suggested they go to Kinshasa, Accra, Bujumbura, and Dar es Salaam.

Dallaire recalled his term as Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. He said witnessing such atrocities made him realize that the international community had begun to view some humans as more important than others.

He defied orders to leave Rwanda, saying that the decision may have been illegal, but the alternative was immoral.

"Three hundred thousand Rwandan kids died, and [Canada] did nothing," he said. "Yet we freak out over one Amber Alert here."

Looking forward to Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017, Dallaire said citizens must start planning beyond a four-lane highway or Centennial rink.

"Is there something more to us?" he asked. "What will be the new vision of this nation [...] as we move forward into this very complex [...] future?

A key step would be recognizing that Canada, as one of the "most powerful nations in the world," has a responsibility to countries beyond its borders. Eighty per cent of the world's population, he stressed, lives in inhumane conditions.

One of the problems to overcome is Canada's political culture, which focuses on short-term, domestic issues.

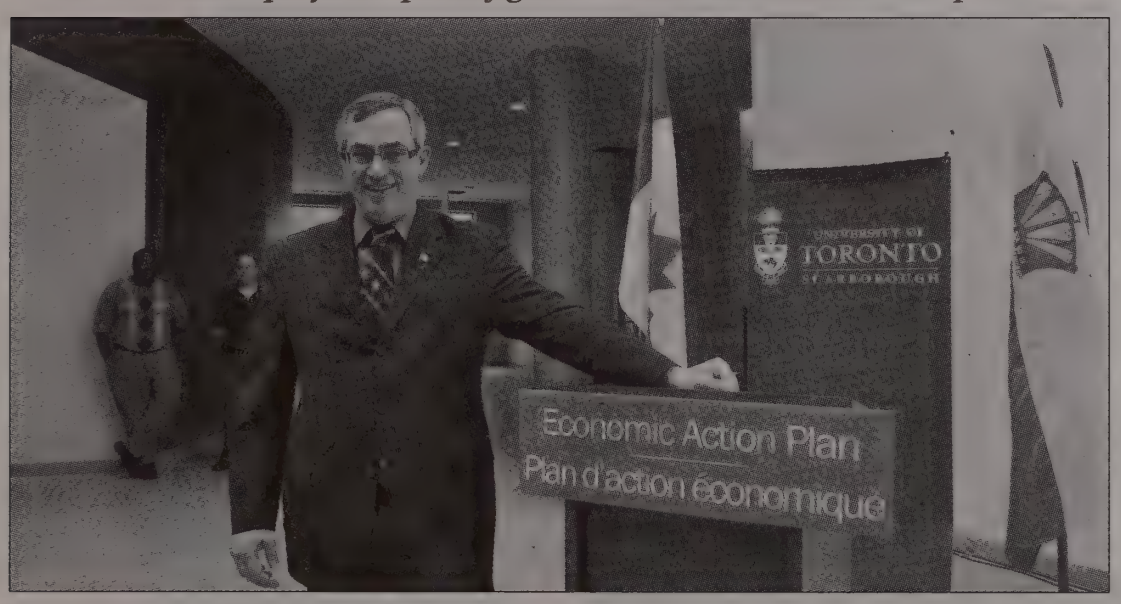
"No matter how many pundits [...]

SEE 'DALLAIRE' – PG 6

UTSC

Federal minister launches instructional centre

New UTSC project is part of government's economic action plan



The Honourable Tony Clement visited UTSC to promote government's economic action plan. *SARAH TAGUIAM/THE VARSITY*

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY STAFF

UTSC's new $78-million Instructional Centre is the government's first contribution to Canada's "brain gain," said Tony Clement, the federal industry minister, on his visit to the building on March 15.

The project, which will increase campus space by 25 per cent, was funded by a shared investment of $35 million each by the federal and provincial governments through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

Launched on 2009, KIP is a part of the Economic Action Plan, an infrastructure stimulus program that invests $2 billion on the growth of universities and colleges all over Canada.

"As [the country] continues to emerge from the global recession, I want you to know that we know, as a government, that investing in leading edge research labs, libraries and learning commons is essential in creating high-paying, highly-skilled jobs both now and in the future," said Clement.

He believed that the Instructional Centre, the first to be completed out of all the KIP projects, is a step towards the country's "brain gain." UTSC Principal Franco Vaccarino agreed.

"Our ability to participate with the 'brain gain' was restricted by the university's lack of space [...] but this project has opened up the gates for us," he said.

For the past decade, UTSC has experienced a rapid growth of its student body. It has gone beyond its enrolment capacity of 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

"The building will have a direct impact on the lives of our students, giving them much needed space to learn, study and work in cutting-edge environments," said Vaccarino.

Another benefit of the Instructional Centre, he pointed out, was that UTSC has become a "destination of choice" for some of the world's "top scholars."

The building has allowed the university to hire 65 new members over the last three years, more than half of what was planned.

Clement said that the new federal budget which has since been released, prior to the government being defeated on a vote of non-confidence — would include more stimulus spending.

Apart from state-of-the-art lecture spaces, offices, and research labs, the Instructional Centre will include a street hub for co-op programs and a large audio-visual atrium.

The building will open on May 2011 and will house UTSC's Management Department.

What was the reason for your worst mark last semester?

PHOTOGRAPHED AND COMPILED BY BERNARDA GOSPIC



Joowhee
3rd year, Civil Engineering
"I didn't want to study. The material we had to cover was bullshit."



Holly
1st year, Civil Engineering
"The fear of dropping out, but you get used to it."



Tyler
2nd year, Eng Sci
"Game emulators and the time sucking vampire."



Ashher
4th year, Electrical Engineering
"I was preoccupied with the cricket tournament."



Ali
1st year, Eng Sci
"The five other courses."



Claire
1st year, Civil Engineering
"Stress and the fear of failing."

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WHAT'S IN A COAT OF ARMS?

The Varsity's **Dylan C. Robertson** examines how U of T's crest came to be

The exact origin of the coat of arms in unknown. The university, then an Anglican institution known as King's College, was proclaimed by royal charter in 1827, seven years before the area of York was incorporated as the city of Toronto. In 1849, the government of Upper Canada voted to secularize and rename King's College as the University of Toronto.

In 1857, the university senate approved a recommendation to accept the arms of U of T. University archives vaguely describe the arms as similar to the current design, but held by two supporters: Minerva and Victoria.

An 1887 article by university President Daniel Wilson details a crown, two open books that "need no interpretation," a beaver, topped with "an umbrageous Maple."

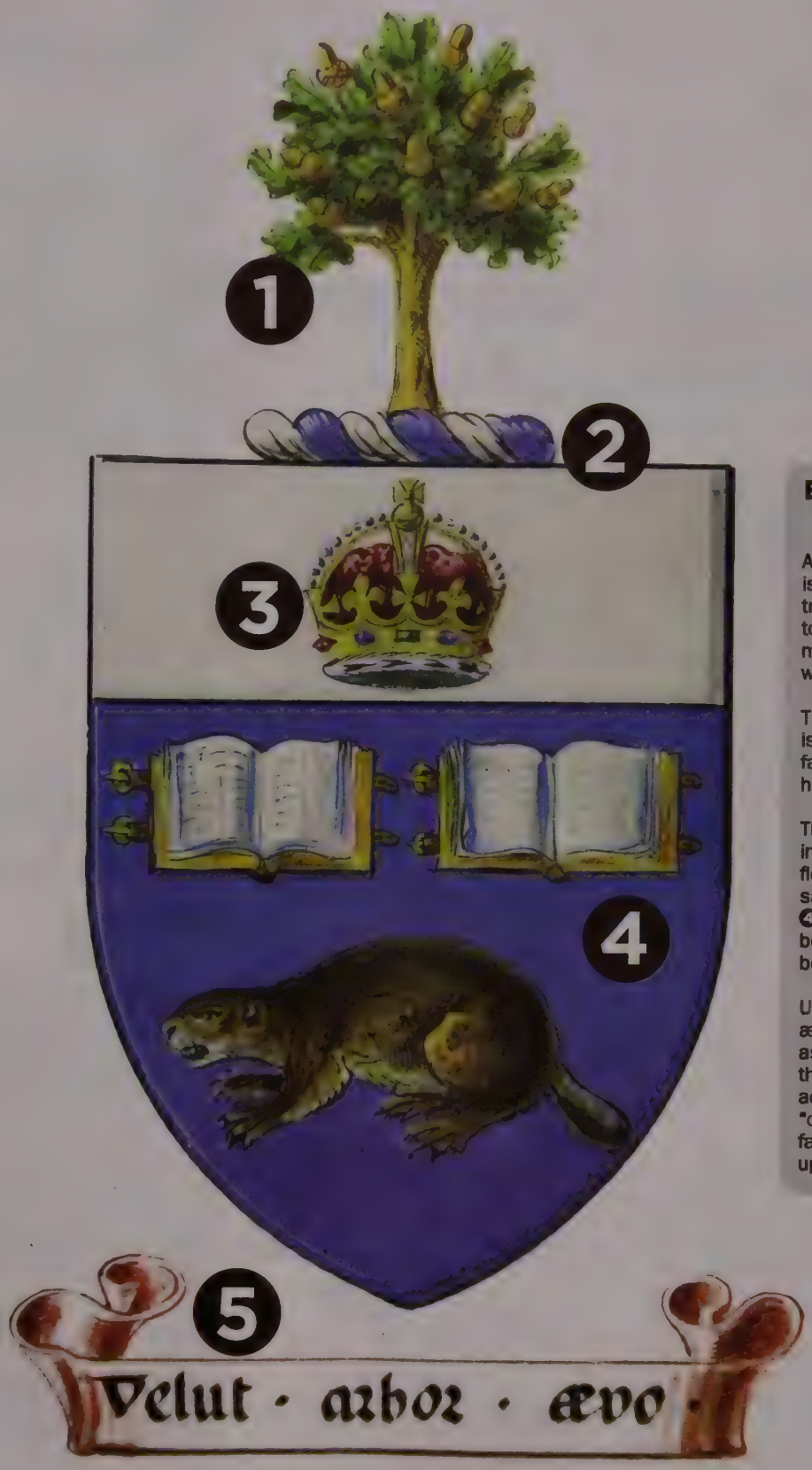
In 1917 the university's board of governors noticed varying insignia across campus. They petitioned the royal College of Arms in London, England — Canada lacked its own heraldic authority until 1988 — to create a proper coat of arms for both the university and University College.

Both arms, now housed in box A73-0015 in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, were completed on August 17, 1917 at the cost of £89 pounds, three shillings — roughly $6,500 according to retail price index.

Both documents are two-page letters: the hand-painted crest, preceded by a stamped, pressed letter presenting the arms in ornate cursive script. The arms for U of T — crested with an oak instead of the original maple — are described as such:

"Azure two open Books and in base a Beaver all proper, upon a Chief Agent the Royal and Imperial Crown also proper, and for the crest on a wreath of the colours an Oak tree proper stemmed and fructed Or."

With special thanks to Louis Charpentier and Harold Averill.



BREAKING DOWN THE COAT OF ARMS

A ❶ **CREST** tops a coat of arms, and is usually a symbolic animal. The tree, originally a maple but changed to an oak, reflects the university's motto. The chestnuts are painted with gold ink.

The tree mounts a ❷ **TORSE**, which is not a rope but a twisted roll of fabric that knights wore under their helmets for protection.

The arms contain an upper field, in this case a ❸ **CROWN** that reflects the university's original namesake: King's College. Below is the ❹ **SHIELD**, consisting of two open books and the Canadian symbol beaver.

U of T's ❺ **MOTTO**, "velut arbor ævo," roughly translates from Latin as "may it grow as a tree through the ages," an adaptation of Horace's Odes (I.12, lines 45–46) "crescit occulto velut arbor aevo fama Marcelli" (Marcellus' fame, its up-growth hid / springs like a tree).

University archives include a string of correspondence from an academic researching university coats of arms in the 1970s. Upon learning that U of T didn't start with a formal coat of arms, the incredulous researcher expressed his horror:

"I just could not believe that [university President] Bishop Strachan would establish an institution without having a suitable insignia and particularly as it had been established by royal charter and named after the sovereign.

FUN FACTS

A 2000 commentary in The Bulletin by university graphic designer Caz Zyvatkauskas humorously details the "emasculation of the U of T beaver." She notes that as the coat of arms was continually redesigned, the beaver was increasingly depicted as less aggressive, with retracted teeth, a slouched posture and soft paws.

"It seems we have forsaken the vibrant beaver of old for something that more closely resembles a figure from a can of children's pasta," Zyvatkauskas wrote, saying it reflected a fear "that the university has become more of a public relations exercise than an institution dedicated to the sole purpose of higher learning."

The official colour of the coat of arms is called azure. According to the College of Arms' website, "as long as the blue is not too light [...] it is up to the artist to decide which particular shades they think are appropriate." Royal blue is not often used to describe heraldry, as there are many variations.

ARTS AND SCIENCE

ASSU president elected unopposed

Katharine Ball hopes to continue positive relationship with faculty

Jakob Tanner
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



ASSU President-elect Katharine Ball assumes office May 1. *DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY*

On Tuesday March 15, Katharine Ball was elected president of the Arts and Science Student Union along with a new group of executives. Ball is currently in third year and just completed her first term as an ASSU executive, working closely with current president Gavin Nowlan.

Ball was the only candidate for president. Since ASSU elections are held within the council itself, including the current executive and course union presidents, Ball did not run an extensive campaign.

While Ball acknowledges it is unusual for an ASSU executive with only one year to become president, she is sure of her abilities for next year.

"You can be active or not really active. I was very active," she said. "I was a part of the ASSU scholarships committee, and I attended the dean's meeting. I was active in reviewing the anti-calendar."

Along with the anti-calendar, ASSU has three projects in the works which Ball hopes to continue and improve on. "Project: Universal Minds [ASSU's high school tutoring project] has been fairly successful. It's hard though, as guidance counselors change every year and that makes the process difficult. I hope to promote it a little bit more. It's valuable for a high school student to have a first-year university student help them out."

"Also, we need to put more thought into our sustainability project," said Ball, who admits ASSU has had difficulty with their sustainability initiatives. "I want to do something more creative and fun, something in the realm of awareness."

Nowlan has also been working with university administration to create an undergraduate research fund and Ball hopes to continue the task.

One of Ball's main goals is to continue ASSU's good relationship with the faculty. Maintaining this strong relationship requires "keeping an open discussion about things. For instance, during academic planning, you are going to butt heads on issues. There are issues, and then there is an administrative view, and there are points where you meet heads. My first concern is the students' view, and student concerns," said Ball.

"I'm really proud and excited to work on ASSU. I think I can do some really great work. I've held a short period of time at ASSU and that is a little strange. But I'm not underqualified with my abilities," said Ball.

"She is gonna do a great job," said Nowlan. "She's done a great job so far, and has just jumped in there with issues on campus like flat fees and use of space. I think she is going to be a great president."

2011 Varsity Board of Directors Election

For nomination forms and more information, please see thevarsity.ca/BoD



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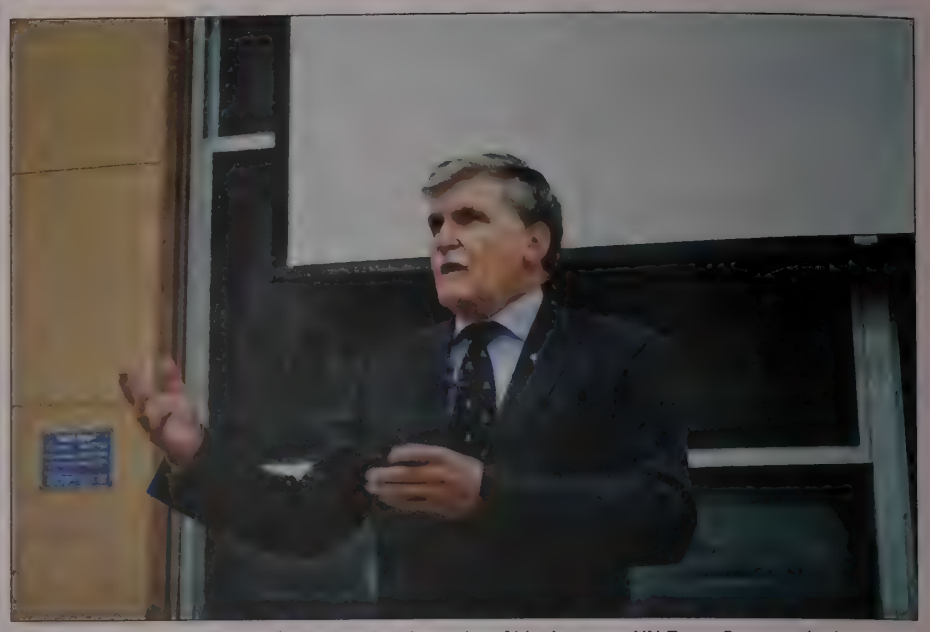
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While speaking at UTSC, Roméo Dallaire briefly spoke of his time as a UN Force Commander in Rwanda. *NATALIE SEQUEIRA/THE VARSITY*

'DALLAIRE' – CONTINUED FROM PG 3

we have, we don't have the strategic leadership [to shape] the future [...] We are still very caught up in the near-term, and we often try to survive the future. That future's going to catch us by surprise."

Rather than take a backseat in politics, Dallaire told students that since they represent 35 per cent of the voting population, they "hold the balance of power," and "could change the face of [Canadian] politics" in just one election.

"[But] you're abdicating that responsibility to others!"

Referencing events in Darfur, South Sudan, Congo, Northern Uganda, and Cote d'Ivoire, Dallaire once again touched on responsibility.

"If we do not engage in [...] [protecting others], and [do not] inspire our leaders to have the will to intervene [...] we will be held accountable in history as having failed."

Dallaire's lecture was delayed more than two hours as his flight was grounded in Ottawa due to the weather. But few students left the hall, passing the time watching Hotel Rwanda. They were greeted by an enthusiastic Dallaire, who spoke for over two hours to the engaged audience, and was willing to spend more time to personally speak to all the students lining up to meet him.

Dallaire closed the event by reminding students of the importance of human life.

"Move away from the pretentiousness of tolerance [...] and rise to the level of respect as equals," he said. "Not one of us here is more human than any other."

He alluded to events in Tunisia and Egypt, where the youth mobilized themselves to change the face of politics in their countries, proving the power of the younger generations.

"I don't think there is a more significant time to serve as a diplomat, [soldier], or humanitarian," Dallaire said.

"The time is right."

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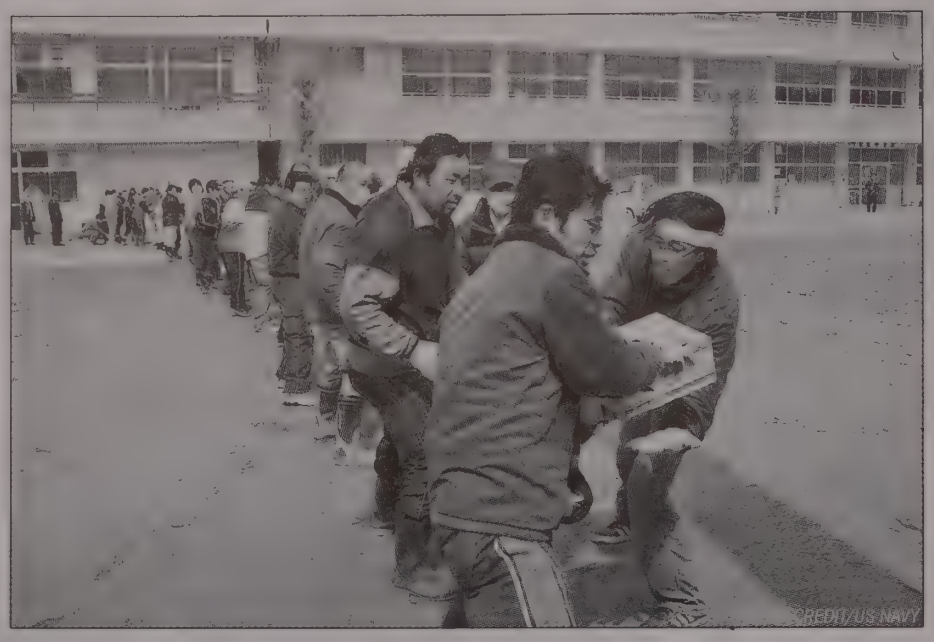
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"I came, I saw, I clicked!"

The age of clicktivists and how its hurting our ability to properly help others

Fatima Syed
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



When Martin Luther King had a dream, he woke up and made it a reality. When Gandhi wanted peace, he got up and marched for it. When Mother Teresa saw the poor and sick in India, she created a missionary movement. When Japan called on the world for help, we clicked a button.

Humanity has evolved through these many years. Its history has been written by the hands of courage, the minds of perseverance and the actions of determination. It is this history that created the legacy on which modern society is built today; it gave us experience to learn from, success to aspire, and the foundation to be able to do and be anything and everything. Our predecessors were people of action; they fought for independence, they fought to save lives, they fought to protect nations. Yet, unfortunately, their spirit died with them. In today's modern age, where the world is more interconnected than anyone could have imagined in the past, humanity seems to lack the will that built their history.

It is not that the world is heartless or ignorant; in fact it is quite the opposite. Thanks to the growing dependence on technology and its constant development, today's society is more involved globally than to any generation of the past. But the fact of the matter is that this same technology has made us idle and complacent as a global unit. Take for instance March 9, 2011 — the day an earthquake shook Japan and then the media shook the world.

First there was breaking news — heart-wrenching footage of a severely ravaged nation. Then there were updates on Facebook and Twitter —. images, news articles, links to YouTube videos. The world, it seemed, was grieving; it was coming to terms the unimaginable disaster and destruction that had happened. Such a tragedy in the past had brought to light some of the most efficient and most effective relief work; the world united in its efforts for the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir/Pakistan earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, and Haiti to name a few. But this time millions of people logged on to their Facebook and Twitter accounts and clicked "like" on the Pray for Japan page. They "liked" the pages asking for donations. They tweeted: #prayforjapan <3.

The solidarity inherent in these actions is admirable and uplifting to see in a world whose everyday vocabulary has developed to now include recession, debt, and terrorism, but the logic of this action is questionable. In a severely ravaged nation, where cities have become ruins, homes rubble and lives lost, does it make sense to "like" the act of praying for these people in strife on Facebook — an action which most may not be able to see in their circumstance — rather than physically praying for them? Is it better to click the button to "like" the page asking for donations for aid to Japan, or to actually click the button that allows you to give the donation itself? These actions may seem important, but at the end of the day they are actions limited to the boundaries of cyberspace, accessible to a limited number of people, and when the people who these "likes" and "tweets" are dedicated to cannot see them then these actions have no value

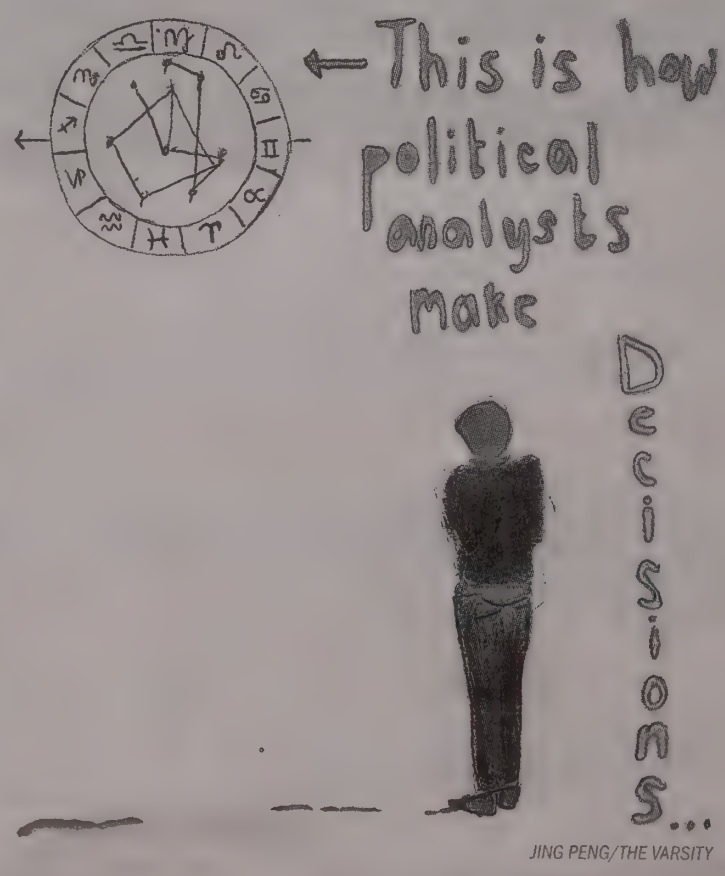
At the end of the day, people in strife need solid, tangible action to give them hope and the courage to face another day after experiencing the threat of danger they have. Facebook and Twitter are great phenomenona; they bring to the table the outlets that have the potential to inspire and create great movements. But clicking, liking and updating your status only goes so far; for the will of our past to be re-born. The world needs to learn that its not enough to simply "tweet" Pray for Japan. The needs to act on it too because actions have and always will speak louder than words. It is not enough to be that one person out of a million who is attending Pray for Japan on Facebook. It is not enough to put a heart next to Japan and log off. It is not enough to switch on our computers or mobile phones every time something goes wrong.

There is no doubt that the will to fight is in humanity; it never left. Egypt has it. Libya has it. Tunisia has it. But the world as a collective body has lost it when they joined cyberspace. However, we need to re-connect with the emotion and the fortitude that fights and protects. With a history of doers, it is sad to see a present of clicktivists.

You can't always get what you want

And if you try sometime you find, you get (the election) you need.

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF



JING PENG/THE VARSITY

Prior to their defeat on a confidence motion in the House of Commons on Friday, Stephen Harper and his ministers repeatedly warned that Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff wanted an "unnecessary election." At first glance, it seemed that they were right. Canadians have already gone to the polls three times in the past seven years and recent opinion polls showed little movement in favour of either the Conservatives or the Liberals. What they neglected to mention, for obvious reasons, is that last week a parliamentary committee found them in contempt of parliament for refusing to disclose the costs of several crime bills potentially representing significant government expenditure.

While the whole House was not able to vote on the contempt charge before the government was defeated, the charge is certainly not the merely procedural matter that the Harper government has suggested it is. Rather, the government's refusal to disclose the costs of their crime bills, which would see more inmates serve longer sentences, is an affront to Canadian democracy itself. After all, if members of parliament do not know how many prisons the government plans to build or renovate or the number of correctional officers they plan to hire, how can they responsibly vote on the crime bills?

The Harper government maintains that it is not required to release the cost estimates for the crime legislation on the grounds that the estimates are "cabinet confidences," a special type of classified information. Cabinet confidences were not created to allow the government to withhold information from parliament, but rather to allow cabinet ministers to freely debate and discuss proposed bills without fear of leaks. Open debate among ministers is a key principle of the Canadian system of government. Actively keeping parliamentarians from knowing the cost of the bills on which they are asked to vote certainly is not.

Yet this is precisely what the Harper government did by withholding these documents. Some bills, including one that sees inmates serve a much longer proportion of their sentence, have already been adopted, while others died when the election was called. The costs of the bills that have already been passed were not included in the budget, but have already been rolled into the Correctional Service of Canada's regular funding. The government released incomplete versions of the estimates for these bills to the committee examining the contempt charge last week, none of which appeared to be cabinet confidences despite the government's claims otherwise.

While Michael Ignatieff is eager to present the Conservative government's contemptuous behaviour as just the most recent in a string of undemocratic abuses of power, the government's refusal to release the estimates is especially egregious. No government in Canadian history has ever been found in contempt. Indeed, no government has ever tried to withhold information about such a key part of its legislative agenda. Liberal governments are guilty of deep lapses in judgment and abuses of power — the most recent and serious of which was the sponsorship scandal — but they have never undermined parliament's ability to review the government's proposals.

It is because of this tremendous breach by the Harper government of its parliamentary duties that it was found in contempt and that Canadians will be voting in a federal election on May 2. No one is eager for an election, as it will be costly and will disrupt the passage of several bills, including a private member's bills which would improve access for developing countries to Canadian-manufactured generic drug medications. It is clear, however, that an election is necessary because the Conservatives refuse to govern in a way that makes it possible for parliament to effectively consider and responsibly vote for its legislative proposals.

This election will give Canadians a chance to express their feelings about what kind of government they want. No matter our political sympathies, Canadians will hopefully pause before they cast their ballots and ask themselves whether they want a government that deceives their representatives in order to get its legislative agenda adopted. If so, then it will be increasingly unclear whether we can truly call Canada a democracy. While it is certainly not feasible for parliamentarians to scrutinize every proposal in detail, it is equally certain that they cannot be expected to vote on major legislation without knowing the costs.

Opposition parties should commit at the outset of the campaign that they would not govern the way that the Harper government has and that they would make it their first priority to prevent any future government from behaving the way that the Conservatives have. This means clearing up the rules about what kind of information the government can withhold and when, and providing parliamentarians an independent means of estimating the costs of the government's proposals by increasing the funding for the parliamentary budget officer. While this may not be an election that any one wants, it certainly is one that we desperately need.

Does the Munk School belong to U of T?

Why the donation will negatively impact our academic freedom and integrity

Juan Carlos Jimenez
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

While philanthropy is regarded as a virtuous action, its use for the sake of influence can have serious consequences for the institutions receiving it. Many of you may have heard of the Peter Munk donation, which has been a hot topic for some time now. The Munk Centre of Global Affairs, located on St. George and Bloor, will constructed under a $35 million donation made by the Peter and Melanie Munk Foundation. Peter Munk is the president and owner of Barrick Gold Mining Corp, the biggest mining company in Canada, and one of the biggest in the world. Discussion at U of T about this donation revolves around whether donations such as these affect academic freedom and whether these corporate donations push a neoliberal agenda. A look at the grassroots origins of this struggle will prove to highlight the arguments made by these people, and will reveal a battle going beyond academic freedom.

Barrick Gold operates mines in Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, the Dominican Republic, and other locations. Gold mining is regarded as one of the most socially and environmentally degrading industries in the world, with the use of cyanide and other chemicals being correlated with disease, contaminated water, and injured wildlife. While this is aggravating in itself, the social repression following the mining industry involves displacement of communities, destruction of villages, targeted deaths of anti-mining activists, and the erosion of agriculture.

On May 2009, toxic waste between a gold mine located in North Mara, Tanzania, spilled into River Thigithe. Reports from the surrounding villages alleged that 20 people and from 700 and 1,000 head of livestock died from the contaminated water. Barrick Gold denied responsibility for the deaths, while villagers living near the mine claimed they were still experiencing health-related illnesses from acidic water. There are also reports that a number of people have been killed by security forces belonging to the company. These types of stories are repeated throughout the operating areas of Barrick Gold, such as Papua New Guinea, where reports of gang rape of women and killings from local villages have been testified against security forces working for Barrick Gold.

While these factors are disturbing, especially since Peter Munk sponsors U of T, does this mean that it has any effect on the academia?

U of T website The Blue and White released an article called "A Response to The Perils of Philanthropy." Gullibly outlining the "recites" of the contract produced by Munk and U of T, there was an explanation stating that the University will provide the donor an annual written report with descriptions of the programs, initiatives and activities, and will also offer to meet with the Board of The Peter and Melanie Munk Charitable Foundation once a year to discuss those programs. While in some circles this may be called accountability, this can also be seen as the censorship of academia through a conflict of interest. Munk has been known to be a leading lobbyist against regulations for Canadian mining companies, and has lobbied against Bill-C 300, a private members bill that was said to require divestment from companies that face human rights allegations overseas.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

And while this donation claims to respect the integrity of academia, let's look at it from a different perspective: if a graduate student is writing a thesis on human rights abuses, and uses the mining industry as an example of abuses by corporate organizations, would this pass by unnoticed the Munk School of Global Affairs? How about a course on mining injustices in the global south? Would it even stand a second look when being overviewed by the Peter Munk Foundation?

Having a corporate funded school of global affairs by a company that has been known to lobby for reduced regulation and who also silences activists is questionable. Possibly allowing them to have a say in the programs the school produces is further questions the true nature of accountability.

Donations coming from donors like Peter Munk push a neoliberal agenda which will serve to silence academic work which runs counter to his initiatives. The interests of Barrick Gold are in a research community which would serve corporate interests, and shutting down opposition to their gold mining. By having Munk as a lead donor to the University of Toronto, a critical academia that challenges Barrick Gold's harmful practices will not be present.

For students, workers, professors, and other members of our community, it is time to mobilize against this Munk donation, and the general corporatization of U of T. Our perspectives will not be heard by either the Governing Council or any other governing body. It is up to us to form an opposing narrative to the general privatization of opinion within the University. Peter Munk and his corporation conduces a right wing agenda in favor of business interest, affecting how the University performs its research, and the kind of discourse we, as students, are exposed to.

Going bottled water free

Why U of T needs to join the global movement against the commodification of water

Maude Barlow
SPECIAL TO THE VARSITY

On March 21 — the eve of World Water Day — I had the great pleasure of speaking to a large and enthusiastic group of U of T students at an event organized by the Water Working Group. The event featured Dr. Romila Verma, a clean-water advocate from Brock, Debby Danard Wilson, an Anishinaabekwe PhD candidate at OISE, Anne Macdonald, the Director of Ancillary Services at U of T, and Anda Petro and Leanne Rasmussen of the Public Water Initiative here at U of T. The larger issue was the global water crisis, but the reason we came together was to support the call for a bottled water ban at the University of Toronto.

All over North America, students and others are taking the pledge to go bottled water free. To date, 76 municipalities, 4 municipal associations — including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities — 8 school boards, and 21 campuses in Canada have either banned bottled water or established bottled water-free zones. Bottled water sales are down as a result, and a new awareness of the importance of public water is growing.

The bottled water industry is big business. The big four — Coke, Pepsi, Danone and Nestlé — have annual profits of $1.5 billion. It is a highly polluting and toxic industry, with many billions of plastic bottles left behind in landfills, rivers, forests, and oceans every year. Worldwide, 90 per cent of these bottles are not recycled. It also takes large amounts of oil to produce the plastic water bottles and the process of manufacturing and exporting them produces trillions of kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions every year.

Because the industry needs plants at the site, the effect on local watersheds is often devastating and communities from India to Ontario are fighting for the very survival of their local water sources. Nor is bottled water as safe as the industry claims. Bottled water is considered a low risk food

SEE **'WATER'** – PG 10



MUFFET/FLICKR

The Israeli Apartheid Week I want to see

Why the BDS campaign won't work and why it needs to focus on building worker solidarity

Arash Azizi
VARSITY STAFF



A workers' solidarity demonstration in support of Palestine in Cork, Ireland. *PHOTO CREDIT/THE WORKERS' PARTY OF IRELAND*

"Streets were filled with people and his van surrounded by thousands" so the story began. It was one of those stories always repeated again and again back in Iran by my grandmother but it never lost its charm. It recounted the day when Yasser Arafat, erstwhile leader of Palestine Liberation Organization, visited Tehran to collect donations for the struggle of his people. "In those days, I barely had money to buy milk for your uncle," my grandmother recounted "But I threw my necklace in the bucket of donations."

Such were the stories that I grew up with. Like a lot of Iranians, the struggle of the Palestinians against the occupation of their homeland was always very important for me. Their plight and their honourable struggle have always had a special prominence.

As a result, when I moved to Canada a couple of years ago I was very excited to hear about activists who were here to wage campaigns against Israeli Apartheid. I heard these campaigns were especially prominent in Toronto and was thrilled to join comrades here in an international struggle against imperialism. What I did find was some very honest and hard-working people fighting with good intentions. But what disappointed me was the type of campaign they were running.

Israeli Apartheid Week, and its campaign for Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions of all Israeli products, has come under a lot of unjust criticism and pressure that aim to silence our protests against Israeli imperialism and apartheid. While fighting against these, I also see the need to extend a friendly criticism to the organizers since it's my belief that the campaign, in its current form, will not only not lead to an effective struggle against Israeli apartheid but, unfortunately, will end up strengthening it.

BDS is ineffective because it relies on liberal reformist methods and politics that have never changed anything in the world. To suggest that the way to struggle against imperialism is a consumer boycott — basically convincing people to not purchase products made by Israeli firms — is analogous to methods that seek to end the imperialist exploitation of workers in the global south by changing the coffee you drink. It's a method that will be mocked by genuine working class people — especially those in Palestine — who know nothing has ever been won in this way.

In fact, a tragi-comic situation happened when one BDS activist went to Palestine to promote boycotts and was told by Palestinians that they can't afford to do that, as most major goods sold in Palestine are Israeli-made. The arrogant Canadian activist then tells us that he sees this as "example of internalized colonialism" in Palestinians! This is a point of view that Canadian workers are used to hearing when they shop at Walmart.

The politics that IAW propagates also demand criticism.

There's no talk of class contradictions existing in Israel/Palestine, no talk of revolutionary solutions as the way out and repetition of mainstream ideologies and dogma. In an op-ed for The Varsity, Faraz Vahid Shahidi, my very good friend and comrade, said that the goal of the movement was "Israel's compliance with international law." How can a campaign against the world system that has subjugated Palestinians to their current status define itself in terms of "international law"? Even worse, Al-Hosseini, a spokesperson for the event, says in an interview: "We are a rights-based organization. We have no ideology and only defend people's rights. Our movement is not for or against these revolutions [in the Arab World]." But how can we speak only of "rights" without fighting against specific political forces that have taken these rights away? How can we have a conscious struggle that is proud of having "no ideology" and is neutral toward a spectacular rising of Arab masses against dictatorships? There is also a lot of talk about "rejection of violence" but this misses the point. Palestinian people have a just and necessary right to armed self-defence that no campus activist in Toronto has the right to deny them.

But BDS is not only ineffective. It plays a negative role by strengthening imperialism. A blanket boycott of everything made in Israel will only help the nationalist rhetoric of most right-wing elements in Israel, who will further push Jewish workers, objective allies of ours in struggle against imperialism, to the defence of their state. Even worse is demand for so-called "cultural," "academic," and "sport" boycotts. Why is it that anybody who teaches in Israeli universities should be boycotted? Are there no progressive scholars and educators in that country who we could benefit from hearing? Why is it that singers should be urged not to perform in Israel or Israeli athletes not to be able to compete internationally? This does nothing but add to the siege mentality that Jewish workers are being forced into. This is similar to the demands for travel boycotts being raised in relation to dictatorial countries like Burma or Iran, which will result in nothing but the closing of these societies.

It might be asked that if I reject these methods and politics, what do I propose instead.

Here is what I would argue:

1: Instead of the blanket boycott of Israel, which pushes Israeli workers into the arms of imperialists, adopt a worker's union-based boycott of all the shipment of military weaponry. This boycott would target the Israeli state and bosses and not all Israelis regardless of class. For instance, CUPW, who has signed on to BDS, can call on its members to refuse to deliver any mail to SNC-Lavalin or similar arm manufacturers, so long as they build weapons for the purpose of Israeli apartheid. Students can fight for such boycotts to happen.

2: Promote strategies that build solidarity between Jewish, Arab, and Canadian workers.

3: Link the struggles of workers in the Middle East and fight for socialism both there and at home.

The fundamental problem with IAW, as I have tried to explain in this short article, is its way-too "moderate" political line and its view of Israelis as one reactionary bloc, as opposed to a society made up of different classes.

I should add one more time that I do not doubt the sincerity and hard work of the comrades involved in SAIA, IAW, and BDS. However, by adopting a working-class approach, they can play a great role in fighting against capitalism and imperialism, from Tel Aviv to Toronto.

'WATER' - CONTINUED FROM PG 9

product by the federal government and tested infrequently. Many studies have found traces of dangerous toxins in ordinary brands of bottled water. Tap water, on the other hand, is tested every few minutes in municipalities in Canada and is much safer to drink on a day to day basis. Bottled water is also many hundreds of times more expensive than tap water and much of it (Coke's Dasani and Nestle's Aquafina) is tap water already purified and paid for by taxpayers' dollars.

Perhaps the biggest concern about bottled water, however, is that it sets the stage for other forms of water commodification. When people make the decision to use bottled water, they often abandon any interest in what comes out of their taps. This can easily lead to a disinclination to pay taxes to keep source water safe and improve infrastructure to ensure safe supplies of public water for everyone. So the bottled water struggle is about more than bottled water per se. It has become a flashpoint in the larger question of who controls water in a world of diminishing supplies and who decides access, and under what conditions.

It is now clear that we are a planet running out of clean water. Modern people currently see water as a resource for our comfort, convenience and profit, not as the essential element in a living ecosystem. So we pollute, mismanage and displace water, moving it from where we can access it, dumping it as waste in the oceans, growing crops in deserts, and sending it out of watersheds in the form of virtual water exports to promote global trade. A recent study coordinated by the World Bank predicted that by 2030, global demand for water will outstrip supply by 40 per cent — a stunning figure foreshadowing terrible human suffering.

All over the world, private interests are moving in to claim water sources for private profit, claiming that water is a just a commodity, like Coca Cola or running shoes, to be put on the open market for sale. Large private utilities like Suez and Veolia, with the backing of the World Bank, run for-profit water services in the global South, denying water to those who cannot afford their high tariffs. Some countries are converting their water licence systems to private property, allowing the actual trade in water and the hoarding of water by the wealthy. Hedge funds and large countries running out of water are buying up land and water in poor countries to hold for future use, creating a whole new form of colonialism.

I believe that water is a common heritage, a public trust and a human right and that no one should be allowed to appropriate it for profit while others go without. That does not mean I support a free-for-all; a well-managed public trust is used more sustainably and shared more equitably than a system based on sheer might.

That is why the campaign to have U of T adopt a bottled water ban is so important. This is a very big, powerful and highly respected institution, and a statement from the university leadership that it supports the struggle for the human right to water by banning the sale of bottled water on campus, would be a significant milestone in the search for global water justice.

Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly.

LETTERS

An Open Letter To The University

From Beca Bookman and David Pellow, on behalf of the Israel Affairs Committee of Hillel

In the Varsity's March 14th issue, Katherine Lapointe and Shozab Raza published "Holding the University of Toronto Accountable," an article full of misrepresentations, manipulations and distortions.

Despite their suggestion to the contrary, the BDS (boycotts, divestments and sanctions) "movement" has been a dismal failure. BDS proponents never once mention the words "peace," "compromise," or "coexistence." Those who promote BDS seek only to question Israel's right to exist and set the stage for her elimination. Quite simply, the BDS movement is a surreptitious cover for those who want Israel wiped off the map. Period.

Boycotting Israeli products, and companies with investments in Israel has repeatedly failed (and in some cases, has even encouraged more people to support those companies) because BDS organizers represent a tiny fraction of the fringe of public opinion. While BDS'ers may be loud, the vast majority of Canadian students — and indeed Canadians — aren't buying their rhetoric. Canadians are turned off by those who seek more conflict, and are fed up with cheap attempts to deal with an already complicated situation through superficial slogans and shameless propaganda.

By attempting to smear Israel, this radical political fringe undermines the basic democratic values that we hold dear in Canada. Their lies have been denounced as ignorant and intolerant by Canadian politicians across the political spectrum. It is not considered acceptable by the vast majority of Canadians, including university students.

Meanwhile, university presidents from across Canada have come together to denounce — and denounce publicly — boycotts of Israel. They know the true intentions of BDS organizers, and they too would rather stand for peace, than participate in a campaign that hampers it.

As students at the University of Toronto, we hope to see our university continue to remain strong against such baseless charges. Our hope is that the university - administration, faculty and students alike - continue to take advantage of the connections we have to Israel, such as academic exchanges and economic ties. As both students and Canadians, we intend to continue to uphold the truth of freedom and democracy and remain committed to countries, such as Israel, that share those values.

RE : Holding the University of Toronto accountable, March 14, 2011

Hello, I read your article but it preaches to the converted. In order to reach the unconverted you need to make some changes. Let me suggest these to you:

1. Do not make wild and rash allegations such as "In other words, U of T is in breach of international law through its indirect participation in, and profiting from, war crimes"

It makes you sound like extremist radicals and you lose the moderates in your unconverted audience.

2. Do not "demand" — "demanding that the University of Toronto divest" and "to join SAIA in demanding that..." This is bad human psychology and public relations and it is not how you persuade.

3. Check your facts — "HP aids the Israeli Defense Forces in their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip." Israel no longer occupies Gaza. It withdrew from Gaza several years ago. It does occupy the West Bank but it is under the administration of the Palestinian Authority. Mistakes like this over basic facts affects your credibility with your audience.

4. Do not manipulate facts — "The Goldstone Report of 2009 concluded that Israel committed actions amounting to war crimes." True but you forget to say that the Goldstone Report also condemned the random shooting of thousands rockets into Israel. You lose moderate people by doing this unless you want to convert only biased and partisan people.

5. Do not say things you do not understand. You constantly harp on the theme of "violations of international law." Which particular law do you refer to? Which chapter, section and article? Did you actually read the law or are you just parroting it as a cliche? Not really convincing that you actually are knowledgeable about international law. Why aren't the four companies you mentioned arrested for violations of international law?

6. Realize the implications of your words. Are you aware that the four companies you accuse of violations of international law also have thousands of shareholders, many of whom are leftist university professors, unions etc. the type of people who tend to be anti-Israel. So you see the irony of all these leftists supporting these four companies, which support Israel?.

7. Avoid fuzzy and mushy sentiments such as "social and environmental justice." Hello! What has environmental justice to do with this?

Now if you revise your article according to the above you might reach the reasonable peace-loving moderates instead of the already converted bunch of misfits known as rabble-rousing leftist campus activists.

Good luck,

G. Lee

RE: Where's the Beef? March 14

Firstly, the caption "The University College Residence Council's initiative is another instance of ideology trumping student needs" is as straightforward as it is misleading. I fail to see how the effort of attempting to get students to consume less beef is trumping anybody's needs. There is no "need" for beef consumption and the initiative isn't even taking away beef. If they went further and achieved the removal of beef from the Fung menu on Tuesdays, that would actually be something worth "proudly presenting."

My point is that to downplay a gas that is twenty-one times more effective at trapping heat and contributing to global warming than carbon dioxide as "a very small part of greenhouse gas emissions" is skipping over the point that the article is arguing against. The UN estimates that livestock are responsible for 18% of all green house emissions, and even so, cattle farming does serious environmental harm well beyond methane production. According to the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States, there are 238,000 animal feeding operations which produce approximately 450 million tonnes of animal waste every year. Factory farming is a major contributor to global environmental degradation mostly due to intensive pesticide and antibiotic use, as well as the risk of animal waste getting into natural waterways. Another consideration is the amount of space cattle farming takes up, as it requires huge lots just to grow the food for cows, land which we could be using to feed ourselves.

David Hostetter

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Directed by Woody Harrelson

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Critical thinking

The Globe and Mail *movie reviewer Liam Lacey talks about the role of the critic, and why* Hobo With a Shotgun *is better than* Certified Copy.

Alexander Griffith
VARSITY STAFF

Critics occupy an odd and often awkward position between the audience and the artist, playing both observer and judge to the latest cultural output. Asking the right questions — and adjusting your idea of objectivity from text to text — is a fine line to walk, and Liam Lacey, film critic for the *Globe and Mail*, returns again and again to Goethe's criteria: "What is it trying to do? Does it do it? Does it matter? The last question is obviously the most tricky."

It's refreshing to dissect the dissector, to ask questions to the person with the job of anticipating our questions. Lacey is candid and unpretentious, able to see the merits of *Hobo With A Shotgun* and the shortcomings of Abbas Koriastami's *Certified Copy*. "We're not academics; we're not in the business of analyzing. There's an evaluative aspect of our job. When it boils down to it, we say whether something is good or not." Nevertheless, he looks up to thinkers he calls "heroic critics." "When I came to U of T, Frye and McLuhan were still here. They were social philosophers who made the role of the critic more attractive. They were creative critics."

Lacey took only one film course (Bart Testa was his TA) when he did his English BA. In 1979, Testa helped him land a job as a rock critic at the *Globe*, a position he held until 1993 when the late, great Jay Scott passed away. Rick Groen took over and Lacey helped pick up the slack. Now they divide the reviews between them, and Lacey readily admits, "It's an ongoing learning curve."

Neither is it a job that needs an obvious set of skills or knowledge. "You could spend a lot of time learning Japanese cinema, or even Japanese cinema from the '50s, but that doesn't have much to do with your day to day job. You have your 3-5 stories thrown at you week to week on a regular basis." In the early '90s he was given the genre pictures, the leftovers other critics didn't want to take. That type of art is a whole different animal from the (self-) important art film, and takes a different set of tools to pass judgment.

"I don't know what my standards are sometimes," he laughs. "Standards shift from film to film. There's no cookie cutter model or moral grid that I use. I'm reviewing *Certified Copy*, and it's interesting but less substantial than Kiarostami's Iranian work. *Hobo With a Shotgun* is a well-done spoof of a genre film. Jason Eisener, the director, has a great eye for the subject, the editing, the humour."

If going against critical consensus has consequences, Lacey shrugs them off. "You can give a negative review of a film well-regarded by elite critics. But if I dismiss *Copy*, it's not going to ruin my life. I'll get called bad names. It's easy to get away with being anti-highbrow."

Lacey's influences include the usual suspects: Andrew Sarris, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Pauline Kael, David Kehr, David Bordwell ("always very useful"), Jay Scott, and music guru Robert Christga of the *The Village Voice*. He quotes his colleague Rick Groen: "It's true everyone's a critic, but a critic isn't everyone." The Internet, however, has arguably made a critic out of everyone with an IMDb or Rotten Tomatoes account.

There's an ambivalence in his voice, as if the future holds both good and bad. "You used to have to read the local critic to know what was good. I think the gatekeeper role is over. You don't have authority anymore just because you have the job. It's more honest, in a way."

"There used to be a hierarchy in journalism. Some newspapers would publish the consumer report — basically an unambiguous judgement. Others were entertaining in themselves, taking the art at a distance and try to look at it in terms of wider cultural forces." Publishers, he says, are leaning to the report. "They want smaller pieces with more evaluative statements."

I mention how the print version *Globe* is starting to look like a website. "The big push is to work graphics and charts into the text, but this isn't the same as actual critical discourse. The film enthusiast doesn't lose out; the Internet can take you to some very sophisticated criticism. You're not trapped in IMDb forums. But we're not, I think, moving in a high-end direction."

As to the state of filmmaking itself, Lacey has a nuanced outlook. "There's something interesting happening. Hollywood cut back from around 160 to 148 films a year. Emphasis is more on tentpoles and sequels and all of this would seem to counter the idea of making medium-sized dramas and art films. But *Black Swan*, *True Grit*, *The King's Speech* — each made over $100 million. So audiences are looking for alternatives." This may actually be because of changes in media distribution. "When there's a glut of alternatives, people might be looking for something smarter. The Internet could be producing a smarter, more discerning consumer."

If North Americans are flocking to see dramas, why aren't Canadians going to see Canadian films? "The problem is the thinking that box office is the same as profit. *Passchendaele* made four million but it had a $20 million budget. That's an abject failure by any objective evaluation, but people called it 'high performing.' I would like to see the Canadian industry operate like it did in the 90s, when we scored at international festivals with cheaper art films and didn't go for pseudo-commercial projects like *Score*."

When asked about his favourite period he says French historical films from the '40s and '50s are a continuing revelation. "Melville, Renoir — I keep going back to them. You see lost skills, lost methods of acting, of filming a scene." He smiles, maybe coming to the node of what criticism means for him. "I think the hardest part is telling myself that one film is never exactly the same as the other. It's a question of sharing that experience with the reader, to try and get different people to see different films."



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

THE VARSITY INTERVIEW / WOODY HARRELSON

The actor, activist and playwright talks to WILL SLOAN *about his new Hart House show, the "Woody Harrelson persona," and the perils of being pro-pot in America.*

It feels like Woody Harrelson has been around forever. Certainly in the last 25 years he has accumulated plenty of baggage. He was on the most successful sitcom the '80s (*Cheers*); flirted with leading-man stardom (the popular *White Men Can't Jump*, then the less-popular *The Cowboy Way* and *Money Train*); received two Oscar nominations (*The People vs. Larry Flynt* and *The Messenger*); became a well-known environmentalist and pro-pot activist; and has lately been appearing in more movies than ever, alternating commercial projects with some of the most intriguing art and independent films of the last decade (*A Prairie Home Companion*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Defendor*). And now, U of T will be contributing to the Harrelson canon: on April 21, he will open his new play, *Bullet for Adolf*, at Hart House Theatre, and next week he'll be a Contributing Editor at The Varsity.

THE VARSITY: *You've described the play as "a raucous frolic into murky waters." I was wondering if you could elaborate on that.*

WOODY HARRELSON: Well, I dunno what that means, exactly. I guess I thought it sounded good. (Laughs) That's a very ambiguous statement, but I do think it's kind of a racy play. I was thinkin' especially about this yesterday when I went over to [a restaurant] and this one woman said hi to me, and she was quoting this line to me from *Zombieland*, but she was saying, "Woody Fucking Harrelson!" like I was sayin' "Bill Fucking Murray!" right? And, the woman behind the counter turns to someone and says, "Did you hear that? You heard her cuss? You heard that?" This is the woman who I guess is runnin' the place, and then a little later she asked me what I was doing here, and I said, the play. "But there is a lot of cussin', so you might not want to go to this play."

But it is racy in terms of, y'know, it has some provocative statements, racy things… it's humour with a little bit of an edge, I guess you'd say. It's a comedy.

TV: *The play is called* Bullet for Adolf*, so it's obviously provocative. What are some of the ideas you're dealing with?*

WH: There's these discussions that go on about a number of issues. So, maybe, on the issue of race, or on the issue of… there are philosophical discussions, but I don't wanna portray it as this, like, really philosophical play. So, if you ask me what the play's about, I'll say it's about makin' you laugh.

The plot does relate to this artefact [a gun intended to kill Hitler] that gets stolen in the course of the play, and so that's kinda the exciting incident in the play. But the way it's autobiographical is that all eight of the characters are real people that we knew in Houston, two of whom include myself and Frankie Hyman, who's the guy that I wrote this with. And that's perhaps the most interesting part of the whole deal, is that Frankie and I wrote this play together. We knew each other in the summer of 1983, which is about 92 years before you guys were born (*laughter*). We worked construction, and we had these incredible conversations, and he had this enormous impact on me, just philosophically. I ended up thinking, y'know, this guy's gonna be a lifelong friend — the kind of guy where only death separates your friendship.

And then I didn't see him again for ten years. But part of the reason was, Frankie left Houston, and then I had no way to get in touch with him. Anyway, long story short, I ended up going on the Jay Leno show and asking if anyone knows where Frankie Hyman is, and the next thing you know, I get a call to the office — I was at Paramount doing *Cheers* at the time — and they said 'It's Frankie's brother', and he had been watching. The next thing you know Frankie comes out and we've been friends and hangin' ever since. And then we wanted to write this play because there was something special about that summer.

TV: *This is the second play you've directed in Toronto, and I guess this is the inferiority-complex question that any Canadian asks when an American celebrity does anything in Canada, but: why Toronto?*

WH: Well, I love it here.

TV: *Oh good. We do too.*

WH: Yeah, y'know, even in the wintertime, which, I'm not a winter fan. I love it here. People are great… I have a lot of friends here… y'know, Roots, some of the yoga studios here. I dunno, it's pretty cool.

TV: *Do you think Canada is more receptive to a lot of the environmental issues you're interested in?*

WH: Yeah, yeah, I think they're much more receptive here. It's more the mainstay here to be green or eco-conscious. Even eating, I think people tend to eat a little bit healthier than Middle America.

* * *

TV: *There was a period from 1999 to 2004 when you made almost no movies. Since the end of that period, you've been in movies just about constantly, and you've been in movies by Altman, the Coen Brothers, Schrader. So, what made you take the break, and what has inspired your career path since then?*

WH: Well, I really made a decision that I wanted to take some time off. And I did — I took a long time off. A lot longer than I expected. But I'll tell you what: I'm a hard worker — a good worker, I think — but a world-class slacker and vacationer. I can get on a real roll with that to where I don't even wanna come out. And it's hard, y'know, livin' in Maui, I don't need anything else. Everything I need is there: my family; I get to play soccer with my buddies; I get to go do kite-surfing and all the sports stuff that I love, and so many of my closest friends are there.

TV: *And raising kids?*

WH: Yeah, I mean, really that was a big part of the initial impetus, was like, "Jesus, I'm spendin' a lot of time goin' from project to project, I'd like to get some time with the little rascals before it's…" There used to be this song… oh, how did it go… well, the effect is, the kid's always sayin' to the dad, "C'mon dad, let's play," and he's like…

TV: *Oh, "The cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon…"*

WH: That's the one! (Singing) "Little boy blue and the man on the moon! When you comin' home, dad, I don't know when – but we'll get together then! You know we'll have a good time then!"

TV: *Did you make a conscious decision about the type of movies you wanted to do when you came back? Because there are a lot of films that don't seem so concerned with… "stardom," per se, because there are a lot of interesting and uncommercial films in there.*

WH: That's true. When I came back I was like, "I'm really gonna focus on just doin' stuff that I love and kinda attracts…" Y'know… the very first one I did after I started doin' movies again was a little bit of a… I kinda got talked into a…

TV: *Was it* After the Sunset*?*

WH: Yeah, kind of a commercial endeavour (laughs). Which, any time I've ever done a movie with the concept of, "Well, this'll be commercially successful," it just never goes that way. It's just the worst way, and it's the worst motivator, and so many people today are motivated by, they really have the equation in their mind of success equals happiness. And, of course, it's happiness equals success, so better to be the bum on the street who's happy than the frickin' guy freakin' out on Wall Street.

TV: *Was success equals happiness a mentality you had in the '90s and the '80s?*

WH: Yeah, I think probably so. I mean, I was very much conditioned by that same mentality. I mean, billboards are effective. You really wanna get that cool-lookin' car, 'cause… well, look at the girl who's gonna like me, she's in the poster too! And I think I bought that whole deal. I remember drivin' down the road in my white Corvette, maybe mid '80s, just when the [cell] phones were comin' in, and I got this big ol' contraption, just thinkin' I was such a cool guy. I realize the folly of it all now, but I was just chasin' the dream.

* * *

TV: *I found this article in our archives from 2003 about you coming to U of T to host a yoga class ["Woody brings yoga to U of T," by Ian Ha], and it begins by describing you as, "Movie bad-boy turned eco-friend Woody Harrelson," and it ends with this passage: [reads aloud several paragraphs in which U of T students discuss wanting to smoke a joint with Harrelson]. What I think is interesting about this article is that, when someone has been around for as long as you have, one tends to develop certain preconceived notions about you. I feel there is a "Woody Harrelson persona"….*

WH: Tell me what it is — I'd like to know what your opinion is.

TV: *Well, when I think of the Plato's World of Forms version of Woody Harrelson, I think: "Good Old Boy." You've played many different kinds of roles, but* No Country for Old Men *is the one that, in my mind, epitomizes the Harrelson persona, while something like* The Walker *I would characterize as an atypical role. Is this something you're at all conscious of, or do people's preconceived notions of who you are and what characters you play have an impact on the roles you get?*

WH: Well… I think there's been a good variety of roles offered, so fortunately I don't think… well, you never know how much impact things have. Probably, I haven't been my own best friend in terms of courting studios, but… I dunno, it's hard to gage, but I guess it's inevitable that someone that you see two-dimensionally, and hear about in a rather one-dimensional fashion, that you're gonna gain some preconceptions.

TV: *I bring this up also because you've been so active with environmentalism, and your celebrity brings a lot of attention to these issues, but on the other hand, are there also people who see your work from this one-dimensional view? "Woody Harrelson, he's a Hollywood liberal, he's a pro-pot activist, I've got him figured out."*

WH: Yeah, I would say that's probably true, especially the thing with pot, because, I don't know about so much here, but from the time — I think it was '96 or '97 — a buddy of mine was going to jail who was, he had been growin' some pot and he was going to jail, so I appeared on Bill Maher's *Politically Incorrect*. So, when I went on it with him, y'know, I don't know what the fuck I was thinkin' even doing that. It's kind of a suicide move, but I went on, and from that day it's never stopped, never close to stopped. I think I should embrace it the way Willie [Nelson] does, but I just find it annoying 'cause it's so superficial, and such a…well, would you care so much if I drank? Would you care so much if I took pharmaceuticals?

TV: *(Laughs) Of course not.*

WH: It's like, what's the onus on pot? And, I dunno, I would say that my real mistake to go on the Bill Maher thing was, I wanted it to be more on the issue of consensual crime, and what they call victimless crimes, and I think that's the broader issue that's much more important. I do think that when you live in a country that calls itself free then you have to examine, y'know, what does it mean to be free? And so, I think you can do anything you want as long as you're not hurtin' someone else, or hurtin' their property. That's freedom. So, if you think about it, a lot of what's goin' on in the United States and even I s'ppose a little bit in this very progressive country is the legislation of morality. So, on the subject of, like, drugs or gambling or prostitution or all these things that are gonna go on in society and people are always gonna find out how to go down that path if that's their interest, it seems to me it's absurd to be making those things illegal. But anyway, I still haven't really answered your question, but… y'know, I suppose it's hard to ever achieve three-dimensionality when you're a public figure. You pretty much stay just two-dimensional.

Check back next week for a special edition of The Varsity featuring a guest editorial by Woody Harrelson.



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

Comedy night in Canada

Good day, and welcome to the Great White Varsity Arts section. Today, Associate Arts Editor/hosehead **ARIEL LEWIS** *explores how Canada's comedy has defined its identity, eh?*

Two public school teachers hesitantly talk about the difficulties of sharing experiences with a student body whose cultural background ranges from all over the world. "They're in Canada. Why can't they just be Canadian?" one of them blurts. But in trying to answer this, they come up with another question: what does it even mean to be Canadian?

It's this sketch that has gotten the most critical attention from The Second City's latest revue, *This Party's a Riot*. In the show you'll find the metrosexuals from Woodbridge who douse themselves in department store cologne for a night of fist pumping on the Toronto club scene; the family of divorced parents, divorced step-parents, and grandparents who are taking time apart to try playing for "the other team"; and the white-collar workers who cannot cope with the minute inconveniences of white-collar life (like the Tupperware lunch). All the wonderfully familiar caricatures of modern life are drawn to their fullest; but the schoolyard scene plucks at the nerve which Canadian Comedy plucks at best: Canadian identity.

When I was 12 I watched hundreds of Canadians apologize as they were violently knocked down by Americans in *Canadian Bacon*. I didn't get it. Eventually it was explained to me: "It's funny because it's true. Canadians are too polite." I took a few years to observe. "Yeah," I thought. "We do apologize. We apologize a lot!" It was my first encounter with a Canadian stereotype, and regardless of the actual truth of the matter, it has wholly shaped the way I have thought of Canada since.

Trying to grasp the Canadian identity has provided endless fodder for Canadian comics, but as the schoolyard sketch in *This Party's A Riot* proposes, it's a definition that has not always come easy.

In a sketch from one of the first shows that hit Toronto's Second City stage, John Candy yells, "I hate hockey!" "What are you talking about?!" Joe Flaherty exclaims. The audience chuckles. "I've always hated hockey, but you couldn't see that. Well I'm not listening to you anymore and I'm not going back to that hockey camp!"



The fictional Bob and Doug McKenzie were a staple of the Canadian comedy scene of the 80s.

So there's hockey. There are the cultural stereotypes, the politeness and the "eh"s. There are Bob and Doug. "Kooloookoookoo-koo kookookooo, Koolookoookookoo kookookooo," The Great White North: a triumphant landmark in the history of Canadian comedy and Canadian icons. Yet the two-minute series, which became two major motion pictures, which became the phrase that any Canadian was certain to have sung to them if they stepped south across the border, was created in mocking response to the very question "Can't you just be Canadian?"

When *SCTV* was picked up by the CBC they had two extra minutes of airtime to fill on Canadian airwaves. The network executives requested that they fill these two minutes with "Canadian content." Being a Canadian show, with an almost entirely Canadian cast, the crew were, needless to say, puzzled, if not a little offended. What does that even mean? In a sarcastic reply, Dave Thomas asked if they were suggesting two minutes of tuques, hockey jerseys, and beer. The answer was yes.

The irony is that *SCTV*, the show that came to define Canada's close relationship with comedy, was created because of the States. With the creation of *Saturday Night Live*, Toronto's Second City saw their major talent being drained away to New York, and in a desperate effort to hold on to their comic actors, *SCTV* was formed. In many ways, that response-relationship with the U.S. itself is a large part of being Canadian.

It's an interesting relationship that comedy has with the world it mocks. In trying to grasp the Canadian identity, it has, in turn, come to define so much of it.

The Second City, and much of modern Canadian comedy, has covered the multi-cultural identity of our nation before. *Shut Up... and Show Us Your Tweets*, the Second City revue from a few years back, had "There goes the neighbourhood!" a skit in which cultural stereotypes were played up to their full extent.

"Is that racist? I don't want to be racist," Cawley whispers with a panic stricken face. The schoolyard scene in the end proposes that perhaps Canada is just a "bunch of people that come from all over the world, and then bitch about feeling isolated." However, the scene does more than touch on the growing multicultural identity of Canada, and the daily taboos that come along side it. It poses the question "What is it to be Canadian?" A question that, in itself, is entirely Canadian.



#junoweek

The procession of stars and the process of the Juno Awards

Brendan Hobin
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

In the year 2011 the Juno Awards suffered a mild mid-life crisis and got a new haircut. Tired of being the usual passé industry backslap, the Junos went city wide: meet-and-greets, celebrity athletics, special audio tours at the AGO, a blowout concert weekend — all culminating with Sunday night's presentation ceremony, all with the Juno signature, all with corresponding corporate sponsors.

As an average Toronto urbanite, I love block parties. I love multi-venue festivals that carry on late into the night, and any other excuse to drink whiskey and make out, so Junofest — see the advert in [enter alt-weekly] — should be a pretty swell time. But being an average Toronto urbanite, I have also a nose for authenticity, and earlier this week, as I wandered through the AGO's collection of Canadian art — now complete with the effusions of Canadian notables — I began to speculate whether Junofest's 100 bands would ever have a chance to win the award they represent.

The best business plan I can think of is marketing to everyone. 2011 is the Juno Awards' 40th anniversary, which apparently means painting the Juno tag on everything: a retrospective concert series, a charity hockey game, a charity basketball game, a garden show. Altogether, though, "Juno Week" feels like an imposition: the public is relegated to the tier of the festival that panders to the masses; meanwhile the doors are locked come the Sunday ceremony. It is only natural, since the Junos have always existed for the purpose of mythmaking, of inventing the stars they applaud, and myths go translucent when you look too close.

2011 is the 40th anniversary of the Juno Awards, and so what? You can effectively celebrate an anniversary in five-year intervals if it boosts revenue. And the Juno Awards actually began in 1964 as the RPM Gold Leaf Awards and only changed their name in 1971. It isn't even a proper anniversary.

Maybe the music industry's doomsayers were right. Perhaps the ceremony's new "street" style hints that the outmoded award show format is taking on a new form in its post-modern afterlife, or more particularly, maybe it is evidence that the Junos have been transubstantiated into strange new reaches of post-modern corporate branding.

The Juno Awards have always been a brand of sorts: the product for sale is Canadian celebrity. Historically, the Juno Awards have been the Grammy Awards for holders of Canadian passports — that is, a way of creating a star system in the interest of the Canadian consuming public. The Junos came about as part of a two-fold program: in the mid-1960s, Canadian music industry professionals started to create their own market rather than move to LA. A series of organizations — CRTC, CBC, CRIA, SOCAN, etc. — appeared to promote a new invention called CanCon; the Junos happened specifically as a way of defining this "CanCon," Canadian content that somehow exhibits its quality through its Canadian-ness.

The clause of "Canadian-ness" creates a problem of definition. The empirical requirements for Juno eligibility are certain — artists must be Canadian citizen and must have lived in the country for at least six months prior to the nomination period — the trouble is existential confusion: in honouring artistic achievement that is uniquely Canadian, there must be something among the nominees uniquely Canadian in nature. That is to say, artists must share a common inspiration in the same way they carry the same passport. It is a difficult argument to sell, but it's better than to say you were just in it for the money...

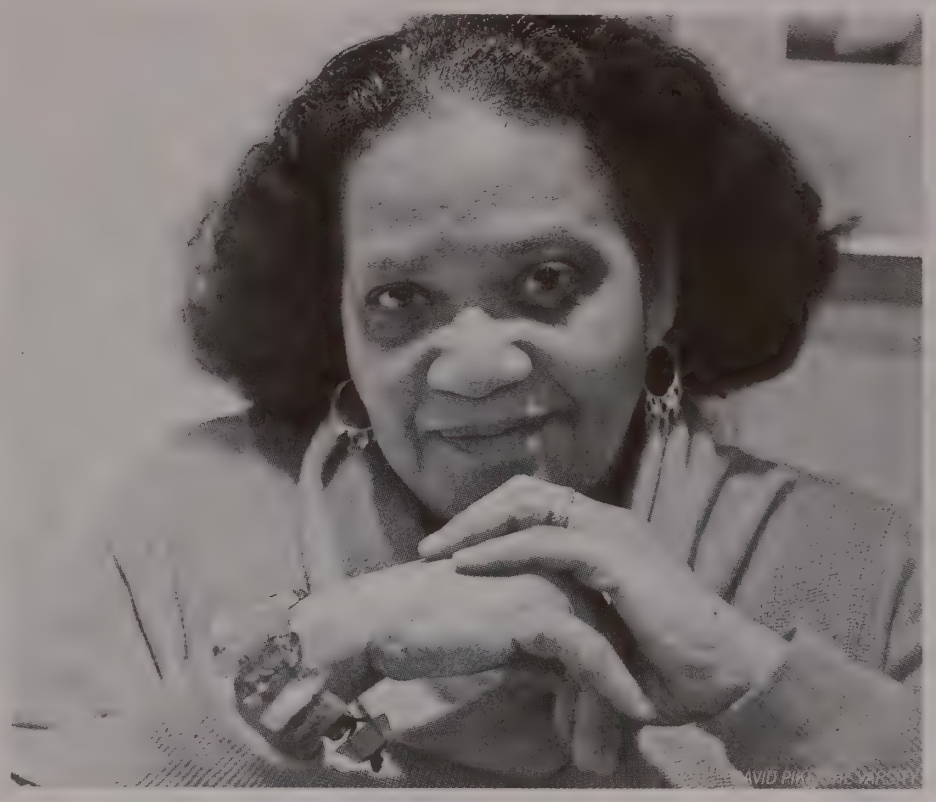
Of course, things may stop at the markets, but they certainly don't end there. In a recent article about Charlie Sheen in the Daily Beast, Bret Easton Ellis touched on some of these subtle anxieties of celebrity. He summarized the distinction he summed up with the dichotomy between Empire and Post-Empire celebrity: the "Empire" is the ideology of the star system. The Empire is dead and wasted. It doesn't speak to the masses anymore, and it rings with falsehood. When a recording of Jane Bunnett (whom I've never heard of anyway) gushes about all of a paintings "vibrant colours, light, dark," or when Canada Blooms features a garden inspired by Sarah Harmer's "strong personal feelings towards nature," there is something in a fundamental state of discord. It's for charity, but it rings so untrue that it is beyond humanness, beyond kindness.

The event makes Sarah Harmer and Jane Bunnett look vapid; Gord Downey is grandiloquent enough to carry it, barely; oddly, the fanfare looks good on Drake, but perhaps it goes to show how vapid and frivolous Drake has been so far, universal as bread. Thus, the cynical side of the Juno Awards becomes evident: it is hard to play along with Juno Week without feeling like you've been sold something — or more correctly, feeling like you've been sold nothing. The tragedy of Juno Week is its own solipsistic lunacy.

That's just how she does it

The gifted Lorna Goodison's By Love Possessed

Jade Colbert
VARSITY STAFF



Lorna Goodison is easily among the best writers from the Caribbean. She is well recognized as being one of the top writers in the world. She is one of those rare people for whom writing is a calling, yet it's one she has taken up warily.

* * *

"I came to poetry as something I was given. I never ever wanted to be a poet, just no matter what I did, I was writing. So I always thought of it as something that was given me to help me. I used to see it as something that was an intrusion. I resented it. But when I came to my senses I realized that it really helped me to make sense of life, to shape my experiences." A proponent of Keats's theory of Negative Capability, which she interprets as "to not be there, but to channel the person," Goodison's attitude towards her own writing is spiritual in that while she clearly works at writing, she consistently resists efforts to overthink it. She admits that writing can still be difficult — "because it's such hard work for me, I really will spend a long time trying not to write, and then I have to write," she says — but also claims that if she did not see herself getting better as a writer, she would put down her writing implements.

Lorna Goodison was born in 1947 in Kingston, Jamaica, one of nine children. Originally she intended to be a painter. After completing high school, she studied at the Jamaica School of Art and then New York's Art Students League before returning to Jamaica, where she worked in advertising and public relations. For a long time, writing was something she was shy about. She ripped up early compositions; she didn't show her stories to anybody.

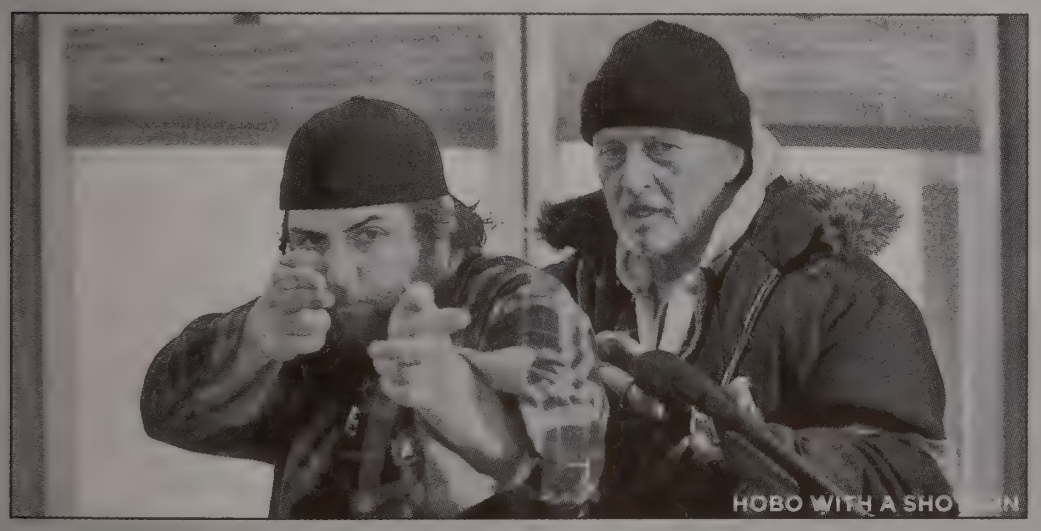
First known as a poet, Goodison is the author of eight books of poetry, among them, *I Am Becoming My Mother*, which won the Commonwealth Writers Prize; *Heartease*; *To Us, All Flowers Are Roses*; and *Controlling the Silver*. In 1999, the Institute of Jamaica awarded her the Musgrave Gold Medal for her contribution to literature. Her 2007 memoir, From *Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People* won the B.C. Award for Non-fiction, and was also a finalist for the Charles Taylor Prize and the Trillium Book Award. Her most recent work, *By Love Possessed*, is a collection of stories that have been substantially revised since first appearing elsewhere.

A former U of T professor (she still has a home in Cabbagetown), Goodison now teaches at the University of Michigan. She divides her time between Toronto, Ann Arbor, and Halfmoon Bay, BC. The Varsity met with Lorna Goodison in February.

For the full interview, visit thevarsity.ca

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

because there's more to the Internet than lolcats and Rebecca Black at **thevarsity.ca**



Interview with *Hobo with a Shotgun* director Jason Eisener

When it comes to doing interviews, I am not a master. I tend to be awkward when I don't like a person's work, I'm usually afraid of offending the person I'm talking to, then I revert to the same unoriginal hacky questions every hacky writer for every hacky entertainment publication in the country is asking. But, artially because I actually liked the movie he directed, the wonderfully-titled *Hobo with a Shotgun* (starring the wonderful Rutger Hauer in the title role), which meant I didn't have to purposefully avoid asking questions that would reveal my dislike, I would say I did a pretty good job this time with Jason Eisener.

Hobo is a cut above other recent additions to the neo-grindhouse subgenre, which was somehow jump-started by the Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's flop *Grindhouse*. This is because, unlike other attempts like Rodriguez' own *Machete*, *Hobo* feels like it was actually made on a small budget, for a cult audience, rather than a $50 million production meant for a wide release. Thus, the standard over-the-top bad acting, mostly on the part of supporting roles by Gregory Smith and Nick Bateman, actually feels like it was bad acting, and not Robert De Niro slumming it for the sake of a laugh. The less-than-realistic nature of the uber-gory action sequences feels, for the most part, a consequence of a small budget, not half-comic sideshows for a knowing audience. — *ALAN JONES*

SINGLED OUT: A music blog by Sean MacKay and Navi Lamba, now featuring Simon Frank

Left out in the desert sun for too long, garage rock gets desiccated and bland, but in the hands of Vancouver's Dead Ghosts (who exhibit some serious acid-western vibes despite their coastal hometown), the dish is tempered with jangly guitar-pop and a strong country influence. Like most of the songs on their self-titled debut, "I Want You Know" zips by in under two minutes, packing in shuffling drums, a strutting baseline, a succinct guitar solo that reaches back to early rock and roll, and yearning vocals that manage to declare love but remain supremely nonchalant. The recording may be gritty, but everything is in clear focus. Dub the song onto cassette and get ready for a desert roadtrip, or just start wearing more denim. — *SIMON FRANK*

CAMPUS STAGE: Trinity College Drama Society presents *Rent*

Rent is a Broadway phenomenon — musical that weaves together the struggles of starving artists, the tragedy of HIV and AIDS, and the joy of living in the moment into a finely balanced, and philosophical portrait of modern life. To attempt to put on a college production of *Rent* requires an ambition of colossal proportions. Luckily, Trinity College Drama Society's production of *Rent* does the Tony Award-winning show justice. The balance between comedy and the tragedy is a tricky one to pull off, but director Daniel Bennett has put on a show with the right amount of flare, humour and thoughtfulness. — *LILY TARBA*



by ANDREW RUSK

Inniskillin Two Vineyards Cabernet Franc, 2008
$22.95 at Wine Rack

"Why you so mad for it why you got to have it? Cause I slaved my whole life now I'm the master." — Kanye West

You may have noticed that this week's wine column is extra special because the featured bottle isn't under $10. That's right, folks! I've had it! The concept of this entire column was that you can get truly fantastic wines under the price point of $10. While this is certainly possible, there are also hundreds of fantastic wines over $10 that you need to try this summer.

I was also slightly taken aback when, at a UC reception, Dean of Students Nona Robinson mentioned that she reads this column. Apparently, it's not just students who enjoy my sage wisdom each week — I really need to be writing with administrators in mind! So Nona, this review is for you.

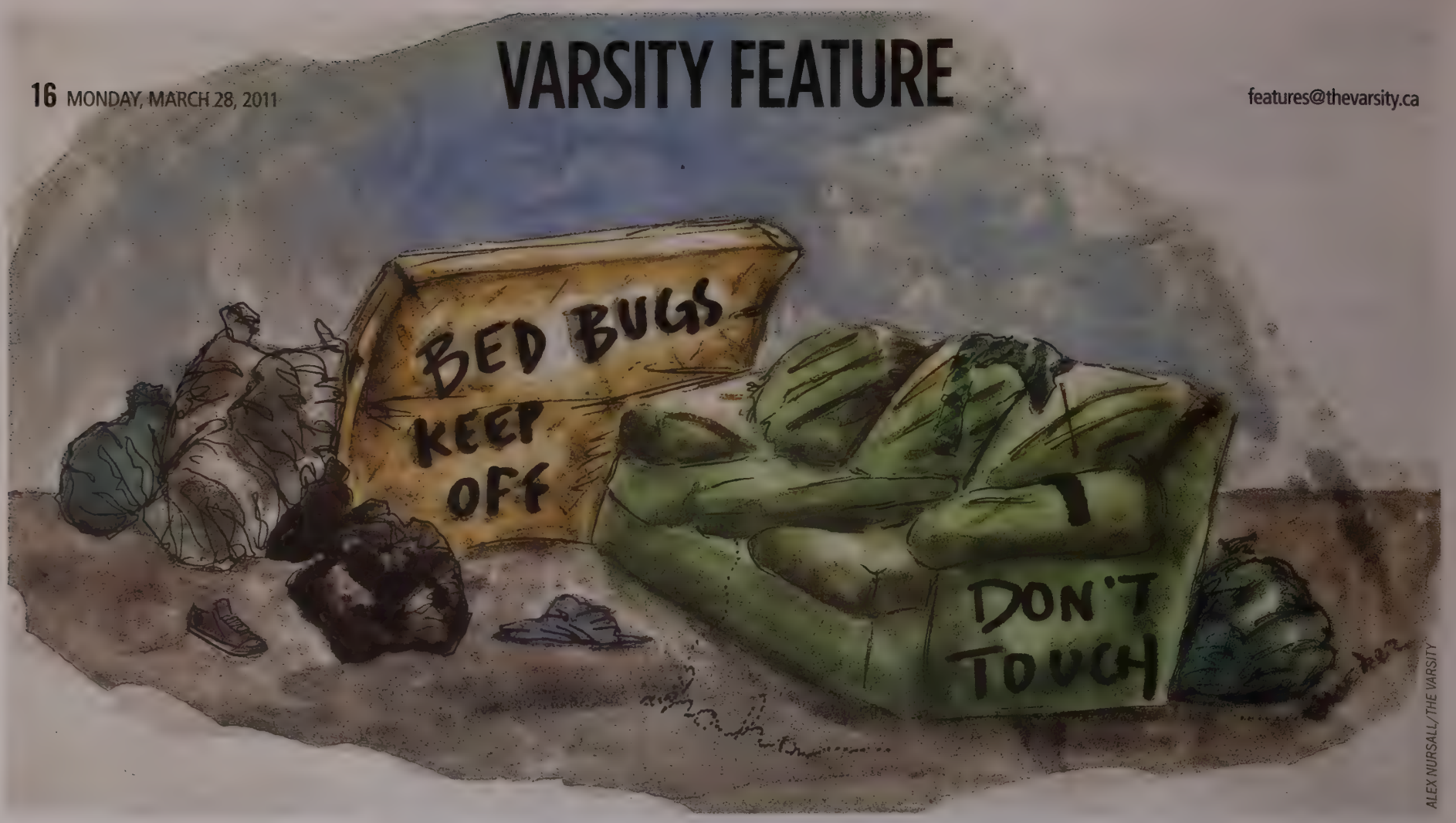
"When it comes to styles I got several sharper than a swagga dagga all metal" — Lil' Wayne

The Inniskillin Two Vineyars Cabernet Franc can best be described as yummy. It is a beautiful full-bodied wine with hints of dark fruit, particularly cherry and black current. The wine finishes with a slight tanin and leathery taste. Overall, it is a fantastic wine, especially paired with meats.

What is particularly nice about this bottle of wine is it has a higher quality cork. Purchasing a bottle of slightly more expensive vino also provides a certain sense of accomplishment and dignity that you aren't likely to experience frequently if you're graduating from this fine institution with an arts degree.

"Follow my steps it's the road to success" — Jay Z

Remember, there are plenty of fantastic wines that are under $10. There are also plenty of expensive wines that taste worse than even the most horrible sludge I've consumed for the sake of this column. The most important thing is to know your grapes and have reasonable expectations. But if you're looking for a truly delicious albeit slight expensive bottle of wine, Inniskilin will not steer you wrong.



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

bed intruder

LUCAS ALEXANDER battles with the scourge sweeping Toronto

My housemates and I pride ourselves on recycling, but this garbage day we're hauling more than a dozen bags of trash to the street, along with most of my furniture, a painting of a wave breaking on a lighthouse, my laundry hamper, and a beautiful wooden chest that wouldn't look odd stuffed with gold doubloons. We're sweating like old men in steam rooms even though it's winter — the trappings of our lives weigh a lot. We've run out of garbage bags, despite overstuffing the bags outrageously, so we leave the rest up to the mercy of the boys in orange.

There. Nearly done getting rid of most of our worldly possessions. It's like Buddhism, only without all the enlightenment. There's only one last detail to take care of: with a carving knife, I cut the pillows off my beloved couch, slash my mattress along the diagonal, and write BED BUGS on it with a fat black Sharpie.

Our exterminator warned us even these precautions might not dissuade the most desperate from ransacking our stuff.

* * *

I roll a yoga mat out on the kitchen floor, pull my thoroughly sterilized sleeping bag out of a sealed garbage bag, and arrange some clothes for a pillow. I want to feel less like a homeless yuppie and more like I'm camping, so I drink whisky from the bottle and listen to bad acoustic covers of rock staples. I wish I still had some of those glow-in-the-dark stars kids would stick to the ceiling, just to complete the alfresco illusion.

Morning. My fitful slumber is interrupted by a foot prodding me gently in the ribcage — my roommate is home with her boyfriend. "I hope you don't mind if we make breakfast in your bedroom," she says. Of course, go right ahead, I'll take mine scrambled, please.

I can deal with this latest indignity, because our kitchen is the Green Zone. No bugs found.

* * *

Cimex lectularius, you sneaky bastards. How did you get in here, and how did you avoid detection for weeks? It was my roommate who sounded the klaxons. I got the call while sitting in my office, swamped with more work than I could possibly finish, when cruel Fortuna gave my wheel another spin downwards.

"Lucas. I found a bed bug. And she's pregnant. Well, full of eggs. You know."

I didn't, actually, but she was the one who studied tree mites at U of T. "I was examining her on a piece of tape, but she got away," she continued.

Now, I'm a raging insectophobe. Flying ones don't bother me much, but crawling ones set off my sympathetic nervous system something fierce. Being surprised by a spider makes me shriek in a way that could charitably be described as "unmanly." I once stopped seeing a girl mostly because her basement apartment had centipedes.

Needless to say, this little exchange would have sent me over the edge, had I not immediately started going through the five stages of grief. This wasn't possible. Dirty people got bugs! Our place was immaculate; we'd splurged on a high-priced maid not two weeks prior. They say cleanliness is next to godliness, and we actually lived next door to a weird little church.

"Valerie. Can't your science experiment wait? I'm already effing drowning in things I have to do here. I'll be happy to deal with this latest crisis tomorrow."

"Listen to me! It. Cannot. Wait. I'm calling a fumigator right now, and tomorrow our place will be choking with poison gas. You better come home."

* * *

Returning to my abode, I buy the strongest flashlight available, on the Internet's advice. Even though there's nothing to find, I reassure myself. I make it to the threshold of my bedroom, but I'm suddenly afraid to enter. I head to the washroom instead, and take off my shirt. While it wouldn't kill me to hit the gym, there isn't a bite or blemish on me. Time to nip this madness in the bud.

> Now, I'm a raging insectophobe. Flying ones don't bother me much, but crawling ones set off my sympathetic nervous system something fierce.

In my room, I leave the lights off. Bed bugs are nocturnal, and avoid the light unless desperate for a blood meal. Electric torch in hand, vaguely wishing it were of the flaming variety, I play the beam over my duvet. Nothing. I gingerly pull it, then the sheets, then the mattress cover away with a broom handle. Nothing. I get down on the floor to examine the seam in my now-exposed mattress… and let out a second shriek.

* * *

Our exterminator shows up. He's young, surprisingly handsome, and he runs an art gallery in his spare time. I'm worried — we need a grizzled bug-killing maniac, not some Strokes-loving hipster who probably finds my bloodlust for these hematophagic monsters ironic — but it turns out we're his third bed bug massacre of the day, even though it's only 11 a.m. After a quick inspection of our place, he's confirmed the lawless menace, and he immediately moves into plotting the kill, because in these matters he's judge, jury, and executioner.

He explains that he's going to fill the house with two kinds of poison. The first is going to kill all the adult bugs, but since it won't be effective on the eggs, he's going to powder our baseboards with a residual poison which will take care of any that hatch after the first attack has dissipated. It's going to be like the goddamn Second Battle of Ypres up in here, except we'll be the good guys. Our worthless belongings are still scattered hither and yon, but our guy is eager to get started. We leave the rest of our junk wherever it fell, because he's going to simply "poison around it."

* * *

We arrive at the Java House on Queen Street with the few possessions of value we have left in tow. We've been sent out into the cold streets for only a few hours, but we're considering never going home. But running away seems like a lot of work — should we just start drinking? Sure, it's only 11:20 a.m., but we're already pathetic. Against all odds we stick to lattes instead. Before long, my phone rings. The exterminator is done, and he's booking it to his next call. He warns us that he's left our front door unlocked, and for one ridiculous moment we're panicked about being robbed. But as I step through the front door and get hit by a wave of toxic air, I realize the joke would be on whoever tried to nick our stuff.

Despite assurances the gas will clear soon, we should probably find other arrangements for a while.

* * *

Days later, we're finally ready to go back to our Kafkaesque nightmare world of bugs and poison. But I'm less prepared for the truth and reconciliation commission.

The bugs came from my room. Just when they established their beachhead is unclear, but the molts showed that they'd been there for a few weeks, slowly growing in strength. I didn't want to admit I was responsible, but the evidence was more damning than a bloody Isotoner.

It seems I belong to a smallish segment of the population that shows no allergic responses to bed bug bites. No welts, no itchiness, nothing. Without that canary in the coal mine, they were free to hang out and do their bed bug thing — at least until someone came looking. But where did the first bug come from?

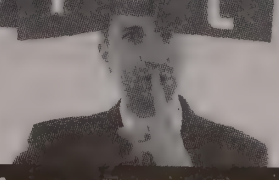
After some reflection, we narrowed it down to one of a few most likely culprits. I'd been to New York City fairly recently, which has been hit hard by the scourge. You no longer need to worry about being mugged there, but you should probably fear getting bugged. Indeed, a *Times Online* article titled "A bedbug epidemic bites New York" states that "experts agree that the prime method of bed bug transmission is travel: you go somewhere — like […] to a hotel — sleep on an infested bed and pass the bugs on. Bedbugs also nestle in clothing and suitcases."

While closure would be nice, I'll never know the exact truth. We got them, we have to live with it. Weeks later, I'm still sleeping on an inflatable mattress a friend lent me, because I'm afraid to invest in new furniture before we're absolutely sure there won't be a sequel to this little horror movie. It seems safe: now I'm careful to leave the lights off when I leave, so when I come home I can flick them on rapidly and surprise any resurgent bugs before they have time to hide. So far, nothing.

When I finally do get a new bed, I'm going to wrap the legs in sticky white tape to trap any bugs hoping to march up them in search of a meal. I'm also getting a special mattress cover that is supposedly impossible for *C. lectularius* to penetrate. Between these precautions and my new paranoid habit of scanning the baseboards with a flashlight, I feel pretty confident about the future. Yeah, I'm ready to start living again. I can even talk about it now — when I tell people what happened, it's amazing how often they whisper something like "It happened to me too. But be quiet about it!"

We've got to talk about it if we want to defeat this nocturnal menace though, right? Well, either that or bring back DDT. I'll understand if you want to leave to check your own mattress right now, though. Go ahead; I'll wait.

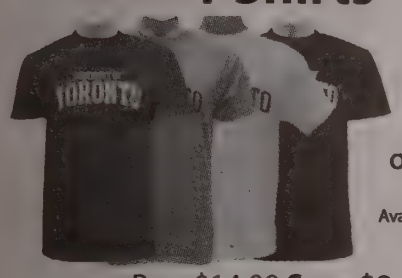
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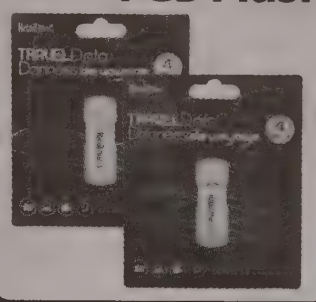


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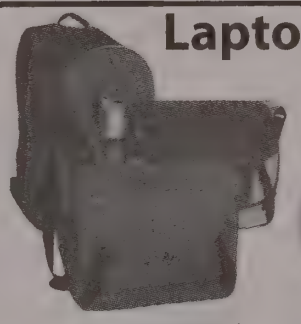


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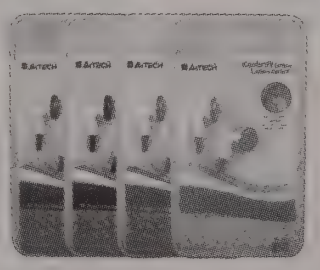


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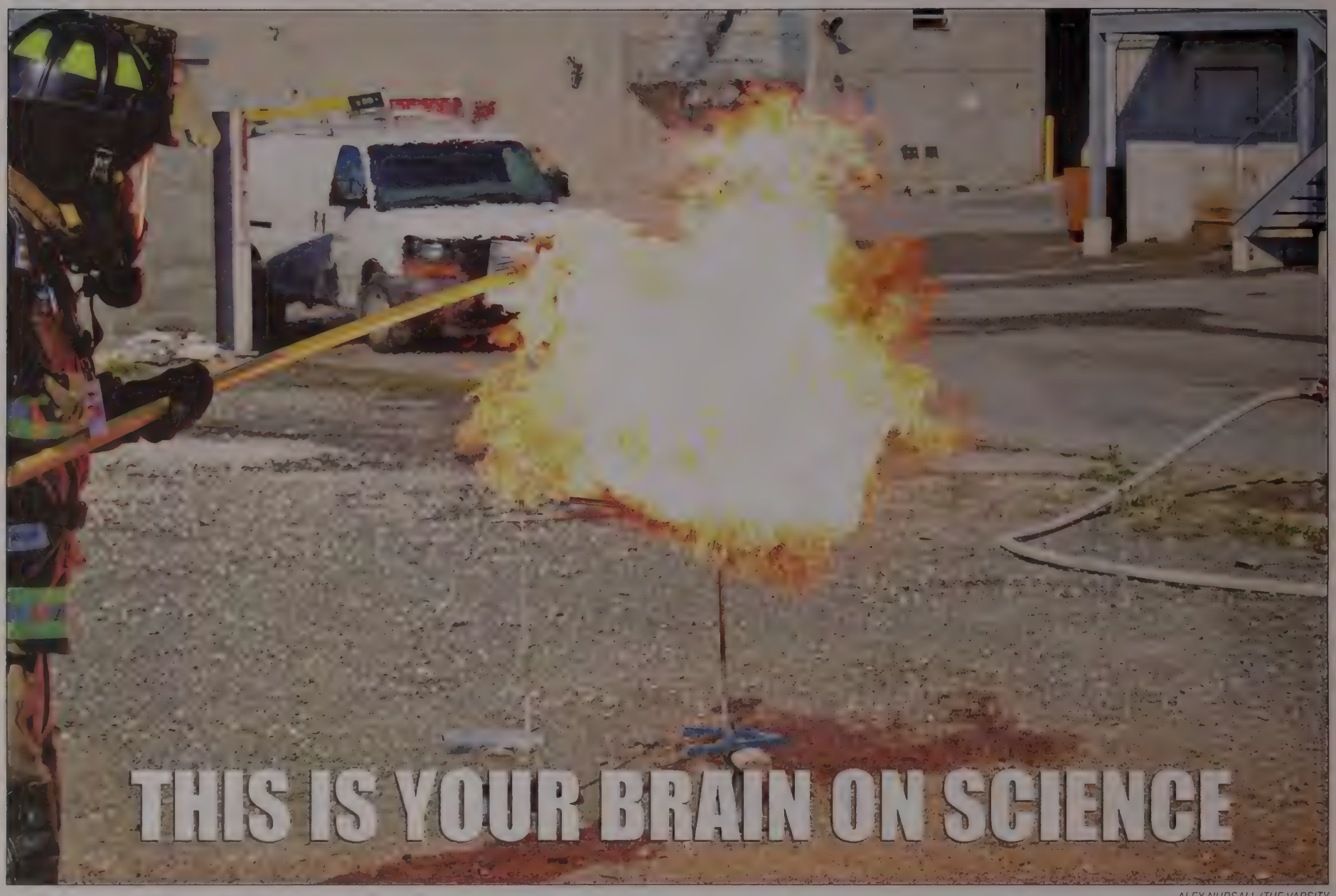
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Memes and variations

U of T's Marcel Danesi explains the semiotics of the meme



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Bianca Lemus Lavarreda
VARSITY STAFF

If you haven't yet heard of an internet meme (rhymes with "cream") then please Google "Forever Alone." Right now.

A meme is basically a catch-phrase, a huge inside joke that is easily transmitted from person to person. The term "meme" refers to more than just a trending funny picture or video. In fact, it goes back to a longstanding debate over whether human culture owes its existence to tiny evolutionary units, called memes, that transmit cultural information.

The term "meme" was first coined by Richard Dawkins in his book *The Selfish Gene*. According to Dawkins, a meme is "a noun that conveys the idea of a unit of cultural transmission, or a unit of imitation." Memes exist inside our brains and can only replicate through imitation: "Just as genes propagate themselves in the gene pool by leaping from body to body via sperms or eggs, so memes propagate themselves in the meme pool by leaping from brain to brain via a process which, in the broad sense, can be called imitation."

The need for memes arises from the "new soup" of human culture, similar to how genes arose from the "primeval soup." Memes can be ideas, catch-phrases, pottery techniques, or "Forever Alone." Memes pick up where genes falter. This is a complementary duo that Dawkins intended. He even modified the original word "mimeme" to "meme" to rhyme with "gene" for emphasis.

"Meme" is a loaded term, one that stirs its fair share of controversy. Marcel Danesi, a professor of semiotics and anthropology at U of T, and an accomplished scholar in the semiotic study of youth culture and metaphor, opposes Dawkins's views. Danesi, who has been involved in the memetic debate for about 20 years now, offered his perspective in an interview with The Varsity.

Danesi does not see a need for the term "meme." To Danesi, "meme" is a simply "a way of reducing what was known in the past as passing on through historical traditions." As for Dawkins's evolutionary explanation for memes, Danesi replies that, "[the] technique [that] passes it on, what it [means] to call it a meme or something else, to me, is irrelevant. No one knows. But we've been doing it since the beginning of time… The media, however, has an enormous role to play in spreading it broadly and frequently. The people behind the media will make sure that those things that are profitable will make it, and not a memetic blind process of human genetics."

However, Danesi agrees with Dawkins's assertion that memes catch on. Danesi studies the crazes and fads of popular culture, especially youth culture, and has noticed the parallels to the viral nature of Dawkins's memes. Danesi illustrates his point with the example of Sudoku: "Why did Sudoku become a craze? First of all, it's easy to figure out but still contains challenges — and everybody's doing it! So I'm going to be part of it. You've got those three characteristics, you've got yourself a craze or something that passes on."

There is a profane part to the human psyche. It needs to see freakishness.

Another point of contention is the idea from evolutionary psychology that memetics is an implicit theory of the world. According to Danesi, beliefs dictating that art is strictly hard-wired are example of "determinism at its worst."

You can't explain much after everything is reduced to its smallest components, and described as genetic or atomic relations. Terms like "animal mechanisms" and "genetic impulses" are what Danesi calls "misnomers for human changes." We cannot forget the caveats that evolutionary psychology cannot explain; namely, social, cultural, aesthetic, and spiritual change.

Longstanding beliefs permeate human culture — such as burial of the dead — which are not survival mechanisms. To Danesi, humans are creators of their own, makers of their own, and make their own theories. "You cannot, in any way, theorize about the creative impulse — because a theory is itself a product of a creator."

Prescribing a deterministic approach to understanding the nature of life, while alienating diverging perspectives, is in a sense itself a new theology. Danesi cautions that effective science should "present ideas to be either testable or understandable or discussable." Danesi continues by questioning, "What is life? It's an axiom isn't it? We have it, period. You can study is as a biologist, that's fine…but you cannot have a theory to say this is life. That means nothing.

"It's a more humanistic tradition within the social sciences I ascribe to. We've got to give human beings much more worth as creators, makers, than just automatons who take it in and then react to the world."

As a semiotician, Danesi says semiosis — the comprehension and production of signs, including the creation of words — should be taken into consideration. Signs enter an individual's brain, and she or he starts to believe that the signs are not just "evaluators" of the world, but "descriptors."

"And I'm not sure they are [descriptors]," Danesi remarks. "I've never seen a meme, have you? I've seen trends."

So how is this relevant to the schadenfreude of Failblog, or the ambrosial appeal of Lolcats? Danesi explains that engagement in such content is not a far cry from being at a carnival, a circus, or in a village in which some strange individuals are not only tolerated but encouraged to be so.

"There is a profane part to the human psyche. It needs to see freakishness." Danesi calls this "the carnivalesque," and explains that it allows people to temporarily forget about moral structure and instead engage in the body. Similar to the acts on Failblog, individuals at the circus see the "bearded woman, the 12-foot man, the two-headed Siamese twins." Likewise, attraction to media like the film *Dumb and Dumber* has been around since the ancient world. Indeed, the youth of today are not very different from the youth back then.

There is a certain level of gravity that comes with reducing the facets of human life to genes and memes as Dawkins has. Danesi warns, "That means for 5,000 years everything we've done in philosophy, theology, and so on, has been a waste of everybody's time."

A lament to the Internet

Tina Knezevic
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



ERENE STERGIOPOULOS/THE VARSITY

I distinctly remember the process of researching flamingos for a project in grade four (it was ground-breaking stuff, believe me). I had to walk to the library, open up a card catalogue, look up a book on birds, find that book in the stacks, check the index for flamingos, read it to verify the information I needed was in fact there, and finally, read a page, close the book and write down only what I could remember, as per the teacher's instructions.

Today, I could type the word "flamingo" into Google and come across a plethora of information. Sometimes I think I wouldn't even be surprised if a flamingo flew out of my computer and landed in my room. Is it true? Has the internet made me lazier than my grade four self?

It's doubtful that anyone of our digital generation would argue against the convenience of the Internet. The answer to any question is quite literally at your fingertips. It often amazes me to think that someone out there has answered the obscure questions I've Googled in the past. Which brings me to another scary thought: is my creativity waning because of the Internet, or were my thoughts just more original before I knew everyone else had them? But I digress.

Like most other people, I use the Internet on a daily basis. I email, Facebook, research, shop, bank, and plan my weekends online. However, as I accomplish these tasks, I find myself constantly distracted by ads, messages, and links. It seems I'm living a life full of tangents and random facts. I ask my friends and they say the same things: they're constantly distracted; it's much harder to stay on task than it used to be; and focusing on one thing at a time seems tedious in the age of multi-tasking. Is it possible that we're all suffering from the same malady? Has the internet affected the way we think?

A 2009 study in the *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* found that being online stimulates the visual regions of the brain more than reading material in print, which may be a result of the colours and pop-ups that are thankfully absent from a good old-fashioned paperback. Another contentious article ("Is Google Making Us Stupid?") written in 2008 by Nicholas Carr discussed similar issues.

Perplexed by the same questions that I have, in his article, Carr attempted to shed light on the effects of the Internet on human thought. Carr agreed that we process information from the Internet by scanning text and jumping from topic to topic, a sort of mental leapfrog that ultimately turns us into disjointed thinkers who are unable to concentrate for more than a few seconds on the task at hand. While this technique might be useful online, Carr interviewed people who confessed that they were often distracted on a day-to-day basis. Reading a chapter in a book often took intense amounts of concentration, and traditional tasks seemed somewhat slow.

"Internet thinking" encourages us to gather information, but not actually make connections as we constantly search for the next source of stimulus. He mentions a study that tracked visits to two popular research websites. The visitors exhibited a pattern of jumping from article to article, allowing enough time to skim abstracts and often never return to the original source. So maybe we're not lazy, but rather, impatient.

It's rare nowadays to write a paper and browse through the periodicals on an actual bookshelf in the library. But it's been done. Along with walking uphill both ways in the snow, our parents (and their parents) had to write all their research papers without the Internet. I can't argue that we have it much easier than they did, and an online library is A-okay by me. I just don't think we should take it for granted.

My weak attempts to thwart the Internet (I don't use a smartphone and… well actually, that's it) haven't been all that successful. But I do see an emerging pattern that I'm eager to break. After all, there's nothing more rewarding than knowing a handful of things really well, versus random facts that you can hardly recall anyway. Playing hopscotch on the Internet doesn't need to be translated to daily life.

The healthiest fruits and veggies

You always knew fruits and vegetables were good for you.
Now Varsity food afficionado **MARY SCOURBOUTAKOS** *tells you why.*

If you're eating a fruit or vegetable, then you're obviously making a healthy food choice. But not all fruits and vegetables are created equal. Some contain a disproportionately large number of different nutrients — so here is a countdown of the top fruits and vegetables:

FRUITS

1) Avocadoes

Avocadoes are arguably the best fruit on the planet. They satisfy more than 8 per cent of your daily requirement to consume more than 12 vitamins and minerals. They also contain more than half of your daily Vitamin C, Vitamin B5, and fibre requirements. Though eating an entire avocado brings you up a substantial 365 calories, most of these calories come from unsaturated fat, which is good for you.

2) Pomegranates

Pomegranates are a very close second. A single pomegranate will also satisfy more than 8 per cent of your daily requirement for more than 12 vitamins and minerals. They contain 13 different phytonutrients and are one of the best fruit sources of antioxidants.

3) Cantaloupe melon

Because of their colour, cantaloupe melons are a great source of beta-carotene, which gets converted to Vitamin A. A single cup exceeds your daily requirement for Vitamin A and Vitamin C. As a result, cantaloupe is ideal for boosting your immune system.



JOE MARINARO/FLICKR

4) Blackberries and raspberries

All berries are amazing. Blackberries and raspberries are a particularly great source of antioxidants and are rich in nutrients like manganese, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, and fibre, earning them the final spot in this ranking.

VEGETABLES

1) Spinach

Spinach is the absolute best food you can eat. The nutrients found in spinach are too numerous to list. However, in order to ensure you're getting the most nutrients, opt for cooked spinach, which contains ten times the amount of Vitamin K you need each day, and almost four times your daily Vitamin A needs. Raw spinach only contains half of your daily Vitamin A, but still satisfies your Vitamin K needs.

2) Collard greens, swiss chard, and kale

There's a three-way tie amongst these three superstar leafy greens, which, like spinach, exceed your needs for several nutrients, but need to be cooked for you to gain their maximal benefits.

3) Broccoli

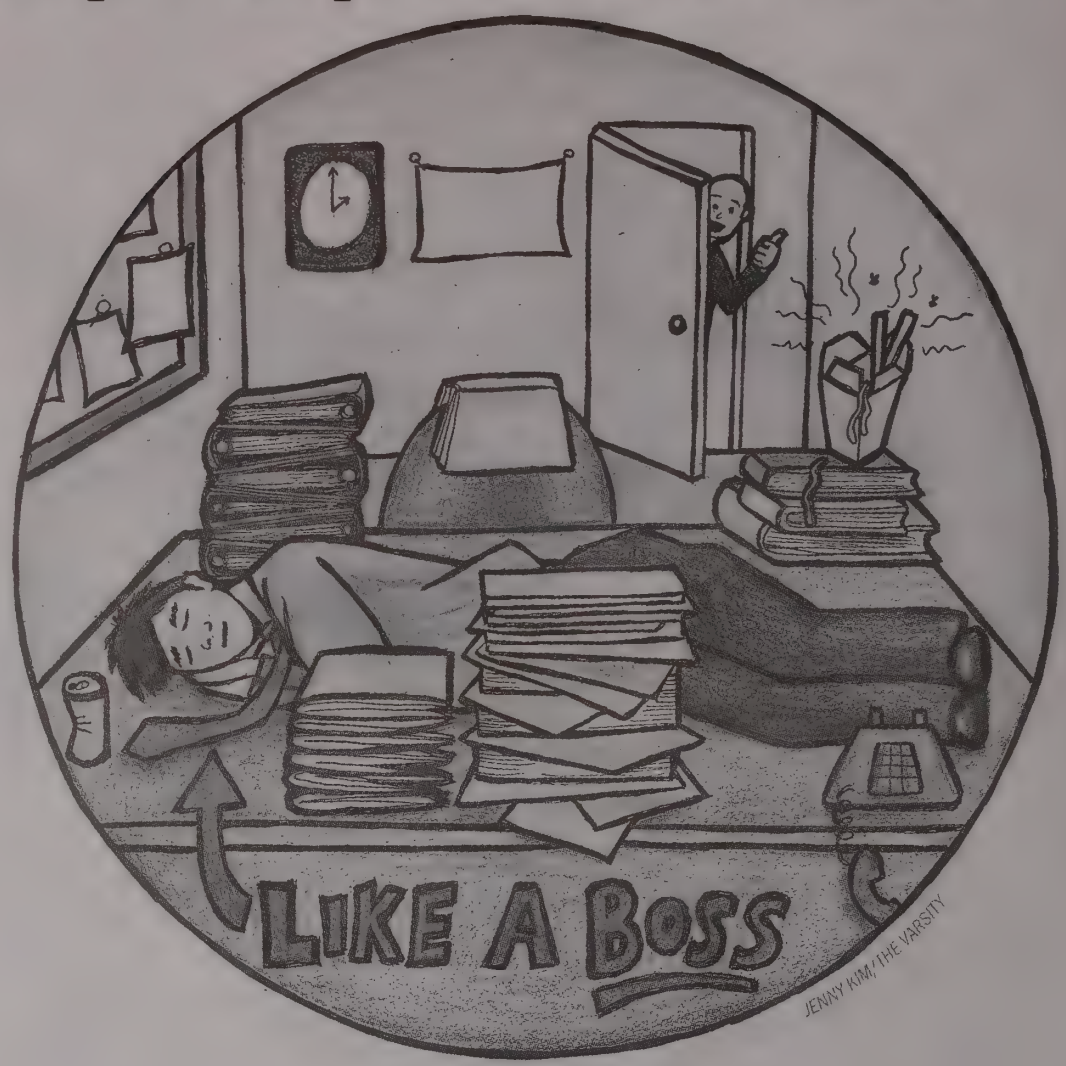
Broccoli contains slightly lower, yet still remarkably high, levels of many of the same nutrients found in the vegetables listed above. In addition to these nutrients, broccoli is touted for its phytonutrients, which are known for their anti-cancer effects.

This is just a sampling of fruits and vegetables containing the highest levels of vitamins and minerals. Every fruit and vegetable contains a unique mixture of nutrients and benefits, so be sure to incorporate as many different fruits and vegetables as possible into each day to ensure optimum health.

The nutrient values used in this article were taken from the USDA Nutrient Database, The Canadian Nutrient File, and www.nutritiondata.self.com

Remember to sleep: sleep helps remembering

Cristina Olteanu
VARSITY STAFF



Memories we acquire during our day-to-day lives are malleable, and by no means consolidated forever. The theory of reconsolidation explains that reactivating a memory during wakefulness destabilizes memories. It also assumes that reactivating memories during slow wave sleep, or SWS, consolidates memory.

A study published in the January 23 issue of *Nature Neuroscience* by Susanne Diekelmann and colleagues reports that while memories reactivated during waking enter into a malleable state, those reactivated during sleep remain stable. In other words, sleep protects memories from being tampered with.

Not surprisingly, reactivating memories in study participants involves different brain regions, depending on whether they are awake or asleep. Reactivation during wakefulness activates areas of the prefrontal cortex, the front-most area of the brain. On the other hand, recalling memories during sleep mainly activates areas in the back of the cerebral cortex, along with the hippocampus, a structure critical to memory, deep inside the brain.

If memories are reactivated, they must be stabilized once again if they are ever to be recalled in the future. Reactivating memories during SWS produces this crucial stability. In their study, Diekelmann and colleagues showed that reactivating memories during sleep produces this renewed stability in synaptic connections, thus protecting memories against interference. They found that destabilization occurs at a much faster rate during sleep than in wakefulness.

In the study, researchers made participants recall memories during waking or sleep states, using auditory or olfactory stimuli. Using this technique, they found that memories did not enter their usual highly malleable state when they were remembered during sleep. Fascinatingly, this stabilizing effect occurred in the absence of subsequent REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, suggesting that REM sleep might not even be necessary for this process.

What causes this difference? Since during wakefulness, subjects are consciously aware of remembering, and are engaged in various activities at the same time, they may have unknowingly created new associations with the memory, explaining the labile phase of memory formation. It is also widely believed that the waking state and sleep state of the brain complement each other to update memories and strengthen memories alternately.

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Blues football loses head coach



PHOTOS COURTESY VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE

Daniel Tsiokos
VARSITY STAFF

Greg DeLaval has resigned to move back to Calgary to be with his family after three successful years as U of T's football coach

After three years as head coach of the Varsity Blues Football Team, Greg DeLaval is going home.

As of April 15, 2011, DeLaval will be moving back to his native city of Calgary, and taking on an assistant coach position with the University of Calgary Dinos.

DeLaval resigned on March 12 so that he could be closer to his wife Marlo, and his two- and four-year-old sons. This past season he led the Varsity Blues to their best record in 15 years.

Although he never thought he'd consider an assistant job over a head job, DeLaval and Dinos head coach Blake Nill began talking when he was out West recruiting for the Blues. He changed his tune after considering the fact that he already owns a home in Calgary. His wife was able to get a job there, and his eldest son would be able to start school in a stable environment.

Marlo and their two children currently live in Nova Scotia, where she is from and where DeLaval played university football and started his coaching career.

"We [have] an opportunity to be together in a way, and we live in a very good neighbourhood. We [know] where our son was going to go to school for the first time," DeLaval says. "All the moons lined up while I was out there."

DeLaval has made his mark during his time at U of T.

In his first game as head coach, on an interim basis in back 2008, the Blues to broke their 49-game losing streak, the longest in CIS history, against the Waterloo Warriors.

This season, DeLaval watched his team come out on top in one of the biggest upsets in CIS football history. The Blues, who were ranked second last in the nation, toppled the Ottawa Gee Gees, Canada's second-best university football team.

DeLaval, however, considers his biggest achievement as head coach to be off the field.

"Those two games were huge, but probably the biggest thing was that we changed the culture. We've changed it from a program where there was a lot of losing," says DeLaval. "What's contributed to that was not only the coaching, but also that the university has put these wonderful facilities together. The kids want to win, they want to work out, they're committed, and they're having a good time because they're having a real true student athlete experience."

He hopes his players to remember to 'live above the line.'

"We say 'live above the line' and what that means is that you're a University of Toronto student and you have to live by higher standards," DeLaval said. "It's not something that is just for their university days, it's something I want them to live by during their whole lives. It's about being the best academically, it's about being the best athlete, it's about being the best in the community, and it's about being a good person.

> I gave everything to that program. I put my family behind the program, and I just can't do that anymore.
>
> —GREG DELAVAL

"Our kids, at some point, are going to be fathers, they're going to be husbands, they're going to be employees or employers, and their conduct is important. I want them to one day look back and tell their kids that it's important to live above the line. When you slip below the line and you compromise your values, or don't live by high standards, I don't think you'll be a happy person. That's the message that I've been trying to send to them the last three years."

And Blues quarterback Jordan Scheltgen understands the message DeLaval has been trying to get across to him and the rest of the team.

"Don't be average — he tried to instil that in all of us," Scheltgen said. "It's not only so that we'll be good players, but so that we'll be good people."

"He's all about class," added Blues defensive back Hugo Lopez. "Football players have a stereotype, and he's trying to change that. He wants people to look up at us and say 'They're football players, and they're also good people.'"

U of T has named Greg Gary, who played at California State University, Fullerton, a brief stint with the Los Angeles Rams, and four years with the Hamilton Tigercats, as DeLaval's successor.

DeLaval knows that the football program will continue on its current path with Gary as the new coach.

"Greg Gary is going to continue on, he's not going to disrupt anything, he's just going to support it, and continue to challenge the coaches and the players to make the program better," DeLaval said.

DeLaval's time at U of T was cut shorter than he had planned. He admitted that he had expected to be U of T's head coach for a long time and thought he might retire here.

While he is happy to reunite with his family, DeLaval still feels that he is losing a big part of his life when he leaves Toronto.

"I'll miss the people here. I made a lot of good friends here, I really liked being here and I thought I'd be here a long time," DeLaval said. "I'll miss the players and the coaches. I'd love to be here for the next couple of years to see this through. The coaches and the players are going to take it to where it needs to go."

DeLaval has made football his life during his time in Toronto, and now he is focusing on his family.

"I gave everything to that program. I put my family behind the program, and I just can't do that anymore," DeLaval said.

"I've never seen a coach work that hard," said Lopez. "Day-in and day-out, he's thinking of things to do that will make the team better, especially the little things."

Scheltgen also recognizes how much DeLaval has put into the program at U of T, and though he will be gone, DeLaval will still be on their side.

"Deep down he's a Blue," Scheltgen said. "He put everything he had into the team, and I know he'll be rooting for us when he's gone."

DeLaval believes that the Varsity Blues will be a top football program in the CIS in the near future and even expecting he might see a repeat of what happened in 1993, when Toronto beat the Calgary Dinos and won the Vanier Cup.

"Watch this program in two or three years," said De Laval. "They're going to be outstanding, nationally competitive."



Greg DeLaval played high school football at St. Mary's in Calgary, winning a city championship in 1986, and was later inducted into their hall of fame.

He was a wide receiver for the St. Francis Xavier X-Men, playing there in 1990 and then from 1994–97. He was a team captain for three seasons (1995–1997), and was named an academic All-Canadian as well as winning the Marcel Lussier Award for community service in 1997.

He was an assistant head coach from 1998–2002 at St. FX, serving as offensive coordinator. He was also responsible for recruiting, and raised over $60,000 for the football program over a two-year span.

He was an assistant coach for the Varsity Blues from 2003–2005, serving as special teams coach and receivers coach, as well as the assistant coordinator for player development. He was also responsible for building a national recruiting program.

He was the special teams coordinator and offensive assistant at the University of Calgary from 2006–2007, and was responsible for recruiting in Central and Eastern Canada. In 2007 the team led the CIS in rushing and special teams finished on top of every category except for one in the Canada West conference.

In 2008 he returned to Toronto as the interim head coach, and in his first game the Blues defeated the Waterloo Warriors 18–17, snapping their CIS record 49-game losing streak, and finished the season 2-6.

Spotlight on: THE VARSITY BLUES GOLF TEAM

BY CHARLOTTE TOMBS



Blues golfer Matthew Hoskins in full swing. VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE

The team's successful season, marked by strong team finishes and outstanding individual performances, comes as no surprise as Blues golfers all have many years of experience behind them before coming to U of T.

Head coach Chris Tortorice often recruits players to the team at junior provincial and national tournaments. This is where he found Richard Persaud, an OUA First Team All-Star who finished second individually at the OUA Championships this year.

"I played a lot of junior golf at the provincial level and national level," says Persaud. "Actually, that's how I met the coach, through the provincial training, and that's how he introduced me to [the Varsity Blues]."

The team has a three-day tryout period in September. Athletes are chosen based on their previous competition results and their scores from the three rounds of golf that they play during the tryout period.

There are three official team practices each week. They are held in the dome driving range during the fall season, which kicks off once tryouts end.

As practice coach for the team, Dave Woods helps team members "practice a combination of short-game shots and full swings," says Blues golfer Julia Pilliar.

In addition to working with practice coach Dave Woods, the women's team has their own coach, Evelyn Paik.

"Having Evelyn Paik as our assistant coach is a huge asset as she comes to tournaments with us and focuses solely on helping the women's team," says Pilliar.

In the spring the team practices twice a week at the Angus Glenn Golf Club in Markham.

Team members are also expected to keep in shape on their own time so that they are physically ready to compete.

The fall season is very short, lasting only until mid-October.

"The team packs a lot of work into that season," says Persaud. "Then we come back in the spring and play a spring event, usually in the states, and then we usually play the National Championships in May."

The team competed in Florida this year and fundraised to attend these tournaments. The men's team placed second at the Spring Break Invitational at Wanamaker Golf Course in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Second-year Laura Upenieks won the women's tournament by nine strokes while Tyler Miehe, also in second year, placed third in the men's with a score of 150.

The men's team place second at the OUA's this year.

"Nothing specific separates us from the teams who did better," says Miehe. "I'm sure that the five teams that beat us that week, of all the tournaments in the fall we beat each one of those teams at least once."

"It's a two-day event and you don't always perform your best in two days," adds Persaud. "I think we performed pretty well, it's just that a lot of the other schools happened to perform a little bit better. I'd say it's a pretty even playing field."

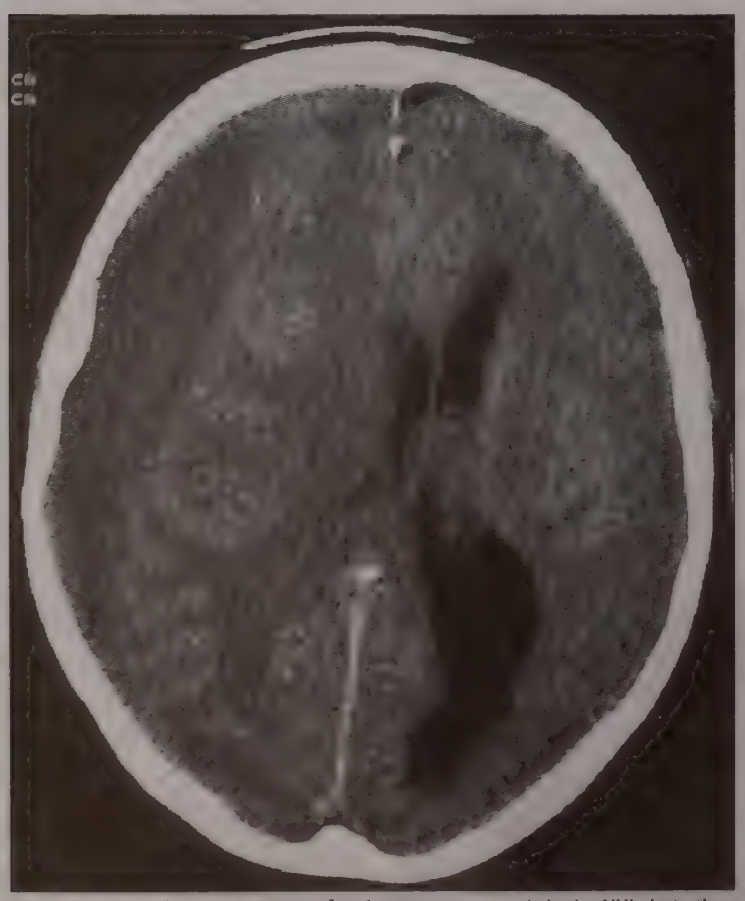
Both Persaud and Miehe agree that the men's team needs to improve their psychological game and they attribute their sixth-place performance at the OUA Championships to weakness in this aspect of the sport.

"We've had a few seminars where Dave has asked us to describe how we feel when we're playing badly and how we feel when we're playing well," says Miehe.

During the front nine holes at the OUA Championships the team was in first place, but by the back nine their performance was not as strong.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

A good sport



Head shots have become an area of major concern not only in the NHL, but other pro sports leagues. Several players have been sidelined due to concussions. BRITISH JOURNAL OF SPORTS MEDICINE

Hit me with your best shot

Recently concussed NHLers have sparked controversy over head injuries in other pro sports

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The ongoing debate in the NHL over headshots (that's to say, one player deliberately targeting another's head) is probably going to get hotter before it gets cooler.

The headshot debate, however, is part of a broader reckoning in professional sports that has seen a transformation in how head injuries are regarded and treated.

The catalyst to all of this was the concussion Sidney Crosby suffered in early January. He hasn't been back on the ice since.

As many commentators have pointed out, not many players have returned from concussions as bad as his and performed as well as before. The prospect of the game's most dynamic and marketable player going down for the last half of a season and possibly being permanently damaged has opened many eyes.

It's next to impossible for the casual fan to guess if Crosby would be playing through his pain if this were 10 or 20 years ago when concussions were not well understood. A recent spate of health problems, some of them even fatal, amongst long-retired professional athletes (notably in the NFL) has led to the idea that teams should seriously rethink how they handle their injured athletes.

The problem with concussions is that they're not visible or even noticeable in most cases. Prior to advancement in medical knowledge about what concussions really are and do to us, athletes would have played through them because locker room culture stigmatizes males in their 20s who miss playing time when there's nothing discernibly wrong with them.

Hockey is unique among sports where head injuries are a problem in that the majority of them are caused by plays that can't really be justified other than by Neanderthal-like aggression.

Baseball MVP Justin Morneau was shut out of the sport after a concussion last July. But his injury happened on a freak play (as do most baseball concussions) so there has been no league-wide crisis with an obvious root cause. Pitchers are not throwing at hitters' heads in pandemic numbers.

And in the NFL, physical violence is unavoidable and a part of the game. A football player crushing a receiver with the ball and hurting him is a much more justifiable play than a hockey player blindsiding another player who is nowhere near the puck.

In hockey, some traditionalists worry that those obsessed with reducing headshots them are impeding on some kind tradition or besmirching the game's heritage and character. But they have missed the train as far as public opinion goes. Everyone, from the parents of very young players to the administrators of leagues for teenagers to the NHL itself, is re-evaluating violence in the sport.

And the consensus is, the times they are a-changin'.

What U of T has in common with the WWE

Is it really a shock that Wrestlemania XXVII is in tandem with that end-of-semester crunch?

Bernarda Gospic
VARSITY STAFF



Dropping books for a shot at a WWE championship belt is every undergrad's dream. I am not generalizing. *PAUL GOSPIC/THE VARSITY*

Wrestling fans from all across the globe will be celebrating as the world's most electrifying stage in sports entertainment returns for the 27th time on Sunday, April 3 in Atlanta.

As usual, this event is in tandem with the final grapple each University of Toronto student has with end-of-semester assignments, presentations, and tests.

Coincidence? I beg to differ.

Professional wrestling, specifically Wrestlemania, and undergraduate studies have more in common than you might think. Forget the fact that you may have pushed your interest in the so-called ersatz sport to the side many, many years ago and ponder this question: have you ever faked it?

Think back to when you were an adolescent and heard the collective moans from kids calling themselves "hardcore" WWF fans. As soon as they found out about the alleged razor technique*, they made it their personal mission to tell all the believers that wrestling was, in fact, a sham and denounced their creed, which was that of the crippler crossface*.

If you were one of those kids, there is a special spot reserved for you in heretic hell.

Let's say that there was some merit, though. Maybe the wrestlers are faking it, but can we really blame them?

You must have felt the pressure to deliver at one point, or twelve, in your late teens and early 20s at U of T. The wrestlers in the WWE are coerced into satisfying millions of watchers while receiving massive blows to the head and being verbally attacked by the crowd.

We, the students, have acquiesced in our school's ability to kill our self-esteem. Just like the wrestlers, we attempt to get our egos back, but rather through academic diligence and a bit of truth-stretching.

But when push comes to shove, some will stop at nothing to get what they want. Enter the art of feigning. Yes, I am making a bold assumption and calling all of us out on one level of lying or another.

Ever cited a panic attack to get a week-long extension on an assignment you didn't want to hand in, in fear of getting a low mark? Remember getting that exam deferred because of a bout with "explosive diarrhea"?

These precautions were taken not because you wanted to lie, but because you just aspired to live up to the expectations of someone holding much power over you and your career.

The WWE audience is administration at U of T.

It is hard to take in, believe me, I know. We are all just a bunch of performers, toiling away for something much greater than ourselves. And you know what? It doesn't end there.

In first year, every student at St. George is a jobber*, and a big one at that. You come in not having a single clue as to what to expect, other than knowing you are part of the elite.

But then you get your first essay back and your appallingly low mark kills every ounce of confidence you once held in your ability to write an awesome paper.

Unfortunately, jobber comparisons can't be made between first years and Wrestlemania competitors, seeing as it is exclusively for those whose hearts pump only the fearless blood of tigers. Oh wait, never mind. Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi will be making her sporting debut (I won't count that blow she took to the face to the face in a club last season) in a 6-person mixed tag team match.

Here's to hoping she jobbers it up.

And I think we've all encountered that one jerk in lecture or tutorial who suffers from delusions of grandeur and doesn't realize that nobody wants to hear them harangue the professor or make an "intellectual" comment that lacks any purpose to class discussion.

Leave it to the wrestlers to go on insane speeches of self-absorption. We pay to listen to the profs, not you, okay?

If this were a just world, I could deliver a devastating DDT* to every one of those fools without suffering any legal consequences.

Wrestlers and undergrads share another thing in common: they end shit abruptly. Whether it be the loss of steam, stamina, or time, it's bound to happen in matches, essays, and social encounters. At least the wrestlers know how to carry on a conversation, though. Fuck, I have an assignment to write.

***Razor blade technique:** Using a razor blade to create wounds during matches to heighten the audience's excitement with an onslaught of blood.

***Crippler crossface:** A punishing wrestling hold perfected by the late Chris Benoit.

***Turnbuckle:** An important asset to any wrestler who wishes to lay the smack down on their opponent in the corner of the ring.

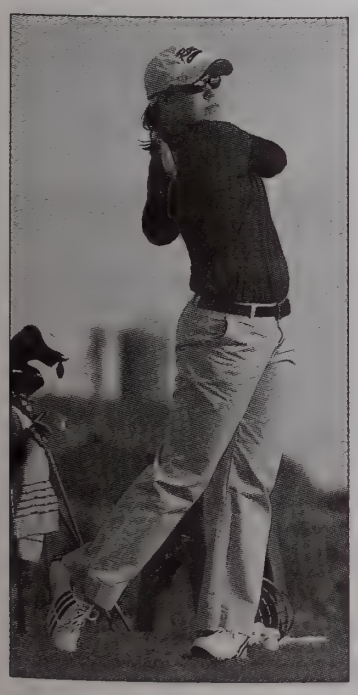
***Jobber:** A wrestler who routinely loses matches and is the butt of every joke.

***DDT:** A wicked wrestling move accidentally invented by Jake "The Snake" Roberts involving a headlock and the forceful drive of the opponent's head into the mat.

***FU:** Now known as the "attitude adjustment" because WWE pussied out under pressure from parents; essentially a powerslam.

Predictions for Wrestlemania XXVII:

1. Canada's Edge will pummel Alberto Del Rio and retain the World Heavyweight Championship belt.
2. John Cena, Doctor of Thuganomics, will defeat the Miz via FU* and will take back his lameass spinner belt reign as holder of the WWE Championship.
3. Triple H will break the Undertaker's Wrestlemania winning streak by means of pedigree in this probably epic No Holds Barred matchup.
4. Jerry Lawler will hopefully bury Michael Cole's ego forever.
5. Randy Orton will RKO CM Punk and hopefully make that Nexus bitch shut his mouth for good.
6. Rey Mysterio AND Cody Rhodes will both lose the match. They will smell what the Rock is cooking.
7. The Undertaker is pissed about his loss to Triple H and RIPs Snooki.
8. I don't know who Sheamus or Daniel Bryan are. The United States Championship belt is a joke, anyway. Bring back Shelton Benjamin!



Katie Mah, as she follows through her shot. *VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE*

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

"At the OUAs this year we were seven shots back at the start of the day and a few of us had really good front nine [scores], then on the back nine we did worse," says Miehe.

As the National University/College Championships approach, the men's team plans on improving the consistency of their performances and their psychological approach to the game.

The women's team had a better outcome at the OUAs, placing second overall.

Individually, Upenieks finished second with a score of 153 and Julia Pilliar finished in third place with a score of 156. Both athletes were named OUA First Team All-Stars.

As the 2010/2011 golfing season comes to a close, the main goal for both the men's and women's teams is to place among the best three teams at the Canadian University/College Championships at the end of May.

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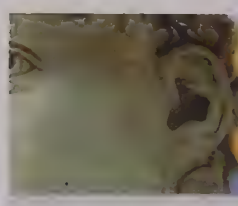
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Overheard On Campus

Girl: "then i was all like, i'm sorry but i am not willing to get syphilis from you!"
—King's college circle

Two guys in the back of my Criminal Law class got into a fight over whether the accused in a case study should be found guilty of assault. At the boiling point of their argument, one said: "keep talking and I'll show you assault!!!"

Prof Wrobel in HIS334, on his experience upon going from Communist East Poland to West Germany for the first time, and discovering all-you-can-eat buffets.
"What? I can eat all I want? Alright!"

Prof is calmly trying to pull down the projector screen for a full minute or so.
Girl: Man, he's so slow.
Guy: Yeah, but that's okay - it means he's chillz...

OISE professor:
"That was when I teach thirty years ago, so I don't get sued. If it was today, I would be sued and go to jail, and you bring me cake and cigarettes."
After failing to operate the projector: "When in doubt, always destroy."

Girl approaching another girl sitting near Tim Hortons.
Girl 1: I am so mad at you!
Girl 2: Oh my... did you find my underwear underneath your pillow?
—UTM- South Building.

Share your own 'overheards' on the 'Overheard on Campus' Facebook group!

2011-2012 Editor-in-Chief and Masthead Elections

The nomination period for the position of Editor-in-Chief will be from Monday, March 28th – Monday, April 4th, at 7 p.m.

Speech night for the position of Editor-in-Chief will be on Monday, April 4th at 8 p.m. at The Varsity, 21 Sussex Avenue, 2nd floor.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, April 5th and Wednesday, April 6th until 9 p.m. at The Varsity, 21 Sussex Avenue, 2nd floor.

Results will be announced on Wednesday, April 6th at 10 p.m.

The nomination period for masthead positions is from Monday, March 28th – Thursday, April 7th, at 7 p.m.

Speech/election night will occur on Thursday, April 7th, 8 p.m. at The Varsity, 21 Sussex Avenue, 2nd floor.

All Varsity staff are eligible to vote

All nominations can be submitted to ceo@thevarsity.ca

LikeALittle at University of Toronto

At Robarts Library 11th floor: Male, Brunette.
You just left in a sophisticated grey jacket, sick tattoo on the back of your left arm... and you look remarkably like Johnny Depp.... Didn't even know they created guys as hot as you in real life....

At Hillel St George: Female, Black hair.
Always look forward to our dance class, just so that can get to see your cute face...wish i could ask you out...

At Outside the ARC: Male, Black hair.
I was studying with my friend upstairs outside the ARC and you were selling chocolates for the dragon boat team. I didn't get to buy any cause my friend said no before I could talk. I've thought you were hot since the first time I saw you.

At Robarts Library: Female, Brunette.
Lady that works at the front desk... you're very pretty.

At Outside Innis College: Male, Blonde.
You're a total babe! You're one of those donations for non-profit charity collector guys. My friend was talking about chocolate-covered jujubes, and you asked us if we found any. It's a shame you're working, because I honestly cannot afford to donate money right now. Can I just come talk to you 'cause you're cute?

Courtesy of likealittle.com/utoronto

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

FESTIVALS:

Toronto Silent Film Festival
Shhh! The second annual Toronto Silent Film Festival will return you to a time when images truly spoke, on the big screen as they were meant to be seen, with live accompaniment as they were meant to be heard. Don't miss the sights and sounds of cinema's original classics. Opening Night will feature "The Wild, The Beautiful... And the Damned".
- *March 30 to April 7 at 8 p.m.*
- *Innis College, Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave.)*
- *$15 (check torontosilentfilmfestival.com for more details)*

FOOD:

Greek Day
Join the Greek Students' Association for their annual Greek Day! There will be food and music... what could be better? They'll have gyros, souvlaki, drinks, pastries, and more. Prices range from $1 for pastries to a $5 meal which includes your choice of gyros or souvlaki, plus salad, potatoes and rice.
- *March 30 at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*
- *Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George St.)*
- *$1-$5*

LECTURES:

Alexander Lectures 2011
These lectures will run at University College from March 29 to April 1. Dwight McBride will discuss "The Politics of Race and Sexuality" in a series of four lectures; "Baldwin and the New Black Studies", "The Perils of Black Leadership", "Toni Morrison, Intellectual" and "Race, Faith, and Sexuality".
- *March 29 to April 1 at 4:30 p.m.*
- *University College, Room 140 (15 King's College Circle)*
- *Free!*

MUSIC:

Open Mic Night at Hart House
Open Mic is a vibrant, exciting and spontaneous night of free flowing music and high energy jam sessions. Hosted by Alma Paraliji with technical and musical assistance by Michel Plourde, Open Mic invites all aspiring artists and budding performers to take to the stage and join the music revolution.
- *March 31 at 8:30 p.m. (sign-ups begin at 7:30)*
- *Hart House, Arbor Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

WALKS:

Moving Toward Change
March is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Faculty of Physical Education and Health is bringing you this two-part event. It starts with a "Walk of Hope" departing from Hart House and finishes with a panel discussion on mental health issues among the university student population.
- *March 28 at 5 p.m. (Walk) and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Panel)*
- *Hart House, Music Room (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

EXHIBITS:

JUNO Sole
The Bata Shoe Museum has teamed up with the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences to create this exhibition celebration 40 years of the JUNO Awards. Check out footwear worn by Shania Twain, Bryan Adams, Avril Lavigne, Anne Murray, Sarah McLachlan and more. The exhibit also features film footage of JUNO Award winners performing live.
- *On till November 30*
- *Bata Shoe Museum (327 Bloor St. West)*
- *$8 with student ID*

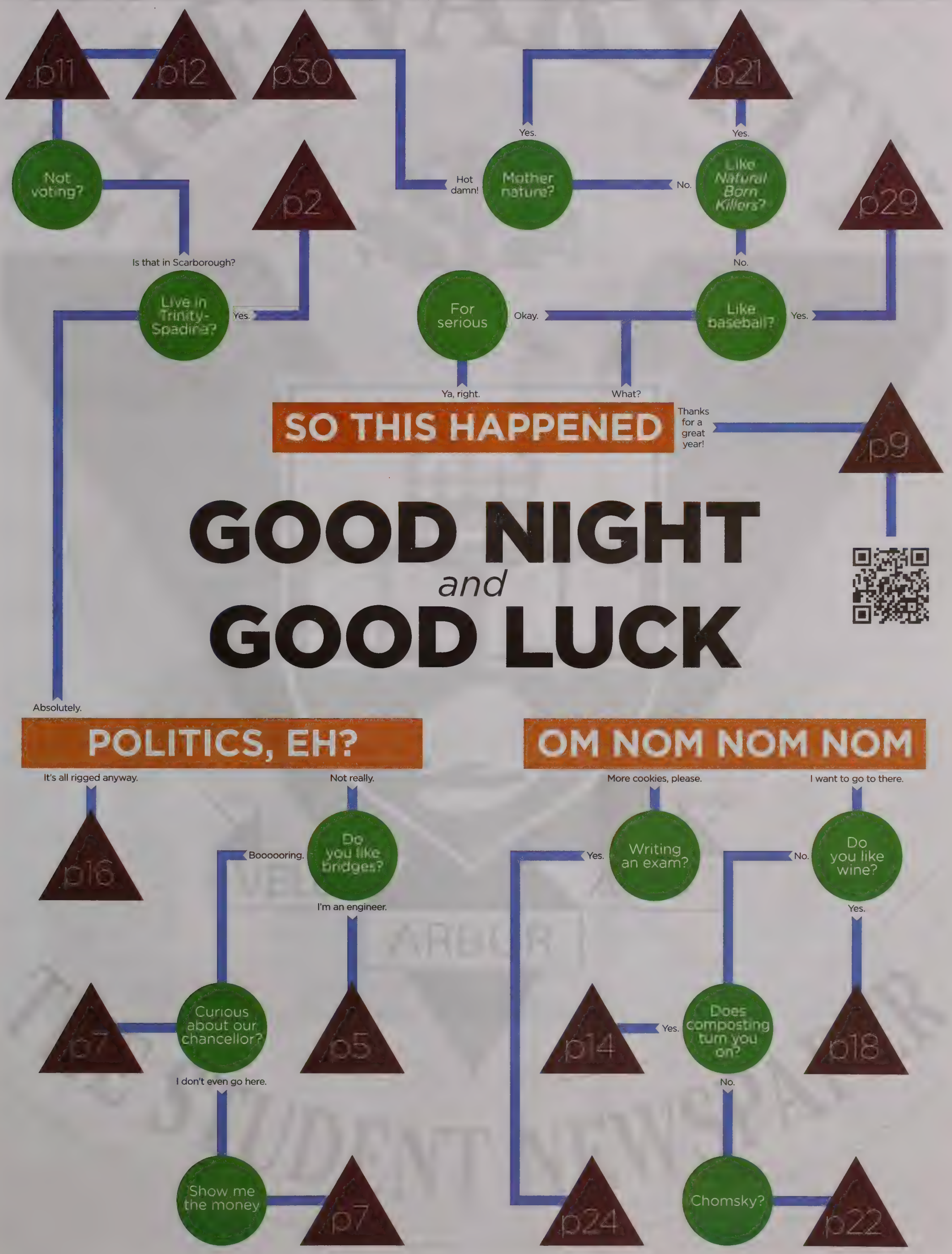
FESTIVALS:

Images Festival
Feast your senses on the best in local, national and international media art as the Images Festival returns to showcase artist-run culture in Toronto. Take in film and video programs, installation art in galleries, live performances marrying sound and image, special events and artist talks.
- *March 31 to April 9, various times*
- *Various locations*
- *Various prices (check imagesfestival.com for details)*

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to **listings@thevarsity.ca**

THE VARSITY

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Campus, meet your candidates

Trinity-Spadina hopefuls explain what they'll do for U of T if elected. Compiled by DYLAN C. ROBERTSON.



GIN SIOW, CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Dear University of Toronto students,

My name is Gin Siow and I am running in Trinity-Spadina for the Conservative Party of Canada. In 1982, I emigrated from Malaysia to Canada, where I immediately put my entrepreneurial skills to work. The Conservative Party believes in hard work, responsibility, and equal opportunity

Equal opportunities to education are so important. That is why, under Stephen Harper, our government introduced the Canada Student Grants Program in 2009 and distributed 290,000 grants in the 2009–2010 school year. We have also increased transfers to the provinces by 40 per cent and made scholarships and bursaries tax-free. Because of our actions, our government received an "A" rating from the Conference Board of Canada for education and skills training.

Looking to the future, our government has also announced that we will make student loans interest-free for part-time students. This means that workers can upgrade their education without quitting their jobs. With two children of my own in university, I appreciate the Conservative Party's efforts in education, and hope I can count on your support on May 2 to continue delivering results for students.

Sincerely,

Gin Siow, Candidate, Trinity-Spadina; Conservative Party of Canada



RACHEL BARNEY, GREEN PARTY

Why vote Green?

Because only one party cares about the real issues. Climate change: we need to get serious now — and that means a carbon tax; our broken democracy: let's fix our system, and make every vote count (for details, see greenparty.ca/issues/vision-green); the bogus 'war on drugs:' It's time to legalize marijuana — and start treating the truly dangerous drugs as medical problems, not criminal; our crumbling cities: Greens will double the gas tax transfer for public transportation; accessibility to higher education is eroding, and the other parties' gimmicks won't help the students who need it most. Greens believe in funding universities and students directly: more scholarships, more bursaries, more research; and because only one party is part of your community.

I was a U of T student in the mid-1980s, and as a member of Governing Council won the vote for divestment from apartheid South Africa. Later I got a PhD at Princeton, and taught at Ottawa, Harvard, and Chicago. I came home in 2003, living in Christie Pits and teaching here in both classics and philosophy. I know and love our community, and would be proud to be your member of Parliament.



CHRISTINE INNES, LIBERAL PARTY

Christine Innes is the Liberal Party's candidate in Trinity-Spadina. She is an accomplished professional and mother of four, one of whom is an undergraduate university student. Christine graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School. She practiced commercial litigation for 10 years and now works for the Ontario government. She and her family have lived in Trinity-Spadina for more than 25 years.

In a highly competitive global economy, Christine knows that Canadian jobs and prosperity depend on having the most educated and skilled workforce in the world.

While other countries have invested heavily in learning and innovation, Canada has fallen behind.

The Liberal Party has a vision to create jobs and a highly skilled workforce by investing in students. We will give $4,000 tax-free for tuition to every student planning to go to college or university. Low-income recipients would get $6,000. It will be completely portable and will not need to be matched by students or family.

The Liberal Party will make improvements in Aboriginal education and will ensure 100 per cent high-speed Internet connectivity for distance learning.

Christine and the Liberal Party believe that we must have a simple objective: "If you get the grades, you get to go to university or college."



OLIVIA CHOW, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Only Olivia Chow and the New Democrats, under Jack Layton's leadership, have been standing up in Parliament and voting against Harper's destructive agenda. However, with Michael Ignatieff's help, the Conservatives have extended the war in Afghanistan, and expanded the tar sands.

Olivia gets results for Trinity-Spadina. She has created hundreds of summer jobs for young people, and introduced a National Transit Strategy Bill to improve the TTC. She has helped the community find practical solutions and discuss important issues such as health and home care, the tar sands, increasing pensions, and digital copyright.

In Parliament, Olivia has pushed relentlessly for faster family reunification, recognition of foreign credentials, and won the fight to reinstate the history of gay rights in Canada's immigration guide. Parliament supported her motion to permit Iraq War resisters to stay in Canada. Olivia is a tireless representative for Trinity-Spadina. She was first elected to Parliament in 2006, after serving as a school board trustee and Toronto's first female Asian city councillor. The Conservatives consistently receive less than 15 per cent of the vote in Trinity-Spadina. By missing 58 per cent of the votes, Michael Ignatieff has failed to match his words to his actions. In Trinity-Spadina, re-electing Olivia Chow stops Stephen Harper.

The student perspective

The Varsity's **ELIZABETH KAGEDAN** *speaks with aspiring politicos from the big three parties*



Daniel Gatto, President of the U of T Liberals
4th year, French Specialist

THE VARSITY: *What are you and the U of T Liberals doing for this election?*
DANIEL GATTO: We will be taking a Trinity-Spadina focus. Of course, we will be around to help Bob Rae as well, but the focus will be on Christine Innes's campaign as this is really a critical riding for the party [...] Last year we came within 5 per cent of winning, and this year we are able to mount a much stronger campaign as last time it was very last minute, so this time we're ready, we've prepared well. In terms of our strategy, some things are yet to come. There will be a focus on canvassing, getting youth out there, talking to people conversing with voters [...] Now is not the worst of times in terms of getting students involved, but it's not exactly ideal.
TV: *How are you finding campaigning during exam season?*
DG: It's tricky, so often things happen last-minute, whether it's with campaign business or with school, but in the end things need to get done and you do them. So often you get a phone call, 'Can you do this?' and you say 'Okay' — it's just hard to say no when you have the possibility of another Harper government on the line.
TV: *What are the most important aspects of the Liberal platform for student?*
DG: The most important platform element was just released Tuesday morning, and it's the Canadian Learning Passport. A $1 billion plan to give every student regardless of family income $1,000 per year up to 4 years of post-secondary education, tax-free. For students of lower-income families, $1,500 per year per four years amounting to $6,000. Part-time students also benefit from the passport program, but at a lower rate.

As Michael Ignatieff has been saying since 2006, "If you get the grades you get to go." Michael Ignatieff, being a university professor who has worked in many countries as a professor including at U of T, he knows the importance of education. He has spent his life educating himself and educating others, so this is a thing essential to his character. And $1 billion is relatively not that much — the Harper government has spent $1 billion on a three-day G20 summit. Ask yourselves, would you rather have a G20 summit in Toronto [...] If you look at the security obstacles of having the summit in Toronto. It's just mind-boggling compared to having it in a smaller town. It was very inconvenient for the Canadian economy as business-people had to in some cases stay at home, and it was inconvenient for students who didn't have access to libraries [...] So not only did it cost $1 billion in explicit costs, but in implicit negative repercussions who knows how much more this would cost the economy, how much it would impede on the GDP.

If we look at some costs that have come up under the Harper Government, we are looking at $45 billion dollars, if not more, of quite questionable expenses [such as] the F35 plan: the Conservative government was planning to purchase these F35 fighter jets. The initial cost was projected to be $8 billion, plus maintenance $16 billion. This has now gone up to $21 billion, even $30 billion, so we don't really know when this will stop.

[...] Conservatives have cut GST by 2 per cent and put us in a weak position. Each percentage point cut represented cutting $6 billion per year, so that's cutting $12 billion from the budget. If we were bringing in $12 billion extra per year over the last several years, where would our deficit be?



Nick Brownlee, member of the U of T NDP
Taking a gap year, going into 2nd year next year

THE VARSITY: *What are you and the U of T NDP doing for this election?*
NICK BROWNLEE: Generally, encouraging all students to get out and be active. As a group, one of our co-chairs is out in Winnipeg being a VCO, I'm being a candidate and canvassing for different NDP campaigns. As a student group we're really trying to get people to be aware that they can be involved in politics, that politics is about more than just casting your ballot. It can be about being involved in decisions within political parties, on designing platform — and that's more for the NDPs than other parties, because when the Liberals hold a policy conference they just announce their policy; when the NDP hold a conference we debate our policy [...] Students can get involved, students can put forward proposals, and that's one of the things I was very surprised at when I got involved my first year, when you want to get involved you can jump right in the centre of it.
TV: *How are you finding campaigning during exam season?*
NB: I'm taking a year off, but in the past, organizing in general in the context of school, it's a lesson — no matter what stage you are in life you're going to have commitments other than politics unless you're working full-time in it, or any kind of activism for that matter, so you have to be very aware of what you can do and make the most of that time. So it's valuable, it's a lesson in efficiency really
TV: *What are the most important aspects of the NDP platform for students?*
NB: The NDP stands for students more than any other political party. We believe in the long-run building towards a universal post-secondary education system that a number of countries in Europe have built. Obviously this is something that you build over time, but in the meantime a great number of U of T students and students across the country are working at the same time as they're going to school. They're doing part-time courses, and it takes them a long time to get the degree, and we believe in supporting students through that, so that's most importantly cutting down on tuition costs, or if they're going into debt it's easier to pay off the debt in the future. And so we're really supporting the students on tuition-related issues [...] it's about giving people a good launch in life and making it affordable, and making sure people have a good retirement is what we're all about as a party.

[...] The biggest argument I get from most progressive people is that the NDP talk a big game but can't get elected, so what's the point of voting for them. But every time Jack's gone to the polls since he's been leader, we've gained seats as a party. We're gonna gain seats again this election, we hope to be part of the government, so it really proves Jack's slogan of "don't let them tell you what can't be done because you'll really be surprised at what can be accomplished."

[In a later email, Brownlee added]:

A quick clarification of the NDP and student fees; we're devoted to freezing, and then reducing tuition costs for every university in Canada. This way, every single student benefits and post-secondary education is made more accessible for everybody, including straight out of high school students and returning students. Ignatief's recently announced plan is less inclusive, as it is a straight-out-of-high-school benefit not useful for returning students, and an as-needed assistance to students from low-income families.



Patrick Langille, Secretary-General of U of T Campus Conservatives
3rd year, History

THE VARSITY: *What are you and the U of T Campus Conservatives doing for this election?*
PATRICK LANGILLE: So for this election we've been going out campaigning, we had a wine and cheese night with several prominent members of the party, and we've just been trying to coordinate with different groups that have a similar ideological background to the Conservatives [...] we're going to have a meeting very shortly to coordinate our election capabilities.

Mostly just canvassing, we organize a lot with the York Conservatives, we're going to go out to Eglinton-Lawrence and Eglinton-West to campaign in the next little while.

The candidate for the TS riding, Gin Siow, is having his campaign announcement this Saturday. A number of us are going to be attending that, just getting involved with the local community and trying to upseat the great red fortress of Toronto.
TV: *How are you finding campaigning during exam season?*
PL: That's probably one of the most difficult aspects of it just because we are all students, we come from different faculties, some of us are engineers, so they have particularly difficult schedules right now, but thankfully since the hotbed of campaign season is towards the end of April, exams are going to be finished with, so it shouldn't be too much of an issue [...] It's just like any other club really, whether or not it's a sports team, or a political club, or an academic club, you just find a way really, you know your limit, you know how many clubs you can be a member of, so it's not too difficult I find.
TV: *What are the most important aspects of the Conservative platform for students?*
PL: Well I think the Conservative Party has done a lot to get involved with a charity that has been promoting science and engineering opportunities for students, funding for equipment, and I think the main point of the Conservative Party this year is to get out of the recession.

Since 2009 the Conservative Party has created nearly 500,000 jobs for Canadians which is more than the number of jobs that were lost during the recession, so it will be easier to find a summer job this year with a Conservative government ... Harper plans to give up to $1,000 to offset the cost of hiring new employees for small companies, and many students will wind up working in that sort of small company, so this hiring incentive is going to be very good for students and that's a major reason why they should support the Conservative Party.

[The] Conservative Party has also been introducing new free trade agreements with the European Union and India, giving access to markets worth — each of them is worth over 2 trillion if I'm not mistaken — and giving access to 1.7 billion customers for Canadian manufacturers in some of the world's fastest growing economies.

With negotiations intended to be completed by 2013, Canadian manufacturers will be given preference in India. This will actually pump 12 billion dollars into Canadian industry.

I think this will actually be Harpers' great legacy, his ability to weather this recession. And his budget, which simultaneously creates jobs and lower taxes, I think is definitely needed for Canadians right now. It will allow low-income families to save a bit, and it will also allow companies to more effectively access new markets.

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UTSC

Tragedy on campus

Family and friends recall the memories of 4th year student Karthiha Guruparan

Sarah Taguiam
VARSITY STAFF

Karthiha Guruparan was only a few weeks from graduating from UTSC when a speeding van ended her life on March 24.

A fourth year management student, Kartha, as family and friends know her, was determined to become an accountant like her father but strived even harder to bring her family together.

"Family was always first in her life, she was always the one who brings us closer," said Sherrin Arul, Guruparan's younger cousin and a fellow U of T student.

Long-time friend Stephanie Thevamanorathan recalls how much Guruparan has affected her life.

"Kartha [...] encouraged everyone to do their best in school, and often checked up on me to see how my assignments and midterms were going," Thevamanorathan said, recalling how Guruparan was like a "mother" to her and her friends.

"She was a person that we all looked up to, and as such, it was a huge shock when we heard what happened," added Thevamanorathan.

Guruparan was on her way home from studying late at UTSC and was crossing at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue and Murison Boulevard, east of Neilson Road, when she was struck by a speeding Dodge Caravan. She was immediately rushed to Sunnybrook where she died.

The 33-year-old male driver remained at the scene but no charges have been laid as the police are still investigating who had the right of way and whether Guruparan walked on a red light.

But Arul believed that Guruparan would have only crossed the road if it was on a green light.

"Kartha was honestly the most cautious person I know and personally, from what I know about the situation, I really don't believe that she crossed the red light," said Arul.

Despite her sudden death, Guruparan's memories live on in the minds of her family and friends.

Hajithaa Manoharan met Guruparan in a UTSC accounting class in 2008 and the two had been good friends ever since.

"Kartha helped me get through the toughest times in school, and she was my inspiration to do my best. [...] My memories of her will last forever," said Manoharan.

When asked about what they will remember most about Guruparan, Arul and Manoharan agreed that it is her smile and her ability to light up a room.

While Thevamanorathan said that she will never forget Guruparan's thoughtfulness.

"Even if she was a guest at a party, she would help serve food and clean up after everyone had left. She was thoughtful like that, and had an amazing heart."

UTSC presented Guruparan with a posthumous degree last Saturday and is planning a special memorial in her honour.



JENNY KIM/THE VARSITY



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ENGINEERING

Dean awarded by YWCA

Cristina Amon received prestigous Women of Distinction Award

Robin Buller
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

University of Toronto's Dr. Cristina Amon, dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, has been announced as one of the 2011 YWCA Women of Distinction Award recipients. Amon is being recognized for her efforts at breaking gender boundaries and shattering glass ceilings in the field of engineering at home and abroad.

Professor Amon will be one of seven women to receive an award at the 31st Annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards dinner on May 18. The event will raise funds to support YWCA programmes in the GTA.

In 2006, Amon became the first female dean of Canada's largest engineering school. During her tenure, she has drastically increased faculty's female presence; the female faculty has jumped from 21 to 38 members, and the number of women assistant professors grew to 41.5 per cent of the faculty complement in 2008.

Amon says that her career as an engineer is the result of a lifelong spirit of curiosity and inventiveness. "Since I was a child, I've always enjoyed trying to figure out and explain how things work," she said.

Much to her parents' chagrin, Amon would continually disassemble household items. She recalled taking apart her family's radio when she was just five years old with hopes of finding little people playing music inside. "It was my first engineering disappointment," she joked.

At one point, Amon thought that she would pursue a career in the sciences, but switched to engineering because of its practical application. "What really drove me to engineering was [...] doing things that would have an impact on peoples' lives in the close future."

Amon agrees with the Albert Einstein's famous statement, that "a scientist studies what is, [and] an engineer studies what never was." Every day, she is motivated by the opportunity to create things that did not exist before. "No profession releases the spirit of innovation like engineering," she said.

Dr. Amon, who was born and raised in Uruguay, took undergraduate studies in Venezuela and did her doctoral degree in the United States. As an engineering student in South America, Amon did not find a noticeable difference between the fields' treatment of males versus females. In fact, she said that there were more women than men studying to be engineers. "The assumption that engineering is not a career for women is a complete misconception," she said.

As a professional, she found that engineering was severely underrepresented by women. Amon has seen a slow improvement in the perception of women in the field, and says that a large part of the problem is that many people do not fully understand what engineering is all about.

"I think that improving the public understanding of engineering [...] will help bring more women into the progression," she said. She noted the impact that TV shows like CSI have had on the portrayal of certain careers as exciting and rewarding. "The applications for programmes in forensic sciences have increased significantly, and there is a close correlation with [popular] shows."

Amon thinks that it is important to increase awareness of the contributions women can make in an engineering position. Her outreach plans include the continued development of mentorship programmes like "Skule Sisters," which pairs U of T female engineering students to high

SEE 'YWCA' – PG 8

FILMING ON CAMPUS

Hollywood north?

The Varsity's JAKOB TANNER *explores how Hollywood films come to film at U of T*

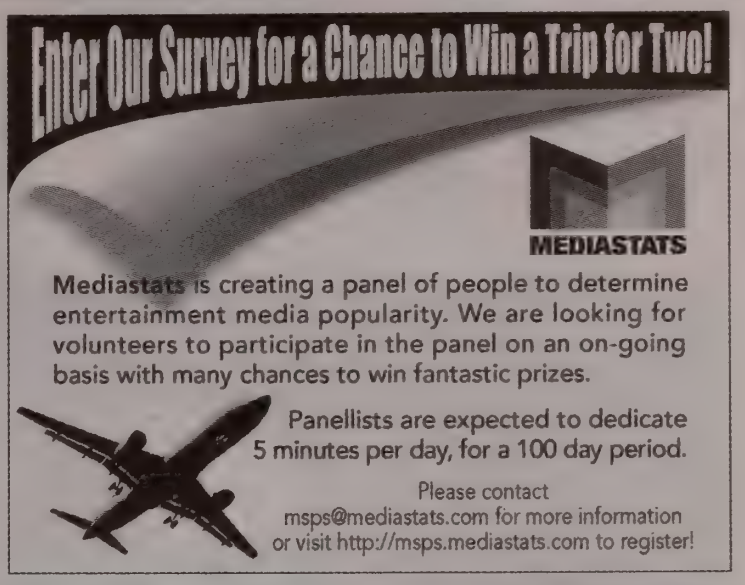
Time Travelers Wife, *Mean Girls*, and *Good Will Hunting* are among the many films that have taken advantage of the wide range of residence buildings, libraries, and lecture halls at U of T.

"As per the film policy, requests for location filming and photography should go through my office," said Chris Harris, External Liaison, Office of Space Management. "Documentary type filming about the University — its activities and the activities of members of the University Community — are usually handled by media relations personnel."

When it comes to location scouting, many film personnel do a preliminary survey on their own: exploring the campus, looking at pictures online, or recalling from memory. Generally, film companies contact the individual colleges when it comes for requesting a location on any of their properties. Also, the provinces' film office (Ontario Media Development Corporation) offers a photographic database for potential purchasers.

The University charges an initial location fee to the film companies. "They are also charged for any prep time and take down time required outside of the actual shoot day," said Harris. "Above and beyond the fee, any costs incurred

SEE 'HOLLYWOOD' – PG 8





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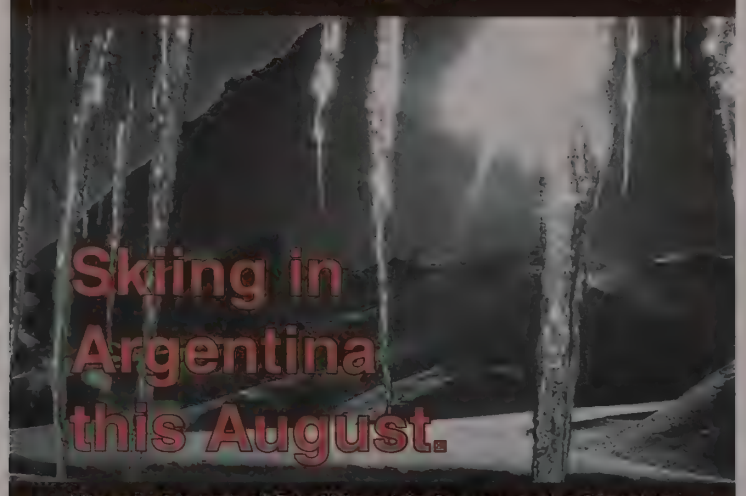
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Elvy

4th Year Physical Health and Education,
"Tea and biscuits to commemorate my newly acquired sophistication that is my graduate status."



Gina

2nd Year Philosophy and Religion
"Commencing the field research for the preparation of my new erotica novel, "Captain Chode and Master Bates."



Sherwin

3rd Year Religious Studies,
"Immediately skinny dip in Lake Ontario, scuba dive off the coast of Australia, dive off a waterfall in Brazil, and learn to swim :(."



Michael

Graduate School Civil Engineering,
"Streaking across the front of campus."



Jessica

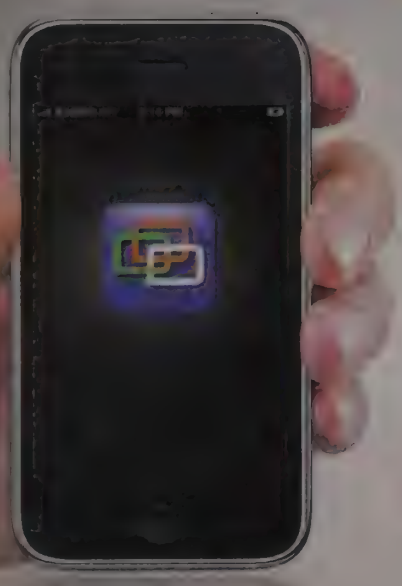
1st Year General Arts,
"Make up for a full month of being sober."



Godfrey

3rd Year Commerce,
"Yeah...but nah."

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ALUMNI

How he got here: David Peterson

Before becoming Premier, Peterson participated in boxing, chess, and debating as an undergraduate.

Robin Buller
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Hon. David Peterson grew up in London, Ontario. He did his undergraduate degree in philosophy at the University of Western Ontario before going on to study law at the University of Toronto. Since then, he has worked in business, been called to the bar, and served as premier of Ontario. He is currently the chancellor of U of T.

Peterson was very involved in university life; his extracurricular activities included debating, chess, and boxing. "I really had a lot of fun," he recalled.

Peterson stressed the spontaneity of his life. "Nothing in my life has been planned," he said. Even entering politics was not a planned move on Peterson's part. When asked how he decided to enter public life, he simply answered: "I didn't. It just kinda happened to me."

At the time, Peterson had been working in business. However, he had always been interested in politics, and had grown up in a very politically engaged family. A major motivator was his sense of obligation to the public welfare. "Everybody has the responsibility to make the world a better place," he said.

As a young man, Peterson tried not to close doors. "I didn't take the view that I had to be totally directed [or] focused on anything," he said. His mindset worked out for the best. "I don't have any regrets," he said, "Not one."

Peterson advises today's young people to experience the world as much as they can. "Engage with other cultures and other situations," he suggested. He acknowledged the unavoidable financial pressures that some face, but says that "if you have the luxury of choice, [...] widen your experience."

Peterson suggests working abroad if given the opportunity. "You can round out your life with different experiences, different places, [and] different people," he said.

He also emphasized the importance of having a variety of experiences, especially given the long summer break that university students enjoy, and sees any type of work as valuable. "Learning how to be a waiter is one of the greatest trainings you'll get in your life," he said, recalling the days that he, himself, worked in a restaurant. "You learn to work your tail off."

As a young person, Peterson always worked during the summers, and preferred to do physical labour. "I was tough," he said, "You wouldn't have messed around with me," he joked.

Once he worked on a railroad in Saskatchewan with Frontier College's literacy programme. The programme, which still exists today, hired university students to work to do labour in the mining, forestry, and railroad industries. During the evenings, the students would teach English to the immigrant workers. "It was a wonderful summer," said Peterson.

In his opinion, life lessons can be learned from the most gruelling jobs. "I'm a great believer in learning how to do things physically," he said. "I was never going to work with a spike hammer for the rest of my life," he noted, "but it added enormously to my tool kit as I grew up."

"I don't consider these [...] wasted experiences," he stressed. "I consider them [...] building ones."

Peterson also worked construction and hitchhiked around Europe. Although not directly applicable to his career, the experiences taught him lessons that he still applies today. "You learn what your own personal resources are," he said. Even boxing gave him life lessons. "You [...] learn your instinctive reaction when you're punching somebody else in the face."

Peterson emphasized the importance of relationships, whether they are with a co-worker, a partner, or a parent. "You [...] learn the joy of connecting your life with other people's happiness," he said. He thinks that having a variety of experiences and meeting a wide array of people increases one's compassion. "You're going to be happiest when you're making a contribution to other people's welfare," he continued.

Peterson sees greatest lessons in life as the one's that foster independence. "Every kid has baggage," he continued, "Rich people have baggage; poor people have baggage." To Peterson, what is important is that at a certain point, people get over their baggage and realize that they're responsible for they're own outcome. "Make sure you control your own destiny," he stressed.

According to Peterson, U of T is more rigorous than it was forty years ago. "Everything is a little tougher," he said, explaining how the university is more serious and competitive. "[Students] are better, on average, than when I was here," he noted, "and they have to be because it is, at the end of the day, a brutally competitive world."

At the same time, he advises university students to avoid growing up too fast. "There is a lot of pressure to get serious about life earlier," he observed, "but the longer you can avoid that, the happier you'll be."

To Peterson, technology has a huge role to play in the changing nature of the world. "The pressures [of] a highly technological world are very different from the pressures I faced." He says that because of this, younger generations will continue to surpass the older ones, and described how his three-year-old grandson is an iPhone whiz-kid. "The little guy is smarter than I am," he laughed.

Peterson is optimistic about the future of today's undergraduates. "You've got a tumultuous world to deal with," he said, "It's exciting."

U of T's students should be confident that they are on the right path. "If I were nineteen again, I'd do [...] a variation of what I did," smiled Peterson," I'd just do more."

RESEARCH

Having a good time?

Ioana Pantis
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A new study by the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management breaks down consumers' thought processes when estimating a good time for events or products.

Professor Claire Tsai believes "consumption time plays a central role in consumer decisions, and it is understudied by consumer researchers. Most people think disecting an event will always increase time estimates. We show this is not true for negative events and this finding has important policy implications."

The authors conducted three experiments with 500 participants to show that consumers' predicted consumption time is systematically influenced by whether they predict the consumption experience to be positive or negative. If the consumer sees the event as positive, then the estimation of time spent will be greater than if the consumer views the event as negative. This is so because "people hold a lay belief that they spend more time on more pleasurable events and less time on less pleasurable events."

Therefore, if a consumer foresees spending more time on an event or product, such as online social networking, workout equipment, unlimited parking passes, then the consumer is more likely to purchase the product. The consumer is interested in getting the best value for their money.

In one experiment, participants were asked to predict how much time they would spend on weekend social activities. This overarching category consisted of sub-activities such as blind dates, birthday parties, and phone conversations. Once the event was described as either pleasant or unpleasant, half of the participants made a time estimate for the overarching event, and the other half made time estimates for the

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'HOLLYWOOD' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

are also recovered by the University. These usually include parking, caretaking, campus police, electricians, operating engineers, etc."

Harris says that the most popular time for filming is when less students are around. "The university itself tends to have more filming activity in the summer as we have a higher tolerance for weekday filming in those months. Filming is generally not permitted on weekdays during the school year," said Harris.

"By far and away the most popular location is University College. I'd say Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building is the new up and coming star when they're looking for a modern aesthetic. The personnel in both these locations have been tremendously patient, supportive, and helpful," said Harris. "For exteriors, it would have to be King's College Circle. Generally though, almost everywhere on campus has likely been a location of some sort. Some of them seem really unlikely but to the practiced eye of a location scout, it fits the bill perfectly."

Varsity Publications Board of Directors ELECTION NOTICE

Lauren Ash:
Lauren Ash will be entering her third year at U of T as a student in Human Geography and Cinema Studies. As a native and mature Torontonian, Lauren knows the city and university life issues well. Her present executive role as external co-ordinator on LGBTout has enabled Lauren to actively collaborate with a diverse range of on & off campus media while also facilitating her strong commitment for documentary truth telling. By combining her artistic creativity, humorous wit, along with her urban community and campus passions, Lauren is a board candidate worthy of the Varsity's reputable name.

Jessica Denyer:
Jessica Denyer has been deeply involved with The Varsity through representing St George as a current director and also as former Chief Operations Officer within The Varsity's Board. A Book & Media Studies student, she has been involved with the steering committee of the UofT General Assembly and held executive and chair positions within groups like the Sexual Education Centre, TLF - a film club, LGBTout, besides being former editor of the publication Outlet. Outside of school, Jessica has organized against human rights abuses, including working on media for national legal defence campaigns. Vote for Jessica for both knowledge and experience.

Matthew Gray:
I'm in third year studying International Relations and History. Since my first year at U of T, I've been involved with clubs and their governance. In first year, I became an editor of The Toronto Globalist, and an executive at LGBTOUT. At the Globalist, I worked hard to redesign, rebrand, and relaunch the magazine. My work paid off, and I was elected Editor-in-Chief. I founded another publication, Urbane Magazine, and raised the funds to print our first issue. I strongly believe that a healthy campus newspaper is an essential part of a healthy campus life.

Arman Hamidian:
I believe that I have gained a wealth of experience from different leadership opportunities at this University that has given me a great perspective on how to manage an organization. I've served on four years worth of student councils, sat as a member of both the University Affairs Board and the Committee for the Allocation of Student Activity Space. As with any position I've held in the past, I consistently show a strong sense of initiative and commitment, and feel that for a position such as this, experience and initiative makes me a very suitable Varsity board member.

Paul Humphrey:
I am a connected leader on campus in student clubs and student government. Most recently with the UC Lit, UTSU and Party for a Cause. I am ready for a new challenge with the Varsity Board of Directors. The Varsity is a great paper, but there is room for improvement. I have the advantage of being a new face who understands common issues with the paper and its management, while also consulted Varsity insiders so I can work with the Varsity staff to bring about improvements. I have ideas, and the will to execute them. Let's make a better Varsity!

Charles Jurczynski:
Hi everyone, my name's Charlie and I'm running to be one of your Arts & Science reps on the Varsity Board of Directors. In my time at UofT, I've been involved in many groups, including a couple of campus publications. At the Toronto Globalist, I was responsible for outreach and fundraising, helping the magazine to find surer financial footing so it can survive and thrive in the upcoming years. I was also business manager at the Strand, where I sat on the Board of Directors and oversaw the newspaper balancing its budget again. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and happy voting!

Voter Eligibility:
Any other student of the University as defined in The University of Toronto Act, 1971, who has paid the annual membership fee ($1.25 per term) to become a member of the Corporation.

Voting period and location:
Wednesday, April 6th, 10am - 6pm in the lobby of Sidney Smith Hall

For more information please contact CRO@thevarsity.ca or see thevarsity.ca/BoD

'YWCA' – CONTINUED FROM PG 5

school girls interested in the field. "I think it is so important that young women see [the possibility of] themselves being in positions of leadership in the progression," she said.

Amon says that the "thrill of looking for innovative solutions to problems" gives her the enthusiasm and energy she needs to overcome any gender barriers that she faces.

After receiving the award, Amon hopes that her success will inspire others to realize their own potential. "I feel a little bit more responsible," she said, "to set a good example as a woman in engineering."

'CONSUMERS' – CONTINUED FROM PG 7

individual components. The findings were that when the event was described as pleasant, unpacking increased enjoyment. When the opposite was true, unpacking increased displeasure and reduced time estimates of the event.

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DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

There's no doubt about it, newspapers are in trouble.

In last year's farewell editorial, my predecessor Jade Colbert was faced with the difficult task of reflecting on the financial and institutional challenges facing The Varsity in the wake of the global recession. After many a healthy financial year we found ourselves facing a budget shortfall so severe that the Board of Directors was forced to make deep cuts in our expenditures: salaries were reduced, spending was slashed, and The Varsity became a weekly after years of publishing on Mondays and Thursdays.

Due in so small part to her efforts and those of last year's Board, I'm happy to report that The Varsity has experienced an excellent year financially, with ad revenue far exceeding even our most liberal expectations. Regrettably, the problems facing newspapers around the world run much deeper than their financial chemistry.

Ours is a generation with a heroine-like addiction to information. Every morning when I stumble out of bed, the electronic portal which inhabits my desk is my first point of entry into the day. I sometimes spend upwards of an hour engaged in a desultory digital trance before tending to the morning by actually feeding or cleaning myself. Each day without exception, I repeat this activity with ritualistic precision. As everyone at U of T knows, it's simply impossible not to be consumed by the Internet.

You might think this would create an ideal atmosphere for newspapers to flourish. We have access to more information than ever before, with an ever-increasing number of ways to consume it at our disposal. At this moment however, the entire media industry seems more interested in the means by which information is disseminated than in its actual value or verisimilitude.

In a great twist of irony, the same information mediums being pushed into obsolescence by the digital age seem persistently occupied with extolling it; celebrating their impending demise with thunderous applause. Canada's election has already been dubbed the "social media campaign" – last week Michael Ignatieff and Stephen Harper both attempted to define the entire election narrative through a carefully orchestrated bought of political chest-pounding...on Twitter; Egypt's revolt against its brutal dictatorship was widely attributed not to the long suffering of its people, but rather to Mark Zuckerberg and the selfless sacrifices of Google Executives. Just about every major global event is now considered and contextualized in relation to how it came to be news, how the news reached its audience, or how new media (ostensibly) determined its outcome.

In short, the message has become the medium.

This is surely a welcome step for those charged with purveying information as widely and efficiently as possible – be they advertisers or politicians (increasingly indistinguishable from one another) trying to supplant scrutiny for spin – but I believe it also carries with it considerable risk. With more competitors than ever, newspapers are forced to resort to new measures to maintain their readerships, from histrionic headlines to aesthetic overkill. The speed and intensity with which we now receive information leaves us grasping for a narrative, even if one doesn't really exist.

During and between elections, polling, no matter how variant or ephemeral, becomes a narrative anchor around which newspapers organize much of their reporting. A slight change in the numbers is called a "structural shift"; a poll sample of 1,000 respondents defines the "national sentiment"; often, the public is told exactly what it thinks about an issue before being given pause to consider it (odds are this phenomenon will be on display throughout the next several weeks). Often the polls say something completely different the following week. Hardly anybody seems to remember.

There may be tremendous potential in the proliferation of new media, but we shouldn't presume that everything coming in its wake will be a boon to democracy – or the institutions that dwell within it.

In spite of the apparent cynicism found in many of the above paragraphs, journalism certainly isn't dead.

In fact, many of the changes mentioned above have allowed The Varsity to embrace its new weekly format not as a regressive measure, but as a positive step. Not only does our new publishing structure give us more time to expand onto the web with blogs and other content, but it allows us to print more features and in-depth investigative news reports.

It's true that we can't always break the news in print the way we used to, but during last summer's terrifying G20 summit, we learned that breaking stories on the web could be tremendously advantageous, and it's something we've continued to do throughout the year. Accompanying this, every section has undertaken to publish longer and more informative content and regular features. Despite only printing once a week, The Varsity now publishes even more content than it's published in previous years.

And what splendid content there has been! We have continued to publish our Magazine, which printed three times this year, and have tried to experiment with its form and objectives. Our recent Digital Issue aimed to replicate the info-bite ethos of the Internet, combining shorter, more concise articles with lengthier features. In our other two magazines (Home and All-Arts), we strove for conceptual coherence, hoping to unite every article around a central theme explored in every manner possible.

This year's masthead took on the task of reinventing The Varsity with tremendous enthusiasm and grace. Their combination of immense creativity and hard work has made what might have been a difficult year, given our recent financial troubles, a fine one to remember.

Despite how abruptly the school year always seems to end, the last twelve months still extend behind like a vast expanse. The sheer number of events at The Varsity this year makes it impossible to reflect on in full, although the routine I've developed will certainly be a hard one to shake. My Thursday and Friday afternoons were invariably spent with a cup of tea and a mound of copy in my third floor office at 21 Sussex. During these editing sessions, I learned more about U of T than I ever thought possible.

I also managed to read quite a few back issues of The Varsity which, last October, entered its 130th year of publishing. Early in that month, we released a special issue commemorating the occasion, which included the first editorial we ever printed, and a retrospective looking back on the past 130 years. (We may never have issued an ultimatum to administration threatening a takeover of Simcoe Hall if all our demands weren't met by High Noon but hey, I think we've done our bit this year.)

The Varsity's history is very much U of T's history. When The Varsity published its first issue, the university was a thoroughly elitist institution in which a small group of affluent white males were prepared for exciting futures as affluent white males (though the call for entry of women into the classroom was already growing louder). In its first issue, The Varsity called for what was then dubbed co-education.

In the 1960s as the postwar intellectual culture liberalized, so did student life. More so than in any other period in U of T's history, students imagined themselves as active citizens of the campus, charged with taking ownership of knowledge and using the institution as a progressive instrument for the benefit of society.

Even though this remains the (very worthy) goal of many of today's student leaders, changes in the nature of the university make the 1960s conception of a participatory, democratic campus increasingly problematic. Though the postwar generation succeeded in making education almost universally accessible in North America and Western Europe, the neo-liberal generation that followed made it as much an economic venture as a tool for learning or fostering democratic citizenship. Today more than ever, the university is infused with the global economic architecture, such that it must now measure its success by its output of "basic income units" (Governing Council speak for students) into the labour market. Within such a model, the very notion of citizenship – either on campus, or in the national sense – falls into jeopardy. Fields of study which contribute to the wellbeing of the economy are privileged over the liberal arts or "antiquated" books. The university simply becomes a business, with students as its patrons, faculty as its employees, and administration as its board of directors.

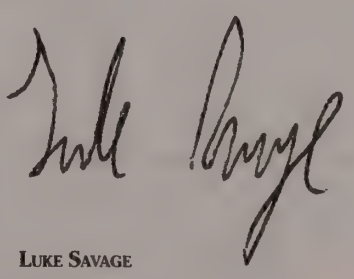
Despite this fact, student life is still very much alive in the campus press, in clubs and course unions, and in the many student governments which work to improve community on campus and nurture its historic identity; not to mention in classrooms where the professors love to teach and the students still love to learn.

It's never easy to say goodbye. From the second semester of my first year to the present, The Varsity has been my home on campus. From the day in January, 2009 when I rushed to the newsstand to read my first printed article to today as I write my last as Editor-in-Chief, I have enjoyed immensely the company of everyone at The Varsity, past and present.

This year was no exception. I'd like to thank every person who has contributed to The Varsity during the 2010-2011 publishing year (we simply wouldn't be here without you!); every editor and associate editor (you've been truly inspiring and remarkable colleagues); Emily Sommers, Ruichen Zhu, and Dimitris Apostolopoulos who sat through endless executive meetings for no pay and not much glory (couldn't have survived without you guys); the fine folks at MasterWeb Incorporated for printing The Varsity on time and in fine shape every week; Rogelio Briseño for being the unshakable backbone of this newspaper, just as he has been for the past decade; and Chandler Levack and Jade Colbert, who are great friends and were tremendous editors to boot.

Newspapers may be in trouble, but this year's team at The Varsity demonstrated that, even under the most adverse circumstances, it is always possible to adapt and produce something people love to read—and that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,



LUKE SAVAGE

Staff Writer
January-August, 2009

Associate Comment Editor
September, 2009-April, 2010

Editor-in-Chief
May, 2010- April, 2011

Bill C-393 and the Failure of Canadian Democracy

What you should do to recover an initiative that can bring greater access to medicine

Sahar Golshan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR



Good News! The House of Commons passed Bill C-393, a proposed law to create greater access to life-saving medicines to treat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and other public health problems in developing countries.

Bad news. The Harper Government killed it.

The battle to improve Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) has been a seven year long fight. Recently, 70,000 Canadians kept up the fight by mobilising in demonstrations, signing petitions, and contacting their democratic representatives in Ottawa.

And we won. On Wednesday, March 9, 2011, the majority of Members of Parliament in the House of Commons voted in favour of Bill C-393. The Bill was passed by a large margin, with 172 MPs voting in favour and 111 voting against.

Humanitarian activists such as Stephen Lewis and James Orbinski, and civil society organizations like the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network rejoiced at Canada's monumental humanitarian decision.

Then, Bill C-393 was sent to the Senate of Canada. Once passed in the House of Commons, all Parliamentary bills must be passed by the Senate in order to become law.

So, with mere days remaining on the clock before the likely end of Parliament and a federal election, what happened to Bill C-393 in the Senate?

Bill C-393 died in the Senate, stuck in limbo because it has been prevented from coming to a vote. The Senate had five opportunities on five separate days to pass Bill c-393. Yet everyday, Conservative Senators moved to adjourn the debate to the next sitting day, until the House of Commons voted that it had lost confidence in the Harper government, and Parliament was dissolved on Friday, March 25.

An Undemocratic Scandal

Let's be clear. The Conservative government leadership and Big Pharma were Bill C-393's only enemies, and had a deliberate strategy to kill Bill C-393 all along, using its majority of their appointed Senators in the Senate.

This is the only plausible explanation for why the Harper government allowed its backbenchers to vote their conscience on the bill, while whipping its cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries into voting against the bill in the House of Commons on March 9.

Allowed a free vote, an impressive total of 26 Conservative MPs voted in favour of Bill C-393 — a significant show of support from within that caucus, given the Prime Minister's opposition and the partial whipping of the party. But when you control the unelected Senate, as Harper now does thanks to having appointed many new Conservative senators, what the majority supports in the democratically-elected House of Commons can end up being meaningless.

Then there was the memo. Industry Minister Tony Clement sent a memo out to all Conservative Senators urging them to vote against the Bill C-393. As critics have pointed out, the memo repeated numerous inaccurate claims.

What was the result? Conservative Senator Stephen Greene, delivering the only speech against the bill in the Senate, read out much of the memo word for word – before then moving to adjourn further debate, keeping the bill in limbo.

Given the support from all other quarters in both the House of Commons and the Senate, the only barrier to passing Bill C-393 was the Conservative government, which stalled the bill day after day until time ran out.

The current Senators aren't new at the bill-killing business. The death of Bill C-393 is brought to you by the same Senate that did away with the Climate Change Accountability Act in 2010, which also had majority MP support in the House of Commons

"The Senate is supposed to be a chamber of 'sober second thought'," says Richard Elliott, Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. "But what we saw with Bill C-393 was the use of the Senate to veto a bill opposed by the government even though it enjoyed widespread support in the House of Commons, even from all parties."

A Call to Action

The federal election on Monday, May 2, 2011 is a window of opportunity to advance Canada's commitment to greater access to essential medicines worldwide.

What can you do to ensure that the next Parliament supports reforming Canada's Access to Medicines Regime?

1. Participate in your riding's all-candidates meeting(s). Make the death of Bill C-393 an election issue. Ask your current Member of Parliament and the candidates running against him or her about their commitment to reform the broken Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. For more information: www.aidslaw.ca/camr

2. Contact your Member of Parliament. Find out how your MP voted on Bill C-393 in the House of Commons. For example, the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus is located in the riding of Member of Parliament Bob Dechert, who voted against Bill C-393. Live in Mississauga-Erindale? Call (905) 277-1500 or email info@bobdechert.ca and voice your concern on Dechert's opposition.

3. Vote. Remember: the federal government dictates the country's foreign policy. Vote for a candidate who supports reforming Canada's Access to Medicines Regime and other initiatives to respond to global health and development needs.

May 2 is fast approaching. Given this kind of record on a global humanitarian initiative, do you really want to leave Stephen Harper, Tony Clement and their government in charge of Canada's role in the world?

An international election

Thinking about how our decision on May 2 will affect the rest of the world

Murad Hemmadi
VARSITY STAFF



The decisions that Canadian voters make in the forthcoming election will affect me personally, both as an international student in Toronto over the next few years, and as an Indian. The same could be said of any international student in Canada, or indeed of any citizen of any country that has economic or political, or really any kind of, relations with Canada.

Canada is of course not alone in restricting voting in federal or any other type of elections to its own citizenry. It is, after all, a concept enshrined within the structure of democracy. Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Québécois, uses the American Revolution-era slogan "no taxation without representation" as a tenet of sovereignty, but its reverse applies in this case: no electoral rights if you do not pay taxes. Since I do not (yet) pay taxes in Canada, it seems only logical that I cannot vote in its elections.

Elections tend to be framed in relatively narrow domestic terms. Though the campaign for the May election is still in its infancy, the key issues that have been framed front and center relate to matters within Canada. The Liberals' constant emphasis on Stephen Harper's flouting of the principles of democracy, for example, is aimed squarely at the electorate's trust in their Prime Minister. Similarly, Conservative attack ads have attempted to portray Michael Ignatieff as unpatriotic or as un-Canadian. Fair enough, you might say; this is a domestic election after all.

Well no, not really. So called "domestic" elections have repercussions far beyond the borders of the nation in which they take place.

In areas such as economics and foreign aid, areas vital to the ability of people all over the world to subsist, the policies of individual governments have a significant impact. Consider, for example, the decision last year by the Conservative government to freeze international aid at five billion dollars a year rather than as a set percentage of Canada's GDP. This effectively means that the "real" value of Canada's international aid will drop year-to-year, because though the dollar value of aid will remain constant, the price of goods and services for the countries receiving the aid will increase with inflation. Whether or not you agree with the decision, the economic impact to the beneficiaries of Canadian international aid is undeniable.

Furthermore, consider foreign military intervention. Canadian planes are currently involved in the Western coalition that is enforcing a "no-fly zone" over Libyan airspace. The ethics of intervention in Libya aside, the decision of the Harper government to commit military resources to oppose the Qaddafi regime has repercussions mainly for non-Canadians, particularly, not only Libyans. What of the civilians killed by misdirected coalition bombs, or the damage to property? These losses can be dismissed as "collateral damage", but the fact remains that they have occurred, and crucially at the hands of governments that the Libyan people did not elect.

These examples are, of course, oversimplifications of the complex interconnected world in which we live. But the idea that elections have broader repercussions than the domestic has some precedent, most notably in the "Give Your Vote" initiative run during the British general election last year. The "Give Your Vote" campaign involved British votaries committing to vote by proxy for people in Afghanistan, Ghana, and Bangladesh, who the initiatives' website says "are directly affected by UK policies."

The actual electoral impact of the campaign was minute — though "thousands" participated, the number of votes cast by the proxy voters was too small to affect the outcome in any one constituency, let alone the election outcome as a whole. Symbolically though — since election results matter to people far beyond a country's borders - 'Give Your Vote' was an important step.

My "leftie" opposition and distaste for the Harper Conservatives notwithstanding, I am not calling for you to vote for one party or another this May. What I am asking, though, is that when you vote, you consider someone beyond your own personal or national interests. When Canadians elect a government, they elect a Canadian government for the world.

Fiscal responsibilities

How the next government should respond to the federal deficit



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Patrick Baud
VARSITY STAFF

No matter which party (or parties) forms the government after the federal election scheduled for May 2, the new government will face a very large deficit. Whether it is led by Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff or, more likely, Conservative leader and current prime minister Stephen Harper, it will need to make deficit reduction a priority to keep interest payments from throttling federal spending as they did in the late 1980s and early 1990s. However, the burden of reduction efforts cannot be placed entirely on the shoulders of low-and middle-income families. Instead, the new government should work to find a fair way for all Canadians to share the burden.

Since deficits arise when the federal government takes in less money than it plans to spend, it has a relatively limited set of tools to reduce the deficit. It can attempt to increase its revenue directly by increasing taxes and other fees, or it can act indirectly to spur economic growth and thereby bring in more tax revenue. The government can also cut spending, either directly by cutting programs and transfers to provincial governments, or it can act indirectly to reduce the number of Canadians who rely on its programs, such as by curbing unemployment and thereby reducing the number of Employment Insurance recipients.

The Harper government has chosen to use two of these tools for its current deficit reduction efforts. First, it is cutting corporate taxes, which it hopes will spur economic growth, and in turn, increase its revenue. Unfortunately, corporate tax cuts historically seem to have little effect on growth, both in Canada and elsewhere. Moreover, Canada's tax rates are among the lowest in the world, excluding tax havens. Second, it is also cutting public spending on inefficient and unnecessary programs, through a strategic review of government programs. This process is sensible and effective, but cannot deliver very significant savings.

The Liberals are right to suggest delaying corporate tax cuts until the deficit is significantly smaller or preferably eliminated. However, unless they can explain how they plan to replace the lost revenue or cut enough spending to offset the loss, then they should delay the cuts indefinitely. Perhaps the New Democrats would make a freeze on corporate tax cuts a condition of joining a coalition government with the Liberals. Both the Liberals and the New Democrats should endorse a new round of strategic reviews, but they should focus more squarely on areas where there has been significant growth in the past decade, notably the defence budget.

Indeed, not only should the new government use the deficit-cutting tools used by the Harper government differently, but it should also consider deploying a wider range of tools. This includes tax increases that would see wealthy Canadians and large Canadian corporations pay their fair share. That way, the new government could plug the budgetary hole created by the Harper government's two per cent cut to the GST. Moreover, the new government should not only focus on piecemeal cuts in inefficient or unnecessary areas identified by strategic reviews, but on major new spending such as the construction of new prisons, and the purchase of F-35 stealth fighters.

That way, the new government could avoid having to make major cuts to provincial transfers when they are due to be renegotiated in 2014. The transfers, which help fund education, health, and social care, make up a large portion of the federal budget. Some cuts will undoubtedly be necessary, but focusing on cutting other areas of federal spending while making a concerted effort to increase federal revenues first will help make them more modest and less painful.

It is these cuts, which many expect the Harper government to make if it is still in power in 2014, that would do harm to Canadian families. By putting pressure on provincial governments to cut services, the cuts would exacerbate overcrowding in classrooms, lengthen wait times for crucial surgeries, and weaken the social safety net which keeps tens of thousands of Canadians from falling into abject poverty every year. No matter one's partisan affiliations, it is clear that these cuts would undermine the public services that all Canadians rely on, either directly or indirectly.

While growing federal transfers to the provinces are part of why Canada has a deficit, slashing these transfers cannot be the first step of deficit reduction because of the effects these cuts would have for Canadian families. Rising education, health, and social care spending is certainly concerning, but the government cannot respond with budget-slashing that will have devastating consequences. A measured approach, which focuses first and foremost on increasing revenue and reducing other federal spending would be far better for all Canadians. We should expect no less from Canada's next government, no matter who leads it.

Voting abstinence

Why you should avoid the voting booth on May 2

David Woolley
VARSITY STAFF

"We are part of history with this election," we are told, "this is the first time in Canadian history that a prime minister has been found in contempt of parliament." What we are not told is that the election in 2008 was also a historic one, because it had the lowest voter turnout in Canadian history: only 58.8 per cent according to Elections Canada. What's more, as university students, we are constantly told that young Canadians don't turn out to vote. In 2008, the voter turnout of 18-to-24-year-olds was only 37.4 per cent.

I wasn't eligible to vote in 2008. I turned 18 little over a month after the polls closed. At the time I desperately wanted to vote Stéphane Dion into the Prime Minister's Office and send Harper's Conservatives to the opposition bench. Now that I have the vote and am told I need to take part in this historic election, I don't want to.

In the Commons, Michael Ignatieff's Liberals have backed Harper on many issues. The greatest area of difference, I can think of, was the vote to end the gun registry, an issue that, in the grand scheme of things, is relatively minor. The same seems to be the case on the campaign trail with Ignatieff and Harper not offering substantially different visions of Canada. This is not surprising as, once in government, both Liberals and Conservatives govern from the centre. The NDP, on the other hand, offer a program of government intervention that is less than appealing to me. The only major party that remains is the Bloc, which I cannot vote for because I am not a resident of Quebec.

Is that it? Is the reason I and so many other young Canadians don't vote simply a lack of inspiring policies? While that may be a legitimate criticism, I don't think it is the main cause. I think there's something much more fundamental about the world we live in and the government that tries to run it that causes so many of us to stay at home on election day.

We live in a digital age; it's cliché to say that, I know, but it is true. Our system of government was developed when borders mattered and most people rarely saw those who lived 200 kilometres away, let alone 2,000. Now we interact on a regular basis with people from all corners of the world. Whether it is with Skype, Twitter or Facebook, we can talk to people we never would have known existed a generation ago. We can buy and sell goods via eBay, Amazon, and other online retailers.

When disasters strike in Haiti or Japan, charitable organizations gather hundreds of millions of dollars in days while governments fumble to organize. Social media has helped orchestrate popular revolutions against unpopular dictators, while Western governments pour billions into quagmires in Iraq and Afghanistan. Organizations such as Wikileaks have smashed established state secrecy with a few hackers in basements around the world. That it is cliché to marvel at this is a testament to how amazing our lives are.

The world has changed fundamentally, but government has not. Government is a system of control and whether or not you agree with its actions, its fundamental nature remains unchanged. We now live in a world where control is impossible. We spend a huge portion of our time on the Internet, the content of which is unregulated. We spend most of our time in anarchy and Wikipedia looks a whole lot different than Mad Max. We see everyday what spontaneous order creates, the huge amounts of entertainment and knowledge that are amassed in that series of tubes.

Governments, however, still use the same tactics they always have to solve problems: a bomb here, an embargo there, a subsidy or a ban to fix one problem or another. These things don't work anymore.

In all honesty, I don't know what the proper role of government is. I could take a stab at it, but I feel like I would be applying old world answers to new world problems. I don't know what the solutions should be and I'm very wary of anyone who claims to know exactly what is needed to solve all of the world's ills. And that's why I'm not voting: I refuse to hand over my authority to someone with the audacity to claim they know how the whole world should work. The world is too complicated for Harper, Ignatieff, or Layton to fix.

We shouldn't chalk non-voting up to apathy or ignorance on the part of the non-voter. Instead, we should accept that it is a responsible reaction when one understands that in an Internet world, solutions don't come from the top down, and we shouldn't try and make them.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network | Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

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Professor Alan Young
Counsel in the Ontario case *Bedford v. Canada*

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What you need to know about the race for the Republican Party's nomination



JAMES STEAKLEY

Dan Miller
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

With the US presidential election only a year and a half away, which is no time in the US political sphere, there is no doubt that President Obama will be the Democratic Party's nominee. The Republicans however have a whole slew of potential candidates. With no clear frontrunner and American politics as volatile as ever, the Republican primary season promises to be like March Madness for political junkies. The biggest factor affecting a candidate's electability will be how they are able to navigate and win the arch-conservative Republican base while still being able to shift to the mainstream for the national election. Obama has it comparatively easy: with no real competition he can sit back and watch the Republicans destroy themselves and pounce whenever he wants, appealing to the centrists from day one. How a Republican candidate will be able to make the big shift and draw in Tea Partiers and moderates alike will be the defining factor in their electability.

The frontrunner in this election appears to be Mitt Romney. He is handsome, wealthy, and has previous executive experience as the former governor of Massachusetts. Romney is a veteran campaigner who tried his hand in 2008 and looks poised for a second attempt. Where things sour for him is on his conservative credentials. Romney was a driving force behind Massachusetts' health care law (which is disturbingly similar to Obama's) and this will be toxic in more conservative states. However, he has the ability to make the necessary big shift from the primary to national campaign. This makes him easily one of the most electable Republicans in the field. Any discussion of Romney also inevitably hits on his Mormon faith which will have a negative impact on distrustful evangelicals who make up a sizable portion of the Republican base.

Mike Huckabee is another name from the 2008 primary being floating around. The former governor from Arkansas is a devout Christian and has that "everyman" appeal that can be so successful during a hard-fought campaign. Huckabee will lose points on his conservative credentials (he has pardoned more death row inmates than any other governor) and for his recent support for Michelle Obama's anti-obesity campaign. Rounding out the 2008 candidates is Ron Paul. He won the Conservative Political Action Conference straw poll for the second year in a row and has a passionate grass roots movement behind him. Paul is an ardent libertarian and is against anything the federal government does that is not specifically authorized by the Constitution. He stands no chance of winning a national election and may just be too "out there" to challenge for the Republican nomination.

Sarah Palin and Michelle Bachmann are both similar in their respective candidacies. Both have emerged at the forefront of the Tea Party movement, both challenge the conception of the Republican Party being male dominated, and both have no serious chance of winning a national election. Palin has more name recognition then Bachmann and could probably raise more money, but this also means she has more public scrutiny. Palin is unlikely to leave her lucrative job at Fox News and her book-speaking tours, especially with her poll numbers so low. Bachmann on the other hand has nothing to lose; this once obscure Minnesota Congresswoman is on the national radar and can only see her stock go up even with an unsuccessful campaign.

Newt Gingrinch is also likely to make a bid but it is unlikely he will get very far. Gingrinch may possess some political genius for his orchestration of the Republican Revolution in 1994 but he has neither the moral character nor the likability necessary to win in the socially conservative South. He is twice divorced, thrice married, and has a track record of marital infidelity. Lack of personal appeal will also relegate Mississippi governor Hailey Barbour to being a non-factor. He is a charmless version of Mike Huckabee and recently came under scrutiny for trying to recast his role in the Civil Rights Movement despite his privileged and mostly segregated upbringing. Gingrinch and Barbour, if they choose to run, will see their fortunes quickly sour.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LETTERS

Re: Does the Munk School Belong to U of T?, March 28

Mr Jimenez is right that Peter Munk owns Barrick Gold Mining, and that Barrick has engaged in questionable mining practices and suppressed local opposition to its mining projects. The practices that Mr Jimenez describes are undoubtedly immoral, if not criminal, and underline the need for legislation which would allow Canadian prosecutors to take companies like Barrick to court for their actions overseas. Mr Jimenez is also correct to point out the Munk made a large donation to the new Munk School, which will come in several installments, but neglected to mention that the government Ontario also made a sizable contribution.

Where Mr Jimenez's article falls far short, however, is when he argues that Mr Munk will base its decisions for the next stage of the Munk School's funding on whether the school's activities are consistent with his business interests. While it is possible that Mr Munk might threaten to withhold funding if the Munk School does something objectionable to his business interests, he could not do so without serious repercussions. If he were to behave this way, then we should certainly be suspicious of donors like Mr Munk, but until then, to believe otherwise is nothing less than paranoia.

If Mr Jimenez (and others) are truly concerned about the "general privatization of opinion within the University", they should support politicians, both federally and provincially, who would significantly expand public funding to universities. Only then can universities undertake worthy initiatives such as the Munk School without indulging unjustified fears of corporate contagion.

Patrick Baud

Re: Going Bottled Water Free, March 28

I read with interest the column written by Council of Canadians activist Maude Barlow that appeared in the March 28, 2011, edition of The Varsity, entitled "Going bottled water free."

In the piece, Ms. Barlow makes a number of observations about bottled water that have long been confirmed as false

Figures Ms. Barlow associated with the number of local governments that have banned the sale of bottled water in their facilities is wrong. Over the last six years, just 26 municipalities, three school boards and eight colleges and universities across Canada have banned the sale of bottled water in their facilities. Over the last three years, 103 local governments across the country have formally rejected resolutions to ban the sale of bottled water in their facilities. Most telling, however, is the fact that several thousand local jurisdictions across Canada have determined that there are more important matters to consider than bottled water, like repairing aging water and sewer infrastructure and maintaining or improving local service delivery and keeping taxes low.

According to independent environmental consultant StewardEdge, the Canadian beverage industry diverted 66% of beverage containers, including bottled water, from landfill across Canada in 2009. Could more be done? Yes. The Canadian beverage industry is working hard to improve on these diversion rates, including investing heavily to establish public spaces recycling programs nationally, which includes continuous public education related to recycling and littering.

Independent research firm Quantis International found that bottled water has the lightest carbon footprint of any bottled beverage, whether measured by water usage, plastic usage, oil usage, or greenhouse gas emissions.

The bottled water industry simply isn't a significant factor in the global access-to-water debate: agriculture uses 70% of total available fresh water, industry 20%, domestic users 10%, bottled water industry, well less than 1%.

The inference that money spent on bottled water represents an investment that is not being made elsewhere, such as in municipal water and sewer infrastructure is simply illogical. Canadians pay local, provincial, and federal taxes, partly so that government at all levels will invest in water and sewer infrastructure construction and maintenance. They spend their after-tax or disposable income on many consumer items, including bottled water. They do not spend money on bottled water at the expense of tap water.

Health Canada regulations for bottled water must be as strong and protective of public health as provincial regulations for tap water. However, Varsity readers need not take my word for it, nor Ms. Barlow's for that matter. When it comes to the quality, safety or regulation of bottled water, they can get the facts by simply visiting the Health Canada website.

We agree that water is a human right. However, the fact of the matter is that water is also a commodity. It is a fundamental requirement for the growth, processing, manufacture, and distribution of all foods consumed by human beings. It is the essence of life. The bottled water industry had nothing to do with this historical fact.

In closing, there is nothing to be gained environmentally or otherwise by ending the sale of bottled water on the campus of the University of Toronto. If Ms. Barlow and others are truly concerned about preserving, protecting and strengthening our water systems, rather than target bottled water, they should call on government at all levels to do the following:

- Make water and sewer infrastructure development and maintenance a priority;
- Make all residential, commercial and industrial water takers pay their fair share of the real cost of water consumption;
- Address the inefficient use of water by municipalities, agriculture and industries;
- Require treatment of wastewater before it is returned to rivers, lakes and oceans; and
- Invest in related public education and communications about water conservation and protection.

John B. Challinor II, APR
Director of Corporate Affairs
Nestlé Waters Canada

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Tim Pawlenty, Mitch Daniels, John Thune, Rick Santorum, and Jon Huntsman all have to deal with their lack of name recognition. This is not necessarily a death sentence: Carter in 1976 and Clinton in 1992 began as little-known outsiders and used their status to their advantage. Pawlenty and Daniels each have experience as governors of Minnesota and Indiana respectively; and Santorum and Thune as senators. Traditionally, governors have fared better at playing the outsider card but no one in this election is a bigger outsider than Jon Huntsman, currently America's ambassador to China. He has the advantage of speaking Mandarin fluently and perhaps a better understanding of America's vast overseas debts. It would be unwise to forget about this former Utah governor.

Finally there is Donald Trump. He certainly won't have to worry about the name recognition (especially when it's in fifty feet tall gold encrusted letters) or the money, seeing how he has already pledged to spend 700 million on his campaign. Trump might be everybody's favorite candidate to watch but most will not take him seriously and this will be well justified.

With more than a year of twists, scandals, gaffes, and blunders to come the Republican Party nomination truly has no front runner. What will be the defining feature for who grabs it will not be how they defeat the others but how they will be able to make that sharp transition from appealing to the base to winning over the moderates. There will be no rest for whoever emerges from this heap, when the carnival atmosphere of the Republican National Convention ends; they will have to face Obama and his billion dollar election machine. Defeating him will be the real challenge.

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Waste Not

Composting is serious business. You might need some convincing, but COLLEEN MCKEOWN is here to make sure you know the importance of going for the green bin.

You've heard it before: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. But now there's a new bin on the block: the green bin. If you live in Toronto, you probably have a green bin at home. But what about your home-away-from-home, whether that is New College, the Robarts stacks, or UC's Junior Common Room?

"At home, I tend to do a much better job [of composting], since there are separate bins for food waste, recycling and garbage," says Sarah Cheong, a second-year Sociology and Political Science student. If they're already doing it at home, why do students find it so troublesome to compost on campus?

To understand city-wide and campus composting initiatives, it's first necessary to learn a little Green Bin history.

The City of Toronto's successful Green Bin Program was launched in 2002 to adapt to the closure of the city-owned Keele Valley landfill site. With the local site nearly filled to capacity and facing opposition from its neighbours, Toronto's garbage had to be sent somewhere, and that somewhere was a private landfill in Michigan. There was just one catch: shipping Toronto's garbage south of the border is three times more expensive than disposing of it locally.

Almost one third of that garbage was actually organic waste. By adding organics collection to Toronto's waste disposal system, food waste could be processed north of the border and made into compost. The program, when implemented city-wide, was expected to substantially reduce truck trips to Michigan each year. In June 2001, then-Mayor Mel Lastman described the new program as "easy to understand" and "the most affordable option available to us."

While Toronto's decision to collect organic waste was largely based on economic considerations, separating compost from other solid waste also has environmental benefits. When food waste is sent to the landfill, it decomposes very slowly in the low-oxygen environment. This results in the release of methane, a greenhouse gas with 21 times more global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

Composting practices began at the University of Toronto before green bins were introduced by the municipal government. U of T first tried collecting organic waste to be composted on campus in the early 1990s. When space and time constraints made this no longer feasible, the university began collecting food waste to be used in pig feed.

The success of this short-lived program was soon eclipsed by an organics recycling program that began in 1994 and involved 15 food-services locations on campus. The food waste collected at those locations was then picked up by a private company and turned into compost that was at one point in time sold by Boy Scouts as part of their fundraising initiatives.

Today, U of T is a leader in waste diversion, preventing 65.7 per cent of its waste from ending up in landfills through recycling and composting. In the first 15 years of organic waste recycling at U of T, 8,241.5 tonnes of waste were diverted. This is equivalent to 8,983 tonnes less carbon-dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

U of T was recognized for the progress it has made in creating sustainable food and recycling programs in the 2011 College Sustainability Report Card, with an A grade in the food and recycling section and a grade of A- overall. The survey results that led to this stamp of approval show that 100 per cent of food scraps from the preparation of meals by dining halls are disposed of as organic waste.

While this is an important achievement, it occurs behind the scenes. What about the success of publicly accessible green bins for student use? The College Sustainability Report Card did not measure this much greater challenge.

A survey conducted at Michigan State University in 2009 explored four areas of knowledge relevant to student participation in recycling programs: knowledge of the benefits of recycling, of the university's recycling practices, of which products can be recycled, and of where recycling bins are located on campus. Survey results indicated that the "what" and "where" of recycling — what can be recycled and where to find the right bins — were more important for student participation than the "why" — knowing the environmental benefits.



ANDREW RUSK/THE VARSITY

Lack of knowledge about what can be composted at U of T has been a problem in the past. "The most common thing is people throwing the container in along with the food instead of just putting the food in the bin and the container in the trash," says Reno Strano, the Waste Management Supervisor and Recycling Coordinator at Facilities and Services. "Lots of bottles and bags also get thrown in," he adds. Unfortunately, when too many non-compostable items are put in a green bin, the entire contents of the bin have to be put in the garbage.

Knowledge about where green bins are on campus is also a problem. When asked about her composting habits on campus, third-year environmental policy and practice student Brina McMillan says that when she throws food in the garbage it's because there isn't a green bin available to use.

"I could probably count the number of times that I have been able to dispose of my waste in a green bin, since they are just not easily accessible," she laments.

The same is true for second-year engineering science student James Kristie. "When I have food waste on campus I just put it in the trash. I would put it in a green bin/food waste disposal can but I don't think that I have ever seen one on campus," he says.

There are actually several student-accessible green bins on campus, but with a campus as large as ours, and with so many places where students can grab a quick bite between classes, the green bins that do exist can get lost in the shuffle.

So why don't we have more green bins on campus? Strano explains that the private contractor U of T uses has a minimum pick-up of two large green bins (called "toters") per week for any given location. "If a location isn't going to produce enough material to justify a pickup we can't set it up," he says. Sometimes waste from different buildings can be brought to one toter location, as is currently the practice with 63 and 65 St. George Street and Alumni House, but this might not always be possible.

There are, however, many locations at U of T already set up for organics pick up that could accommodate a new student-accessible green bin, provided there is someone who can empty it and that the building users support the initiative. A student project has just recently led to the addition of a public green bin to the Domtar student lounge in the Earth Science Centre.

How can students be encouraged to use the green bins that do exist? A study of household waste reduction in Exeter, United Kingdom, found that recycling behaviour (which would include organics recycling) is different from reduction and reusing behaviour. Recycling behaviour is more affected by logistics — access to the right facilities, knowledge of the facilities, and the perception that recycling is convenient. The study also found that recycling is norm-based, and that seeing other people recycle will increase your intention to do the same.

The conclusions of this study and the study conducted at Michigan State University bode well for increasing organic waste diversion at U of T. It comes down to making it more convenient for students to dispose of their food scraps. Making more green bins available in more locations, especially where students like to eat, would both make it more convenient to compost and increase the visibility of composting on campus. This could help make putting food waste in the green bin instead of the trash a social norm.

At the end of the day, does it matter to students whether or not U of T is sustainable?

"To be honest, not really," says Tiffany Yeung, a fourth-year applied mathematics student.

"I'm not sure whether fees would increase even more if U of T wanted to become more 'sustainable,'" she says.

Arthur David, a second-year International Relations student disagrees. "We live in an age where we have to be more careful in decision making processes and the consequences of ill-advised actions are never far from being felt. It would also do the university a whole lot of good from a PR standpoint too," he says.

While not everyone sees this as an important issue, it certainly seems to be gaining traction as awareness of environmental issues increases. It's a potentially slow process, but perhaps in a few years, composting on campus will be just as common as reusing and recycling.

What can you put in a Green Bin?

Food items, napkins and other biodegradables. This includes:

- ☒ Meat, including all bones
- ☒ Fruits and vegetables
- ☒ Dairy products
- ☒ Grains and breads
- ☒ Tea bags
- ☒ Soiled napkins

Up your compost cred on campus



CLAIRE BUTTERFIELD/THE VARSITY

THE FIRST AN

Arts Editors **EMI**
WILL SLOAN roll
and hand out troph
spaghetti strainers i
slightly self-indulge
year in V

Announcer: Roll out the red carpet and break out the champagne, it's the evening of evenings, the soiree of soirees, the night the stars come out to shine! It's the first annual Academy of Varsity Arts & Sciences Achievement Awards, where Arts writers will be competing for a coveted Golden VArt! Yes, this will surely be a night to remember, so let's head into the Kodak Theatre where the ceremony is about to take place!

[*Cut to inside the theatre, where the band launches into a rousing rendition of "Hooray for Hollywood."The stage is bookended by 20-foot statues of the handsome VArt trophies, one of which tips over, wounding Jack Nicholson. After a delay, the hosts arrive onstage*]

Emily: Hello, good evening, and welcome to the first-annual VArts. My name is Emily Kellogg…

Will: …and I'm Will Sloan…

Emily: …and we're excited to be your hosts this year.

Will: Say Emily, you look so fetching in your dress. Is it Oscar de la Renta?

Emily: Yes, Will, how did you know?

Will: [*Nudging Emily in the ribs; winking at the camera*] Because you de la Renta-ed a place right in my heart!

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: Oh Will, you're such a rascal. Y'know Will, at The Varsity this year, there were plenty of new faces.

Will: Yeah, especially on the old faces!

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Will: Because they had plastic surgery, is what I'm implying.

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: The first award of the evening is **Best Arts' Arts Poem**. For those of you who aren't in the know, with our Arts' Arts section we wanted to create an outlet for the creative types on campus to publish their poetry, prose, visual art and photography.

Will: And the VArt goes to… Mitchell Gauvin for "Vowels" (22 November), a creative use of form wherein he spatially constructs the letters A E I O and U out of words using those same vowels. Congratulations, Mitch! The next category is **Most Dickish Interview Subject**, and the winner is Gen-X icon and cultural supernova Douglas Coupland, whose quick and cursory email interview with Brigit Katz (25 October) included at least one ironic smiley-face emoticon. Mr. Coupland was too busy being the voice of a generation tonight to attend tonight, so Brigit will accept on his behalf.

Emily: In the category of **Best Trial by Fire**, Assunta Alegiani's first major contribution to The Varsity was an interview with Toronto film legend/noted eccentric Reg Hartt. Assunta remained unfazed even when Mr. Hartt insisted that she be in the picture with him, and later claimed that he had no particular affinity towards movies.

Will: Say Em, perhaps you'd like to go to the movies with me? Eh? Eh? [*Nudging in the ribs*]

Emily: [*Shrugs shoulders and looks at camera in a wackily exasperated way.*]

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: Sometimes Will and I make mistakes. We're only human – even if we look superhuman!

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: In these outfits, I mean. [*Winks*]

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: And so, the award for **Best Photography We Miscredited** goes to Remi Carreiro, whose beautiful series of photos of Toronto street art for Assunta Alegiani's article "The Anti-Nuit Blanche" (22 November) was credited to David Pike.

Will: And now comes my favourite part of every VArts award show: the handing-out of the **Ignatieff/Rae Award for Lifetime Achievement**. This year, going above and beyond the call of duty with approximately five thousand excellent interviews with respected authors, was former Editor-in-Chief Jade Colbert. Helping us pay tribute to Jade's legacy is our special guest, Celine Dion.

Celine Dion: [*Singing*] For all those times you stood by me… For all the truth you made me see…

[*Celine continues for four minutes; by the end, there is not a dry eye in the house*]

Emily: Wow. I guess you can say that when it comes to Celine Dion, my heart will always go on.

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: For her music, specifically, that is.

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Will: Y'know, on Varsity production nights, things can get hectic. From checking flats, ordering sushi, and endlessly professing my love to Emily…

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Will: …Things can sure get chaotic. Therefore, the real measure of an editor is his grace under pressure. Which is why I'm presenting the award for **Best Photo Caption** to myself – for the caption "O, livier – my livier!" under our interview with director Olivier Assayas (18 October 2010). See, it's clever, because it's a reference to "O Captain, my captain," and Olivier Assayas' name starts with "O."

Emily: This year we introduced "The Varsity Interview," a column devoted to longer, more in-depth interview with interesting arts figures. The award for **Best Varsity Interview** goes to our associate Ariel Lewis for her discussion with Kid in the Hall Scott Thompson (6 December).

Will: This was one of many fine articles Ariel wrote this year, including our winner for **Best Article Written In the Style of Jane Austen**, her thrilling Living Arts piece on attending a Jane Austen-themed ball (28 February). This category was especially competitive this year.

Emily: Also competitive was the category of **Best Public Humiliation in the Name of Journalism**. Brigit Katz, who, on top of always being up for reviewing a questionable campus play at the last minute, also courageously volunteered to attend a Speed Dating event for our Love & Sex issue (14 February). This was one of our favourite contributions to our Living Arts column, in which Varsity staffers tried something new and occasionally suffered the consequences for the entertainment of anonymous readers!

Will: Great job, Brigit!

Emily: The award for **Most Admirable Patience with Us Even Though We Constantly Misspelled Her Name** goes to Lily Tarba, who was more than polite about being credited as "Lily Talba" and "Lily Talb" on two separate online articles.



NUAL VARTS

LY KELLOGG and
out the red carpet
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n this heartwarming,
nt look back at the
arsity Arts



ANDREW RUSK, THE VARSITY

Will: In a category close to my heart, the award for **Best Article Written in "Navajo English"** goes to Alan Jones for his review of Jean-Luc Godard's *Film Socialisme*, written in the same oblique, impenetrable style as the pidgin-English subtitles Mr. Godard released his film with.

Emily: But y'know Will, as we celebrate the achievements of our current crop of Varsiteens, it's important to remember the contributions of Varsity Arts columns that passed away this year.

Will: Yes, while columns such as "The Varsity Interview" and that wily rapscallion "The Ten-Dollar Wine Snob" thrived and prospered, others met icy deaths, of both the abrupt and the slowly-withering-away variety. Join us in a moment of remembrance…

Celine Dion: [*Singing*] "Smile, though your heart is aching… Smile, even though it's breaking…"

On the Monitor: "Freshly Pressed" CD Review Column, 2007-2010… "VarCity" Events Column, 2010-2011… "Review Haiku" Music Column, 2010-2010…

Audience: [*Weeping, applause*]

Emily: Well, on a lighter note, the category of **Best Varsity Wine Columnist** was an extremely competitive one this year, but after much consideration, thea judges have selected a candidate. The winner is... The Ten-Dollar Wine Snob! Come on up!

Ten-Dollar Wine Snob: Thank you, thank you, this is such an honour. And please remember, folks: the only way to overthrow the government is to join your local militia. Thank you!

Will: Ah, well, a very political speech from Mr. Wine Snob. Anyway, sometimes in Varsity Arts, we have to review school plays. It comes with the territory. The award for **Best Campus Stage Review** goes to the lovely Brendan Hobin for his verbose analysis of UC Follies' *The Threepenny Opera*.

Emily: The award for **Best Music Writers** goes to Sean MacKay and Navi Lamba for Singled Out, their excellent weekly online review of the best new, interesting, and vaguely hipsterish music that all the cool, post-hipster kids are into these days.

Will: But I ask you, Emily, what award show would be complete without the hilarious wit of comedy legend and American patriot, Billy Crystal? Come on out, Billy!

Audience: [*Ten-minute standing ovation*]

Billy Crystal: Thank you, thank you, it's great to be here. [*Proceeds to sing a humorous music medley in which titles of popular Varsity articles are sung to the tune of famous songs of yore.*]

Emily: Oh, that Billy. Give him another hand!

Audience: [*Twenty-minute standing ovation*]

Will: Y'know Emmy, in our business, sometimes plagiarism is the highest form of flattery, and the head-and-shoulders winner of **Best Idea Stolen from a Past Arts Editor** was "A Nuitmare on Queen Street" (4 October), a minute-by-minute rundown of Nuit Blanche which we gleefully stole from past Arts Editor Rob Duffy.

Emily: But plagiarism cuts both ways. The winner of **Best Headline Stolen by Another Campus Paper** also goes to "A Nuitmare on Queen Street," a genius headline penned by none other than Mister Will Sloan…

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: …that was stolen and used as a front-cover throw on the 7 October issue of *The Strand*. Hey, *The Strand* – what gives?

Audience: [*Booing, hissing*]

Will: "A Nuitmare on Queen" also wins the award for **Best Layout**. This gorgeous two-page spread, featuring photos by James Bradford, Remi Carreiro, David Pike, and Alex Nursall, was a testament to the genius of Varsity layout legend Rogelio Briseño, who put up with our indecisiveness many times throughout the year.

Audience: [*Applause*]

Emily: Will and I ascended to Arts Editorship on the vow that we could write good headlines. Unfortunately, this has not always been an easy vow to keep. The award for **Most Desperate Headline** is one close to both our hearts.

Will: But Emmy, you told me your heart was locked in vault!

Emily: [*Withering stare*]

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Will: Why ya gotta hate, Em?

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: I have always despised you, Will.

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

[*Camera cuts briefly to Celine Dion, who has tears in her eyes and is nodding her head*]

Emily: The nominees for **Most Desperate Headline** are… "The long(board) and winding road"… "The littlest hobo (with a shotgun)"… "All that glitters is not (Oscar) gold"… "War. What is it good for? (Good filmmaking?)"… "Go EFUT yourself!"… and "Angry? Actually, we're content," for our review of 12 Angry Men.

Will: And the VArt goes to… "War. What is it good for? (Good filmmaking?)," for Alan Jones' interview with the director of *Oliver Sherman*.

Emily: This was a collaborative effort between Will and I. Will wrote, "War. What is it good for?" and then, sensing that the headline needed a bit more oomph, I added, "Good filmmaking?" but then put it in brackets, in the hope of being ironic and self-aware.

Audience: [*Applause*]

Emily: And now it's time to present the last award of the evening…

[*Will arrives on stage in a dress, lipstick, and blonde wig. Audience laughs and applauds.*]

Emily: Good heavens, Will, what are you doing?

Will: See, it's funny, because I'm a man, but I'm dressed up as a woman.

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Emily: And now it's time for the biggest award of the evening, **Best All-Arts Magazine. Ever.** This year, Will and I collaborated with EIC Luke Savage and Features Editor Sean MacKay on the fourth annual All-Arts Issue, and we're going to go ahead and give this award to ourselves. Because we're the best.

Will: Take that, Levack!

Audience: [*Laughter, applause*]

Will: Well, we hope you enjoyed this year in Varsity Arts & Entertainment. It was a time of sadness and joy, laughter and tears, learning and unlearning, and occasional bouts of late-night drunkenness.

Emily: We considered creating an award for Best Audience and presenting it to you, the reader, but c'mon, that'd just be silly.

Will: Emily and I have loved our time as editors, and we feel honoured to have been able to work with a group of talented and hardworking individuals.

Emily: On that note, we would like to dedicate this awards ceremony to every single contributor at The Varsity. Thank you to the illustrators, the design team, the photographers, the copy-editors, the fact-checkers, and the writers. We couldn't have done any of this without you.

U of T's most artistic bathrooms





Who says your next visit to the bathroom can't be artistically fulfilling? Come along as The Varsity Arts staff guides you on a walking tour of the world's most underrated art form. Photos by **RÉMI CARREIRO.**

Start your journey on east side of campus with a visit to the Burwash Dining Hall handicapped men's room. There, on the inside of the snowy-white stall door, you can find a charming marker-painting of a bird on a ledge. A surprisingly delicate and beautiful work of bathroom-art scribbling, you may still feel slightly self-conscious when the bird won't stop looking at you.

Victoria College, it turns out, is a veritable cornucopia of charming stall etchings. Make your way to the girls' stalls in Old Vic, where you can find a caricature of an obese man with skinny legs (rendered in the evocative medium of white-out), provocatively drawn near an old "Drop Fees" sticker.

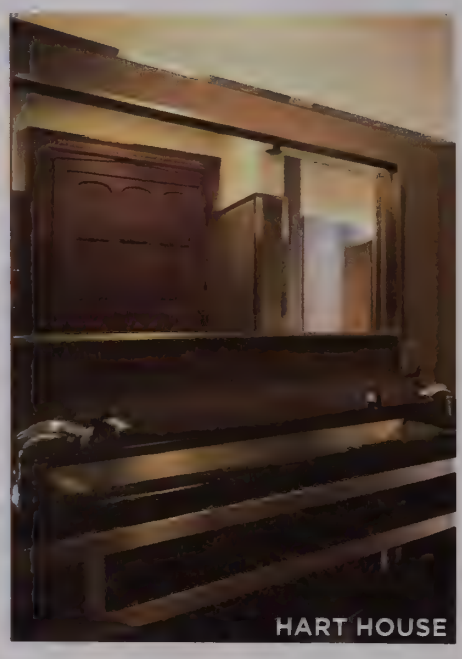
Trinity College bathroom art is more conceptual. After you've worked your way through Vic, head over to the ladies' room next to the dining hall at St. Hilda's for a spirited, poetic back-and-forth exchange about reality. The use of artfully-placed prose against a spare stall backdrop, this work challenges us to rethink the parameters of what we would normally consider "visual art."

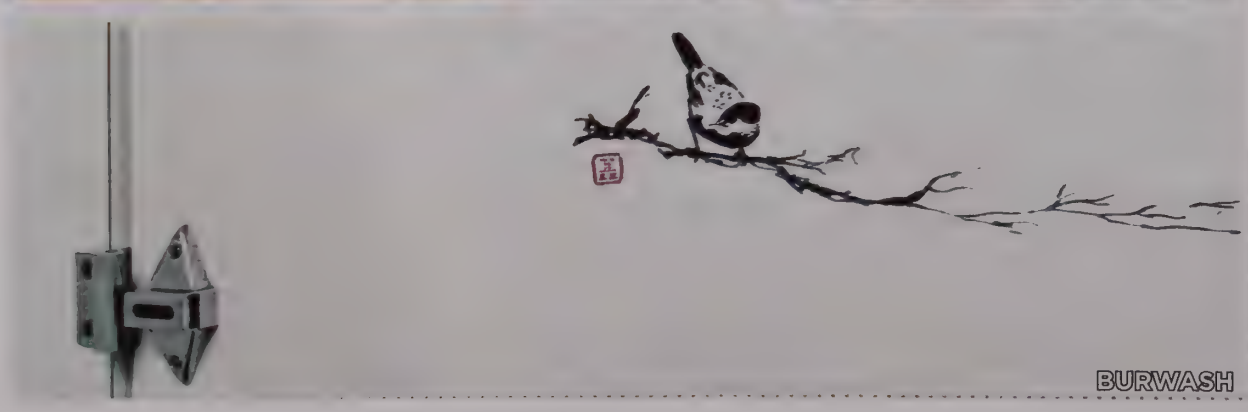
Looking for a (wash)room with a view? The venerable Hart House second floor ladies' room offers a picturesque survey of the building's outdoor quad. Scope out frisbee locations, admire the hedge-cutting guy, or simply contemplate the infinite beauty of the good old sunshine, all whilst relieving oneself.

When you go to the bathroom, are you ever in the mood for a feeling of Kafkaesque disorentation? The restrooms in the Munk Centre Basement offer vivid, black-and-white chequered floors that will make you feel like you're playing an existential chess game. Set against the white-tile walls, the bathroom appears at once both tastefully minimalist and garishly challenging.

Finally, at the corner of Hoskin and St. George, why not visit "your Catholic home on campus" (Newman Centre, for those heathens not in-the-know) and consider the infinite grace of the good Lord's artistic and architecural skills? The gorgeous, old-fashioned wood-panneled bathroom comes decked with a classy faux-marble sink, gorgeous mirror with roccoco frame, and, best of all, a glass window of a ship on a beautiful aqua-blue ocean. As with the best Catholic Rennaisance art, the Newman Centre's bathroom confirms the long-lost eleventh commandment, "More shalt be more!"









by ANDREW RUSK

The Beach House Rosé
$9.95 at the LCBO

Wow! What an issue, hey folks? Mr. Woody Harrelson, a federal election, and The Varsity's last issue — all within these very pages. I've had a great year learning about wine with y'all, and wanted to end with one last bottle, intertwined with the best stereotypical graduation quotes I could find.

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. — Dr. Seuss

This rosé is a limited edition South African Wine. It seems like every year Torontonians get excited about the spring and start wearing shorts way before it's socially acceptable (though Harry Rosen's spring catalogue has advised me that shorts are finally back this season). If you're yearning for the summer, stick this wine in the fridge and enjoy the outdoors with friends. The wine boasts light floral tones and is very light on the palette.

Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you've learned anything this year, let it be that as students we can unite and overcome the ageist, sexist, and elitist preconceptions of wine. Just because you don't have $30 to blow on every bottle doesn't mean that there aren't great finds to be had. This fantastic rosé is from South Africa, but pay special attention to South America, Portugal, and Italy for wines that may not be as expensive but still offer fantastic flavours. Although the Wine Rack is open late, it only features Ontario wines. Don't be afraid to adopt a more global view in your wine preferences.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. — Eleanor Roosevelt

Thanks again for a great year. Enjoy your summer, and in the words of Tennyson, drink life to the lees!

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arts' arts

Chasing It

André Babyn

On the server I'm called "Deep'r'Die." That's an inside joke. We all have names like that. Every so often someone who just set up their account logs on with their family and given name and we yell at them over video-chat or kill them real quick or get the admin to scramble their name or slap them over the side of a cliff or something. Even if he doesn't change it, or nothing does, we all settle down and just keep playing, which of course, we have never stopped doing. I play Scout. That means I'm fast. I have over 15,000 points on the server. 2Fort is my favourite level because I like running over the covered bridge and (if I can make it) double-jumping over the battlements and blasting the hell out of the Snipers standing there staring across the divide. I don't always make it. I'm still chasing the perfect round.

* * *

Walking back out into the mall after my shift at Old Navy I was approached by an old woman with a clipboard who asked me whether or not I'd like to make a quick twenty bucks and score some free gum.

We waited in the arcade until the runner came back and took me with her into a grey room with about fifteen other people. They were already chewing gum out of newsprint-wrapped packages. I was the last one. The runner closed the door and slid me a package while the facilitator explained their company's mission statement (or more properly the mission of the company they were representing today) and our role in this process. Then she turned on the projector. For about fifteen seconds we were treated to a steel-blue packaging mock-up. I couldn't make it all out then but chiseled in the ice with "Glacier" were a variety of slogans: TASTE IT NEW FLAVOUR REFRESHING FRESH NEW LOOK LASTS LONGER RECOMMENDED BY MOST DENTAL PROFESSIONALS. I understood everything this product was saying to me, but thought maybe it was saying too much. So I said that after we finished with our initial responses and the projector was turned back on.

I am unmoved by slogans. Variety makes me try out new products. There is always one I haven't tried and when I've grown dissatisfied with the synthetic bite of one I think the other might be what I'm looking for.

"I think there are too many slogans. It's too busy."

"Interesting."

Someone else raised their hand. Later, I would think that he had dressed in a way that meant he was anticipating being in a focus group, like it gave him some purpose, like he just wanted to be part of the team, like he haunted the arcade all day waiting for clipboards and then honed in on them when he caught a brief glimpse of one.

"I don't think it's too busy. I think when you are looking at gum packaging in a broader context you have to acknowledge that there are going to be a variety of slogans on each package and an absence of slogans may imply... a deficiency in the product? I like that it tells me it's refreshing and lasts longer — that's information that as an enlightened consumer I want to know."

I hated him. Of course, the facilitator loved him and she deferred to him whenever she could. I slumped and stared back at the projector, chewing my dull wad of Glacier. I put the whole package in my mouth and spat it out dripping and heavy in one lumpy mess when we were done.

* * *

There is nothing worse than waiting the six to sixteen seconds to respawn while the game continues around you. I was an admin once, but they stripped the power from me because I get bored in those moments and start playing around with the commands. That's fine if I'm only having a bit of fun, but when I slap the turret that's been troubling me upside down and its Engineer into a Heavy's line of fire, even I know that I've crossed a line, though I can't help it. My problem is that the game is death and frustration. Perfection is nullified at every turn. That's why I hate it. But I can't stop. What do the greats play tennis for? When Federer serves to Nadal he is chasing the ace that may never come, same as when I turn my shotgun on some clueless Engineer dancing around a rapidly assembling turret.

Oh, the turret got me.

* * *

It's like the Amazon back there, so I didn't see her that first time as I swung a shelf of clothes aside looking for striped polos to take out to the floor. She gave a squeal and I caught the shelves and rolled them back open.

She had her skinny arms pushed up against the shelf I had stopped as if that would have saved her. She was panting.

"Sorry," I said. "There's usually no one else here."

She looked at me and smiled. "Thanks for not crushing me."

We had the kind of moment you can only have when you're jolted out of rote. The stock room was empty. It was just us. She was new, hired on for the holidays. I asked her what her name was. I liked the white of her eyeballs, her pale skin, her little wrists, and her hips. Amy. She was sixteen.

"Were you looking for something?"

She was.

After she left I collapsed into a shelf, sighing.

* * *

I never forgot her, but at the party that Christmas I couldn't seem to remember her name. No, of course I knew it. If I'd forgotten it had only been for a half-second. But I was drunk and really feeling it and all I could think to do was go up to her and introduce myself to her over and over.

I thought about her every night and this was the best I could do?

"Amy — Amy — Nice to meet you, Amy," I chanted, play-acting while she laughed with a beer in her hand in the subdued corner that I had found her in. Her friends, by this point, were annoyed with me. I didn't know what else to say so I went back to Jorge and asked him for more liquor. I planned on doing this all night until something clicked and one of us worked up the nerve.

Of course, the next time I visited her she was standing in intimate conversation with one of the floor guys. David. I wanted to deck him. From their vantage point, watching the two talk, her friends gave me a look that said "You should have known this was coming."

In my anger I renounced Amy entirely.

Jorge was running out of liquor but he let me have the rest and for that I thanked him by getting so drunk that all night he had to shepherd me from one room to another.

* * *

Each round lasts about twenty minutes; sometimes more, sometimes less. After about ten rounds my head starts swimming and I don't want to get up. Even after I do, in my mind I'm still executing jumps and working my way around a particularly troublesome defense. When someone addresses me — say, my mom — I blink a lot and shake my head, as if I'm asking them: "Are you for real?"

Whatever else I've got to do I do as quickly as possible.

* * *

David and Amy were not anything. But we were really done. When I passed her on the floor afterwards, I wouldn't look at her. I pretended to be real interested in my tied shoelaces, the collars of the shirts I was carrying, a wall of folded jeans, a customer. That was my punishment.

final issue

Mother nature's son

Contributing Editor WOODY HARRELSON *reflects on his life as a green activist*

I feel a great connection to the University of Toronto and it is an honor to be asked to contribute a few thoughts to The Varsity's Green Issue. There are some who might consider me a questionable choice to dispense advice but let me say in my own defense, my children have turned out amazingly well, and I take much of the credit for being a perfect example… of what not to do.

I am a sun lover. Perhaps this sentence is too mildly put. I am a sun worshipper. Maybe I should have been an Aztec. I could see making the sun my deity. So it seems odd that I would make the long trek from my home in Hawaii to court the cold of Toronto. But I love this town and I have a play that I have written with my friend Frankie to be performed at the Hart House in April. The play is called *Bullet for Adolf*. It's a comedy. But this isn't an article about the play, so I can't rationalize promoting it anymore than I already have.

Hollywood always seems to be in the business of selling and I loathe the type of actor who can't talk without promoting something. So enough about *Bullet for Adolf* (which opens April 21 and is hysterical). Directing a play is hard work. It leaves no room for leisure. I'm a good worker, a hard worker, but a world-class slacker and vacationer. Some people are born lazy and just kind of stay stuck there. I like to think I take lazy to new heights. So to compromise my leisure and the warm embrace of family and friends to suffer the cold…for a while I thought I had betrayed myself. The actors and crew are superior in ability but the weight of the production has been bearing down on me and I've been feeling the clock ticking toward the inevitable moment the fine folks of Toronto will be watching this play.

The weight of it all would have crushed a lesser man but in spite of my slouch, there is a little back bone in there, and I am bearing up. I have to admit, it's weird living alone. I can't seem to look after myself. I let the dishes stack up so high in the sink I had a genuine fear of them toppling. Still that didn't motivate me to clean them. My clothes were strewn all over the place. Bottles, various paraphernalia, food, DVDs, magazines, etc. covered the floor. I was suffocating in my own debris. You know that experience when you open your fridge and you smell something that ain't right? But you are in a hurry so you get what you need and move on. Then you come back to the fridge next day… oh it's worse. But you are in a hurry. A week goes by. The smell intensifies, rivaling your abilty to bear it. But I'm a hard case. Finally my assistant Kate took pity on me and offered to do a cleanup. I nearly wept with gratitude.

Anyway, this is the Green Issue of The Varsity and I don't want to be accused of frittering away space in this esteemed periodical on unessential issues.

When I was eleven, I saw a documentary about ants in school (I know, bear with me, a point will be made). And with that supple gift of compassion that children have, by the time that doc was done, I loved ants. Well in Houston, Texas, you've got some serious anthills. One such anthill existed on the path from the school to the bus. This ant bed went three feet up a telephone pole. It was enormous, an inspiring work of ant architecture. So it was really fun for kids to stomp on that anthill as they walked past. I had done it many times myself. When school finished on the day I fell in love with ants, I was the first kid out the door. I ran down the path and stationed myself in front of those ants. And any kid who tried to step on that ant bed, had to face me. I got into three fights that day. And every day after was the same. I had become an activist.

My next foray into eco-consciousness occurred the very next year in the seventh grade when the teacher gave students a chance to improve their grade by writing a paper, subject of their choice. The paper was to be no more than five pages. Six pages wouldn't better your standing. I chose to study the extinction of wildlife and wrote fifty pages. I was fascinated by the topic. I started thinking about the impact of man's activity on nature. I began to realize that we are in the middle of a mass extinction, and we are the cause of it.

I was joking with my friend Jessie the other day and asked her why she thought America, which never seems to weary of war, had never attacked Canada. She responded "Well you have access to all our resources, no need for war." And in that single sentence she summed up what is most wrong with my country. I like to think that people make the distinction between America the people and America the body politic. I don't want to seem unpatriotic when I talk about my country. I love my country. But I don't love my government. And let's face it, with very little exception it can be confidently stated that politicians are businessmen working for bigger businessmen. And our interest in war is not to make the world safe for Democracy but to make it safe for Capitalism. All our wars are fought for resources or strategic positioning (you notice we don't liberate Rwanda or Burma). In our present wars, our longest running wars, there was the pretence of weapons of mass destruction. For some other country to be using WMD's, well it's downright un-American.

In Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, our bombing campaign killed two and a half million people, mostly innocent civilians. Women and children constitute the majority of those killed in every war, the present ones being no exception. Our stated aim in Vietnam was to stop the spread of communism. Perhaps that is noble, though one has to scratch one's head at a form of government that considers justifiable the murder of millions of innocents in order to bring the loving light of democracy into what's left of their country and villages.

But I am going on about war when I should be talking about environmentalism.

You see, to me, the topics are inseparable. Because we are fighting those wars now for oil. If either of the recent environmental disasters – oil spill in the Gulf, nuclear reactors exploding in Japan, have taught us anything, it should be that we as a society need to release our grip on those industries that provide our energy. Or perhaps more aptly put, we need to release their stranglehold on us. Specifically oil, coal, and nukes.

As a kid I always looked forward to going to Galveston, the beach on the Gulf of Mexico. And frequently we would see hundreds of jelly fish washed up on the beach. They were there because of oil spills. As kids we just accepted that we weren't allowed to swim, that was the way it was and we had fun running up and down the beach poking the jellyfish with sticks. When I was a kid, everything was play and I didn't think about the atrociousness of the pollution caused by those oil companies. I didn't think there was any alternative. But I'm an adult now (physically anyway) and I recognize that alternatives abound and that these oil companies are raping and polluting this earth on a daily basis, while our politicians grant billions of dollars in direct subsidies and billions more in tax breaks.

In fact, these industries that treat Mother Nature as a commodity; coal, oil, timber, mining, etc. constitute what I affectionately call "The Beast." The Beast is the life-blood of our economy and is granted 600 billion dollars a year worldwide in subsidies to clear cut our forests, blow the tops off our mountains, pollute our oceans and rivers and skies and poison our food and drinking water. The Beast is the marionette behind our puppet politicians who send our young men and women off to fight for oil. Or in the case of Vietnam, where they told us it was about stopping the Red Menace, the Pentagon papers revealed great interest in rubber and tin. If we have learned anything from these recent disasters it is that we need to move toward what is sustainable.

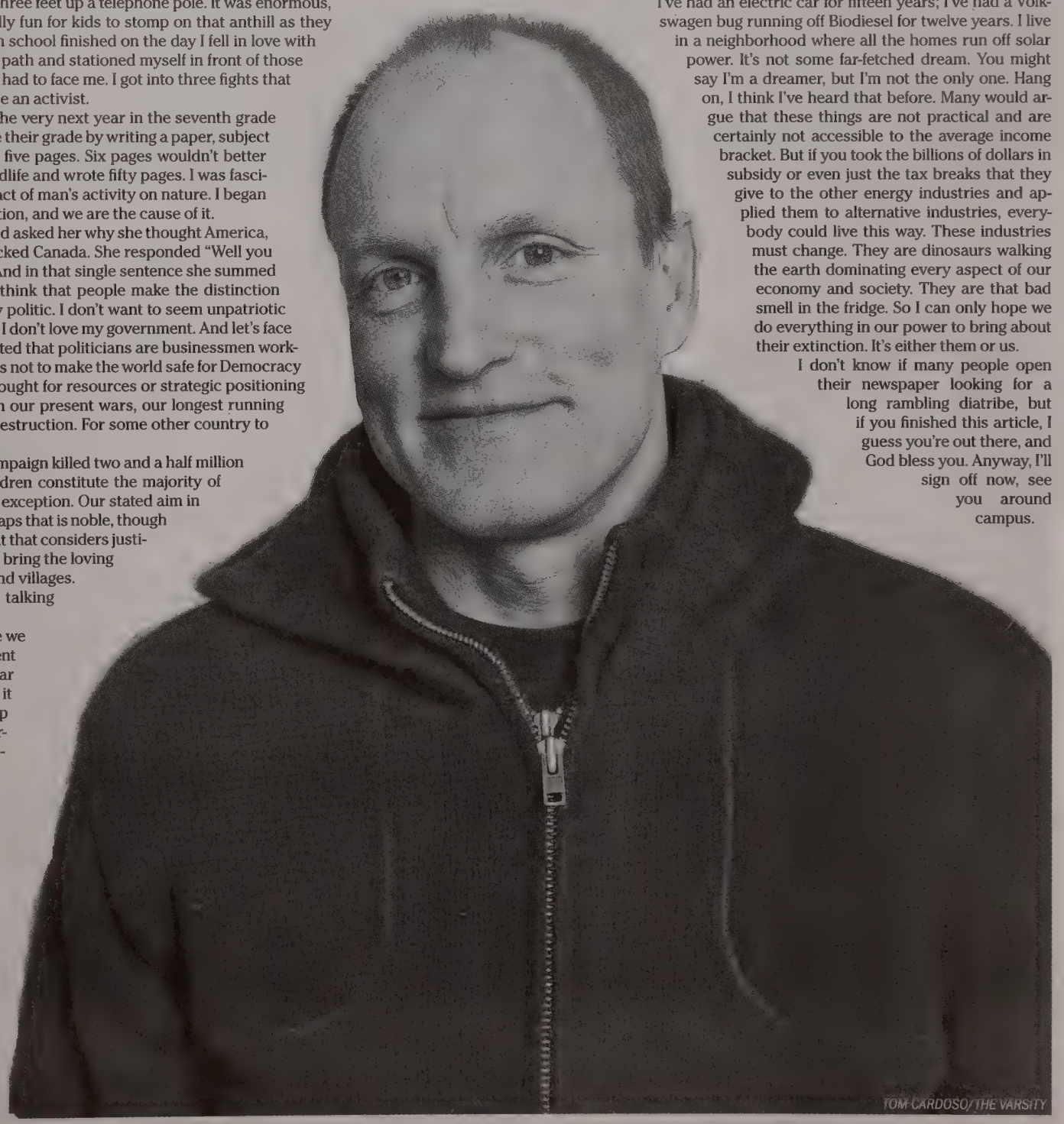
But let's bring our focus a little closer to home. In this country you could point to a number of pressing issues. The clear-cutting of beautiful BC forest, soldiers sent to fight an oil war, etc. But to me the most pressing situation is happening in Northern Alberta in a place they call the Tar Sands. This once beautiful, pristine, and majestic area has the misfortune of containing an enormous amount of oil and oil is, after all, the lifeblood of The Beast. It is now a disgusting, brutal monument to the industrial age, with smoke stacks, infrastructure, and thousands of trucks and traffic attending to the all-important business of making money. Presently it can claim the dubious distinction of being the chief supplier of oil to the US. It supplies one million barrels of oil a day. But for every barrel of oil extracted, three barrels of water are destroyed, so they are destroying three million barrels of water per day (and, by destroying I mean polluted beyond redemption.) The Tar Sands have also destroyed an area of Boreal forest the size of Greece and the plan is to expand this operation to four or five times its present size. There is a terrific documentary on this subject called Water On The Table following the efforts of Maude Barlow to stop this madness by declaring water a human right. This may seem obvious but, in a recent Free Trade agreement it was established that water is a tradable product. To quote Maude Barlow,

"There's a mighty struggle taking place in the world between those who see water as a commodity, to put on the open market like running shoes or Coca Cola and sold to the highest bidder and those, on the other hand, who say no it's a part of our common heritage, it's a public trust, it belongs to other species and it belongs to future generations as much as it belongs to this one."

Oil wars were predicted long ago. And if anything they were anticipated by the Carter Doctrine, which asserts that any interference with US oil interests in the Middle East be met with force. It is a near certainty that the most significant resource will soon be fresh water. Canada is home to three quarters of the world's fresh water supply so I can only assume that unless water becomes a human right, any resistance by Canada to US oil/water needs might one day result in our invading Canada. I say this in jest but…

I've had an electric car for fifteen years; I've had a Volkswagen bug running off Biodiesel for twelve years. I live in a neighborhood where all the homes run off solar power. It's not some far-fetched dream. You might say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. Hang on, I think I've heard that before. Many would argue that these things are not practical and are certainly not accessible to the average income bracket. But if you took the billions of dollars in subsidy or even just the tax breaks that they give to the other energy industries and applied them to alternative industries, everybody could live this way. These industries must change. They are dinosaurs walking the earth dominating every aspect of our economy and society. They are that bad smell in the fridge. So I can only hope we do everything in our power to bring about their extinction. It's either them or us.

I don't know if many people open their newspaper looking for a long rambling diatribe, but if you finished this article, I guess you're out there, and God bless you. Anyway, I'll sign off now, see you around campus.



TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

CHOMSKY'S VERSION

The MIT linguist and political writer speaks to The Varsity's

LUKE SAVAGE

illustration by
MONIKA TRAIKOV



Professor Noam Chomsky began his career in the field of linguistics, before rising to public prominence for his opposition on moral grounds to the Vietnam War. Since the 1960s he has written extensively on US foreign policy, global affairs, and the role of the media in framing public opinion. Our interview touched on recent events in the Middle East, the subject of his upcoming talk at U of T, and the class battle raging in Wisconsin.

THE VARSITY: *I thought we could start with the recent upheavals in the Middle East. Could you discuss recent events in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and elsewhere? What do you think is at the root of this regional upheaval and what are its possible implications for the region, and for the rest of the world?*

NOAM CHOMSKY: First of all it's worth bearing in mind that upheavals are really not new. It's kind of like an infectious wave, so one started then the other broke out then another one did but each one of them has origins going well back. So take Egypt, the most important country. The demonstration in Egypt — Tahrir Square, the January 25th movement — was initiated by a group of young people — tech savvy young people who call themselves the "April 6th movement". Why the April 6th movement? The reason is that on April 6th, 2008 there was a major labour action planned at the biggest industrial conglomerate in Egypt along with solidarity actions, and it was all crushed by force by the very brutal security system.

Well, we didn't hear much about that here, but it means a lot there, so that gave the name to the April 6th movement. What that reflects is that there have been substantial labour struggles, labour militancy against the dictatorship — trying to gain elementary rights and some elements of democracy. It kind of blew up on January 25th but it's been going on a long time. And the same in the other countries: if you look there's been protests, repressions, violence, torture, more protests. This wave, it actually got started in Western Sahara, but that was crushed very quickly by Morocco. Then it went to Tunisia. There, it succeeded in overthrowing the dictatorship, lit a spark, and then it spread all over the region.

And it's very important. For one thing it's, in many ways, the most dramatic [and] possibly significant democracy uprising in recent history. And it has a lot of promise, but plenty of problems. Some of the problems are internal, some are external. You can see them coinciding in the countries that the United States and the West are really concerned about: namely the ones that have oil and that have loyal dictators. If a country has plenty of oil and a loyal dictator, the West is going to back the dictator to the hilt, and that's what happened in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain — which is kind of like an offshoot of Saudi Arabia.

In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the repression was so severe that people could barely even appear for the demonstrations, and there's no criticism of that in the West because their dictators are fine. In Egypt, the US and the West followed what is, in fact, a familiar gameplan when you can't hang on to a favoured dictator. What you do is you hold on as long as possible. When it's impossible, typically when the army turns against him, which is what happened in Egypt, then [you] shelve him and try to restore as much as you can of the old order, and that's in fact what's happening in Egypt and Tunisia.

A different case is Libya — plenty of oil but not a loyal dictator, so the West would be happy to get rid of him, even though they've supported him right to the end. I mean, the US and Britain have been strongly supporting him right to the present day. I don't have time to go into the details, but they're interesting. In any event, if there's a chance to get rid of him they'd be happy to do it. So in fact, the Western powers have intervened in support of the rebellion. Of course, everything is called "humanitarian intervention"... But for example, they didn't call for a ceasefire for both sides — they called for a ceasefire for the government forces.

TV: *The primary impetus for the rebellion in Egypt — you mentioned the labour movement — but there also seems to have been a component of secular nationalism. What do you think the primary impetus for the anti-Gaddafi movement in Libya is?*

NC: Hatred of Gaddafi — he's a brutal, vicious dictator. He's been in for a long time, '69. There's been plenty of protest, mostly repressed. He has plenty of support too, you can tell that from the reports, but there's a strong popular opposition to the dictatorship, as there is throughout the entire region... Dictators are not popular. Sometimes they're powerful enough and strongly enough supported by the West so they can crush opposition — as, for example, in Saudi Arabia. And Gaddafi's done that for a long time, with plenty of Western support, incidentally. But this time, it broke through and the West would be quite happy to get rid of him. That's why the Western powers are intervening in support of the rebellion.

TV: *I'd like to turn now to the topic of your talk at U of T in April, which is entitled "The State-Corporate Complex: A Threat to Freedom and Survival." Could you talk about the "State-Corporate Complex"? How it is manifested today in the United States and elsewhere, and why is it a threat?*

NC: Well, it's been there forever. I mean the state [and the] interaction between state power and concentrations of private power goes back hundreds of years, in fact, Adam Smith talked about it. But it takes different forms at different times. And since the 1970s there has been a kind of a vicious cycle that was initiated [then]. It started with financialization of the economy and export of production that led to heavy concentration of profit in financial capital, that translated itself into political power. Political power then enhanced it by introduction of a whole range of policies, ranging from tax policies to deregulation, which further enhanced corporate power, increasingly financial power.

By now, without going through the details, the result is that in the United States, as everyone knows, there is tremendous inequality. But what is less known is that the inequality primarily comes from stratospheric concentration of wealth in a fraction of one per cent of the population. If you take that out it's unequal, but not madly unequal, and that's a result of this process.

In the meantime, for the majority of the population, incomes have pretty much stagnated, work hours have gone up, and conditions are rotten. There are repeated financial crises ever since the deregulation set in, and the big corporations are just paid off by the taxpayer [...] they're rescued. Then they're richer than ever and set up for the next crisis. That's a really severe threat. It almost crashed the economy and the next time around it'll be worse. Quite apart from the fact that it almost utterly undermines any democratic functioning of the state — and it's pretty similar in other countries — the United States happens to be extreme.

TV: *A lot of this seems to be playing out right now in Wisconsin where the Tea Party, the state government, and the unions are in a direct conflict about collective bargaining. There was a recent New Yorker article that alleged that the Tea Party movement was receiving much of its financial backing from the Koch Brothers, who are also financial backers of Governor Scott Walker. The Tea Party is often characterized as a "grassroots movement." Do you agree with that assessment, and how would you characterize the events in Wisconsin?*

NC: Well, it's true that there's a confrontation between the Tea Party and the popular movement, but that's kind of misleading. I mean, there's overwhelming support for the protesters. First of all, it's a major event... The Tea Party has never even dreamed of putting tens of thousands of people on the streets day after day, occupying the state capital... It's a major uprising. And it has plenty of support. If you look at the polls, a large majority of people in Wisconsin support the protests and are opposed to the legislation.

The Tea Party is a pretty small movement, actually. It's in a sense grassroots. It comes out of an old nativist tradition that's relatively affluent, white, anti-foreign, anti-immigrant, it's got racist elements. It's against "big government" — well, they claim to be against big government. On the other hand their hero Ronald Reagan was a great advocate of big government. So it's pretty confused intellectually, but it appeals to and grows out of a long nativist tradition.

On the other hand, it is small and relatively affluent, and it's perfectly true that it gets massive funding from the corporate sector. For them, it's their storm troops. So there's a confrontation, but it's overwhelmingly a popular uprising against the attempt to destroy the last remnants of the union movement.

TV: *In 1970 you gave a lecture called "Government in the Future" which was about the future of the liberal democratic state. Given the immense inequities in wealth and income that you've talked about in the United States, and the events that are playing out right now, what do you think the future of the liberal democratic state is? Do you think it's going to survive the next 25 or 30 years? What do you think the alternatives are?*

NC: Well, I think the answer to that question is actually being played out on the streets of Madison, Wisconsin. It depends which of these forces wins. There are pro-democratic forces which are protesting, there are anti-democratic forces which are dedicated to trying to impose a kind of a narrow corporate tyranny. And how this plays out, we'll see.

Noam Chomsky will be giving his talk "The State-Corporate Complex: A Threat to Freedom and Survival" from 1–3:30 p.m. at Hart House on Thursday, April 7. To listen to the full interview audio, visit thevarsity.ca/blogs in the coming days.

science@thevarsity.ca



COLLAGE BY ERENE STERGIOPOULOS/THE VARSITY

HEADLINES ON TRIAL: a clinical approach

In the last installment of their multi-part series, **KORDAN HARVEY** *and* **ED PARKER** *explore the annals and arguments of the clinical trial.*

If you were asked to name the defining breakthroughs of scientific history, chances are you might consider the theorems and innovations of Galileo, Einstein, or Darwin. Jenner's smallpox vaccine or Watson and Crick's double helix, perhaps. Or the apple knocking some eureka into Isaac Newton. Each one a remarkable discovery, and each one deserving our highest possible esteem.

One that might have failed to make your list, though no less deserving, is the clinical trial — the elegant concept of splitting people up into groups, giving them different treatments, and seeing how they fare.

While seemingly unremarkable, clinical trials have been a cornerstone of public health research for almost three centuries. They have taught us the virtues of countless life-saving procedures, from warding off scurvy with citrus fruits, to hand washing in the delivery room. Meanwhile, they have saved us from a multitude of misguided practices. When was the last time your doctor prescribed a rigorous course of bloodletting?

In short, this simple method may just be the greatest scientific innovation you never noticed.

The first recorded clinical trial dates back as far as the Old Testament. Shortly after conquering Jerusalem, the king of Babylon brought the Judean Daniel to his court and proposed to feed him and his compatriots on rations of meat and wine. Preferring a diet of vegetables, Daniel pleaded with the king's chief guard to reconsider:

"Submit us to this test for ten days. Give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink; then compare our looks with those of the young men who have lived on the food assigned by the king and be guided in your treatment of us by what you see." (Daniel 1:12-13)

After ten days, Daniel's men looked the healthier of the two groups, and their rations were changed accordingly. And with that, the first ever clinical trial was complete.

Nowadays, standards are a little more rigorous, so much so that anyone wishing to perform clinical research must jump through a series of methodological hoops. Trials should involve large numbers of people; participants must be randomly allocated between the real treatment and a dummy drug (or placebo); and both the patients and doctors should be unaware of which treatment is being delivered.

These meticulous steps outline the bare bones of a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled experiment — and any clinical trial worth its salt would proudly adhere to them. But why are such lengthy measures required? Couldn't we save a lot of time and energy by simply giving our chosen remedy to a handful of willing participants, then seeing how they react to it?

Unfortunately, this alternative approach fails to account for a key problem facing clinical research: humans make terrible lab rats. We just won't sit still. What's more, we are prone to weird and unpredictable reactions to even the most moderate experimental scenarios. It is this tendency that makes all of the strict precautions of a clinical trial so crucial.

Take the bizarre and baffling phenomenon of the placebo effect. As alluded to throughout this series, pills without any active ingredient can have measurable effects on a patient. But that's only the beginning.

It turns out that not all placebos are created equal. The perceived invasiveness or intensity of a dummy treatment can change the magnitude of the reported effects. For many subjective symptoms like nausea, dizziness, and pain, it turns out that two sugar pills are better than one. And an intramuscular injection with salt water is even better.

Alas, every plastic rose has a plastic thorn. For all the positive power of placebo, there is a countervailing force.

The "nocebo effect" occurs when dummy interventions cause negative reactions or side effects. In one famous study, asthma sufferers were told they were inhaling an irritant that could potentially trigger an asthma attack. Unsurprisingly, many patients reported difficulty breathing, and a few had a full attack. After a time, they were offered a treatment that would supposedly combat the irritant. Inhaling this "cure" made many of the patients feel much better. The rub? Both the irritant and the treatment were nothing but nebulized salt water.



There are many more examples. It seems that women who believe that they are more susceptible to heart attacks might actually be more likely to suffer from them. Up to four times more likely, in fact. Meanwhile, a study in 2004 looked at the role of nocebo effects in patients suffering from allergic drug reactions. Across 600 participants, 27 per cent reported symptoms of an allergic reaction even though they had only been given a dummy treatment.

The existence of these fascinating phenomena highlights just how impressionable we are to the subtle forces of suggestion and expectation. When the simple act of taking a pill is enough to provoke an array of effects and side effects — regardless of whether that pill actually contains anything — determining the efficacy of a genuine medical intervention is a formidable challenge. It is in these muddy waters that the painstaking procedures of the controlled clinical trial help distinguish the good from the bad and from the ugly.

Health claims make catchy headlines, and they are often bold in their assertions. This week's miracle cure is next week's big scare, and there are rarely column inches left over for the grey area in between.

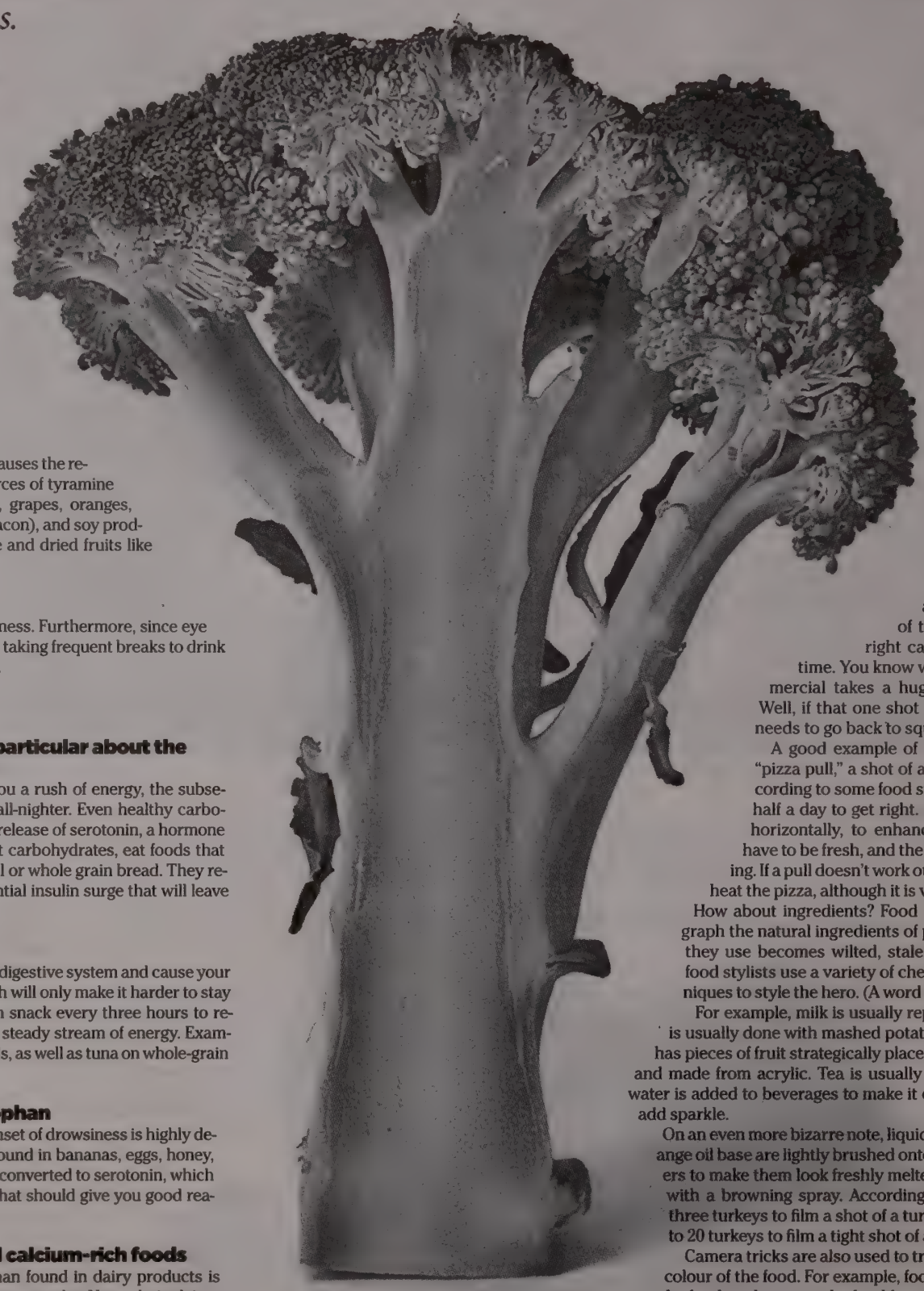
But scientific progress is a slow, arduous affair, and bona fide breakthroughs are few and far between. It requires time, and it requires patience — two qualities which newspaper editors seem to believe are in short supply in their readers. And to a certain extent, this is true. When you are sitting on the subway, skimming the Metro between stops, you hardly have time to critically analyze the validity of the latest health fad.

This superficial engagement with scientific news comes at a price. Wasting $30 on a Power Balance bracelet scarcely constitutes a public health crisis. But a generation of parents declining to vaccinate their children against life-threatening diseases is rather more troubling.

All that we ask is that the next time you cast your eye over a 10-word scientific revelation, it is with a healthy dose of skepticism.

How to eat for an all-nighter

In her last installment of culinary counseling, food goddess **MARY SCOURBOUTAKOS** *takes a look at the best and worst of crunch time munchies.*



Every once in a while, the need to stay awake all night becomes a matter of pressing importance. While the traditional habits of consuming coffee and anything to initiate a sugar high are common practice, there are certain nutritional techniques that can make those drowsy nights a little more bearable. Strategic eating can make a big difference in determining whether or not you make it through the night. Here are a few "dos" and "don'ts" to help you stay awake:

DO:

1. Consume foods that contain tyramine

Tyramine is an amino acid derivative that causes the release of adrenaline, a brain stimulant. Sources of tyramine include avocados, raspberries, eggplants, grapes, oranges, pineapple, plums, processed meats (like bacon), and soy products. It's particularly prevalent in overripe and dried fruits like prunes, figs, and raisins.

2. Drink cold water

Drinking cold beverages can prevent tiredness. Furthermore, since eye strain is a major contributor to drowsiness, taking frequent breaks to drink water can help prevent the onset of fatigue.

DON'T:

1. Don't consume sugar, and be particular about the types of carbohydrates you eat

Though the famous sugar high will give you a rush of energy, the subsequent crash could prematurely end your all-nighter. Even healthy carbohydrates like brown rice will stimulate the release of serotonin, a hormone that makes you feel sleepy. If you must eat carbohydrates, eat foods that have a low glycemic index, such as oatmeal or whole grain bread. They release glucose slowly and prevent the potential insulin surge that will leave you with little energy.

2. Do not overeat

Eating too much food will overwhelm your digestive system and cause your body to focus its energy on digestion, which will only make it harder to stay awake. It is best to consume a protein-rich snack every three hours to remain satiated, and provide yourself with a steady stream of energy. Examples include a handful of walnuts or almonds, as well as tuna on whole-grain crackers or hummus on vegetables.

3. Do not eat foods rich in tryptophan

Though the truth behind the post-turkey onset of drowsiness is highly debatable, tryptophan (which is commonly found in bananas, eggs, honey, chicken, fish, peanuts, and hazelnuts) gets converted to serotonin, which calms your mind and makes you sleepy. That should give you good reason to avoid foods high in this amino acid.

4. Do not eat dairy products and calcium-rich foods

The combination of calcium and tryptophan found in dairy products is a double-whammy when you're trying to stay awake. Not only is dairy a source of tryptophan, but the calcium within the foods also stimulates your brain to make more tryptophan. Thus, milk, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, tofu and eggs are not ideal for your all-nighter.

Food en vogue

BIANCA LEMUS LAVARREDA *explains how science makes food pretty... and inedible.*

It's a human need, you tell yourself. Why feel guilty? Just looking at those photos on glossy magazine paper makes you salivate. You want to be there. The sin! But like any attractive photo, we must ask ourselves — is it real?

Food photography is based on the principle of making food look as real as possible. It is also an art form that is contingent on the motives, budget, supplies, and the time frame involved for each shoot.

So what does it take to get appealing photos of food? The bulk of this job goes to the food stylist, who is responsible for bringing in the right tools, and seamlessly setting up the food for the food photographer.

The hardest task for the food stylist is to make the perfect "hero," the food item that will be the star of the shoot as well as the best representative of the chosen product. Getting a hero right can take many attempts and a lot of time. You know when an actor in a typical food commercial takes a huge bite of the advertised product? Well, if that one shot does not work out, the food stylist needs to go back to square one and prepare a new hero.

A good example of a time-consuming take would be a "pizza pull," a shot of a slice being taken out of the pie. According to some food stylists, a good pizza pull takes about half a day to get right. Mozzarella sticks have to be placed horizontally, to enhance the cheese pull effect, toppings have to be fresh, and the actual "pull" requires top-notch timing. If a pull doesn't work out, the stylist may even attempt to reheat the pizza, although it is very difficult to prevent overcooking.

How about ingredients? Food photographers usually can't photograph the natural ingredients of products, because the food because they use becomes wilted, stale, or discoloured. As a result, many food stylists use a variety of chemicals, brushes, or blow torch techniques to style the hero. (A word to the wise: don't eat the hero. Ever.)

For example, milk is usually replaced with heavy cream. Ice cream is usually done with mashed potatoes, while "fruity" ice cream usually has pieces of fruit strategically placed in it. Ice cubes are fake, expensive, and made from acrylic. Tea is usually a mixture of coffee and water, and water is added to beverages to make it easier for light to shine through and add sparkle.

On an even more bizarre note, liquid household cleaners with pine or orange oil base are lightly brushed onto the edges of cheese in cheeseburgers to make them look freshly melted. Turkeys and chickens are basted with a browning spray. According to Delores Cluster, it takes two to three turkeys to film a shot of a turkey being brought to a table, and up to 20 turkeys to film a tight shot of a turkey being sliced for the camera.

Camera tricks are also used to trick portion sizes and to brighten the colour of the food. For example, food stylists tend to shoot close-ups of the food, and arrange the food from the perspective of the consumer.

The Food Network has inspired millions to look before they eat. But like all things too pretty to be true, there's always a story. Thankfully, this story can end where you want it to — your tummy.

Dear science readers and writers,

Thanks for taking part in an amazing year of science! From NASA's controversial claims on extraterrestrial life, to accidental cures for baldness, and debates on the value of scientific knowledge, it's been a pretty sweet ride. We even got to run a lolcat in the last issue. Mission accomplished, I'd say.

Scientifically,

Erene Stergiopoulos
2010-2011 Science Editor

Wondering about your privacy whilst navigating the interwebs? Get a primer on Internet security in this week's online Science section! But you'll have to go on the Internet to get there. Naturally.
www.thevarsity.ca

Hearing Voices

BETINA ALONSO *explores the motives and mission of the Hearing Voices Movement, a different approach to managing auditory hallucination.*

It all began when Marius Romme, a Dutch psychiatrist at the University of Maastricht, saw a patient suffering from acute depression. The patient, Patsy Hage, reported hearing voices. However, she found that reading psychologist Julian Jaynes' book *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* helped her cope with her experiences.

In Origin, Jaynes proposed that around 3,000 years ago, the human mind existed in a non-conscious, bicameral state. This meant that information in the right hemisphere of the brain was transmitted to the left through auditory hallucinations.

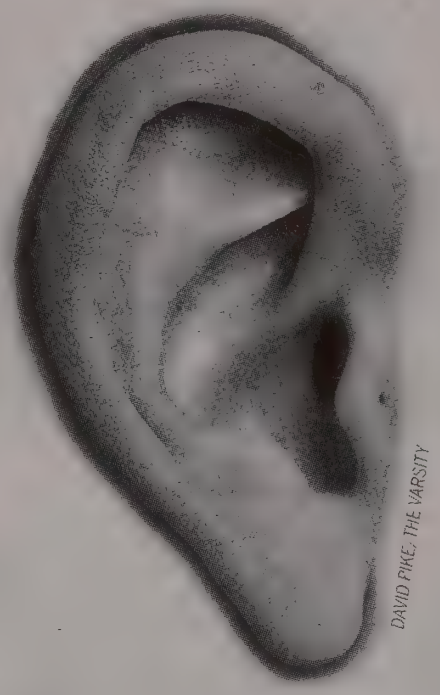
Romme advised Hage to discuss the theory with other people dealing with similar hallucinations, and arranged for her to appear on a Dutch television show. About one third of the 450 volunteers who called in to participate claimed they were able to live with their voices without causing distress in their lives. From there, Romme decided to invite 20 members of this group to speak at a conference for voice hearers, and share their knowledge about coping with their experiences.

Such was the beginning of the Hearing Voices Movement, an alternative approach to managing the hearing of voices, or auditory hallucinations, as they are known in psychiatric terminology. The ethos of the movement is to approach these voices as a normal, though unusual variation of personal experience — an acceptable quirk that can be positive or negative depending on the individual, not an experience that needs to be suppressed at all costs. Rather, it suggests in itself, hearing voices is not a sign of mental illness, even though it can often be distressing.

"It is very important to stress that in our view, voices are an aspect of human differentness, rather than a mental health problem," says Romme. "As with homosexuality, which was also regarded by psychiatry in recent times as an illness, the main issue we have to confront is the denial of the human rights to people who hear voices. And our main task is to change the way society perceives the experience."

The current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) — known to many as the bible of psychiatry — does, in a sense, affirm these ideas. Auditory hallucinations are not in themselves a disorder, but one of several symptoms that need to coexist with others in order to prompt a diagnosis of a specific disorder.

When disorders like schizophrenia, schizoaffective, or bipolar disorder (all of which can prompt psychotic episodes) are diagnosed, the treatment is often a cocktail of anti-depressants and anti-psychotics. These drugs can help improve the patient's mood, diminish anxiety, and suppress psychotic symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations.



DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Very often, however, patients don't respond positively to this treatment. About 25 to 30 per cent of those taking anti-psychotics still hear voices. Furthermore, this class of medications can often have undesirable side effects, like involuntary spasms (known as tardive dyskinesia), insulin insensitivity, sexual dysfunction, and significant weight gain. Some patients report that they become numb, and are unable to function beyond basic activity.

While patients under psychiatric care are often discouraged from talking about the content of their hallucinations, the Hearing Voices Movement argues that voices hold important connections to the hearer's experiences and emotions. Furthermore, hearers' claims about the origins or identities of the voices are never questioned.

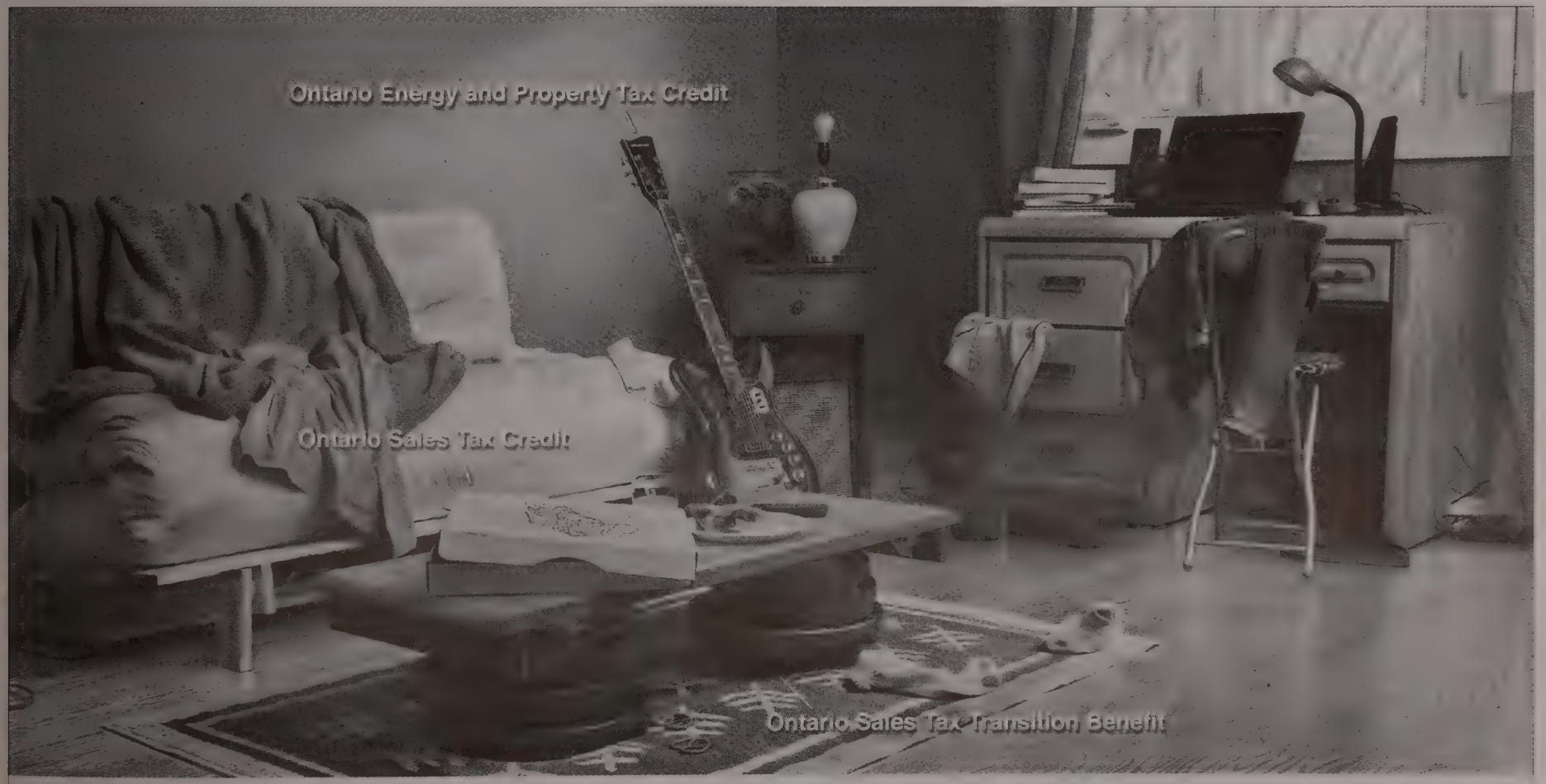
Brigitte Soucy, a representative of Le Pavois, a voice-hearing network in Québec, emphasises that "the services we offer to voice-hearers are in complementation, not opposition, to psychiatry." Soucy notes that they are particularly useful to those people whose voices resist any traditional treatment.

"It a service useful for the individual that feels lonely and isolated due to these experiences, that feels powerless facing their voice-hearing, that feels misunderstood by his or her peers, that finds these experiences detrimental to their qualify of life," states Soucy.

In fact, some research supports the effectiveness of the approach. A study published in 2004 in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* proposes that the stigma related to voice-hearing, whether experienced in everyday life or psychiatric treatment, makes the voices themselves more anguishing for patients. Another study published in 1994 contends that the effect of voices on patients is related to beliefs about their origin and intent.

According to Le Pavois, members report that they feel empowered, and in control of what they originally considered to be unavoidable symptoms. They learn how to negotiate and challenge their voices, helping to dispel negative feelings and distress.

What the Hearing Voices Movement represents is that resources for psychiatric patients and interested parties is undoubtedly growing. Considering the wealth of experiences found among them, variety can only be a good thing.



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Why going to school is bad for you

Heather Maughan
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Turns out your elementary school excuse for skipping was true. U of T's Dr. Chung-Wai Chow explains the health risks of traveling in downtown Toronto.


DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Everyone knows that feeling. After leaving a building, happy to be outside in the fresh air, your joy is suddenly thwarted by the smelly exhaust of a TTC bus driving by. You grimace and hold your breath for a few seconds before continuing on your way, trying not to think about what you just inhaled.

This goes on all over the city. With millions of cars and buses constantly spewing out toxic fumes, how do our lungs survive? How does this affect our health? And should we avoid outdoor activities like jogging and (gasp!) shopping, that expose us to diesel engine exhaust?

There are no easy answers. Scientists are only beginning to learn how our lungs deal with air pollution. It's not surprising that preliminary studies have found that pollution negatively affects our overall health, causing higher rates of cardiovascular disease and respiratory problems. But more research is needed, and Toronto is a hot spot for studies of air pollution.

One Toronto expert is Dr. Chung-Wai Chow, an assistant professor of respirology at U of T's Faculty of Medicine, and a leading researcher in the Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research, or SOCAAR. Recently, Chow gave a public lecture to describe her current research which measures environmental pollutants, where they're most abundant, and how they affect lung function. Ultimately, her research will identify the most polluted areas of the city, and identify medical treatments to counteract the negative effects of pollution.

Chow began her lecture by reviewing the well-established effects of air pollution on health. For example, people who live in more polluted areas of Los Angeles are more likely to have a faster progression of heart disease than those that live in less polluted areas. Lower levels of air pollution are associated with increased life expectancy in many cities throughout the world. What's more, the number of immune cells present in the lungs is higher in people living closer to roads, indicating that their immune systems are trying to fight off the harmful pollution.

Taken together, these and other observations indicate that air pollution is likely to affect our health in ways that are harmful enough to be detected. But should we all run screaming for the countryside? Not necessarily. Rural areas are not without their own potent sources of air pollution. Small engines on tractors and chainsaws, as well as the beloved Zamboni, all offer a powerful punch of air pollution.

Although it isn't entirely clear how these pollutants affect our lungs, or whether our lungs are able to recover, it is known that pollution increases the amount of inflammation in them. This inflammation is harmful because it causes damage to the lung tissue, ultimately reducing lung function. Such inflammation is even worse for people with pre-existing lung problems such as asthma or cystic fibrosis. ,

Chow is currently researching the inflammation issue further, using mouse models in her work in order to determine exactly how lungs are most affected by pollutants, and to identify drug targets to reduce inflammation in the lungs. Her laboratory is making great progress, having already identified syk, a protein whose presence is associated with higher levels of lung inflammation. The goal now is to identify chemical inhibitors of syk to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution-induced lung inflammation. Eventually these mouse studies will pave the way for the development of human treatments. But what can we do to protect ourselves in the meantime?

Although air pollution is a health concern, it is important to keep several things in mind. Pollutant levels change over time, even within the same day. Typically, these levels correlate with the amount of diesel fuel being used in the area.

Chow discussed recent research by the SOCAAR group that measured pollutant levels at varying distances from major roads. They found that pollution levels were higher downwind of major roads when compared to the same distance upwind. Similarly, air pollution near highway 404 was highest near the road, and tapered off about 200 meters away.

People on TTC buses and subway platforms have higher pollution exposures than those who are on subway cars or are walking. Areas that have a constantly high level of traffic are unlikely to see much fluctuation, whereas areas that have fluctuations in traffic levels would also have fluctuations in pollutant levels.

Despite these findings, Chow stressed that the health costs of air pollution are unlikely to outweigh the obvious health benefits of being active outside. So don't be scared to cycle around Toronto, go jogging outside on a nice day, or bask in the sun on a patio!

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CHAMPIONS!



The Varsity reflects on U of T's CIS and OUA banner-winning teams

JAMIE MACDONALD/VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE

Alyssa O'Neill, Angela Jennings, Justine Branco, Heather Haughn, Kaelan Watson, Emily Roy, Kelsey Lutik, Siobhan Gordon, Hannah Tighe, Lauren Mansfield, Katherine Mcnair, Alex Thicke, Frankie Vandrejs, Gabriella Perinelli, Yvanna Langen, Alexandra Evanyshyn, Natalie Provenzano, Britt Sax, Jessica Aun, Samantha Lyon, and Kathryn Williams.



COURTESY OF GUELPH ATHLETICS

Taylor Bond, Zack Chetrat, Frank Despond, David Dorian, Luke Hall, Steven Hibberd, Jeremie Holdom, Emil Horvath, Steven Kalaba, Andrew Kennedy, Peter Kruzyk, James Le, Troy MacDonald, Joel Rombough, Curtis Samuel, Mike Smerek, George Soules, Zach Summerhayes, Andy Townsend, Pavel Tselichtchev, Marty Tzolov, and Eric Vanderbeek.



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MICHAEL P. HALL/VARSITY BLUES MEDIA CENTRE

Russell Moore, John Smits, Brian Mittag, Neil D'Silva, Darr[illegible] Nobes, Yuriy Cioli, Yannis Gianniotis, Ryan Sciacchitano, Nordo Gooden, Mario Kovacevic, Alexander Rachael, Michael Brathwaite, Nicolas Girard, Scott Nesbitt, Geoffrey Borgmann, Dylan Bams, Federico Vaccaro, Ezequiel Lubocki, Ryan Tawil, Jesse Assing, Jean Giroux, and Lawrence Buchan.

Pay to play?

ARIEL GARNEAU *sits down with U of T's Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport, Beth Ali, to get to the bottom of the rumored Varsity Blues Pay-to-Play policy.*

Lately, I'd been hearing some pretty crazy stories about Varsity Blues athletes paying what I thought were exorbitant amounts of money for pretty basic items like T-shirts and shorts. I began to wonder if coaches had opted for player fees rather than going with the Adopt-a-Blue campaign.

I went to U of T's Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport, Beth Ali, to figure out what's really going on.

The Varsity: *What's the difference between Adopt-a-Blue and the Pay-to-Play policy?*

Beth Ali: The Adopt-a-Blue program is when varsity athletes participate in fundraising for their teams, based on a pre-determined percentage of the team's total goal, by asking parents, friends, employers etc to make a donation in support of their team. However, teams can also choose to supplement their programs by having athletes pay an amount to the RSP that is not a donation. In most cases this is to cover a clothing package, personal equipment but sometimes it would pay for an additional exhibition event that could not be covered by IC or the RSP. As far as I know, we do not have a Pay-to-Play policy. There are times when teams may set a fee, paid to the RSP that is not a donation, to cover non competition clothing or personal equipment not covered by the IC budget such as shin guards or mouth guards, but I would not categorize this as Pay-to-Play.

TV: *That makes things clearer. Which teams have an Adopt-a-Blue campaign?*

BA: Badminton, field hockey, football, men's hockey, water polo, Nordic Ski, [and] women's soccer and have been quite successful in fundraising for their programs.

TV: *Are there implications of the Adopt-a-Blue program on selection criteria for rosters? What if an Athlete cannot make the target or is in financial need?*

BA: There are no implications. If an athlete does not meet the target for adopt a blue or cannot pay for clothing or personal equipment then the coach and the team will find another way to make up the difference.

TV: *In that vein, is there financial aid is available to students who might find themselves in that situation?*

BA: Yes, we offer work study and athletic scholarships for those who qualify. However, with Adopt-a-Blue we find that many athletes exceed their targeted amount because their network produces excessive donations, so in most cases the overall team goal is still met. In such cases where this does not happen, the coach would need to add an additional fund raising event or look for ways to reduce program costs to cover the difference.

TV: *So in actuality, no teams have a Pay-to-Play policy.*

BA: As I mentioned, all teams are offered the option of doing Adopt-a-Blue to enhance their budgets. Don't forget U of T has teams that do not compete in OUA or CIS [that are] defined as Varsity clubs. Their budgets are structured differently. The IC budget covers the honoraria for the coach so the leadership of the program is ensured, plus a stipend to assist with other costs. Athletes in these programs can do Adopt-a-Blue or they can pay club fees which will cover the cost of their programs. The Varsity club teams are mountain biking, fast pitch, and men's lacrosse. None of these sports are included in the OUA or CIS currently.

TV: *In regards to IC funding, what do other universities do?*

BA: There are huge variances with this. Some universities charge a varsity athlete fee to all their athletes. Some charge an athlete fee and then depending on where the sport fits in their sport model will determine if athletes have to pay anything further. Some do what we do.

FUN FACTS:

Who pays for the Varsity Blues?

- The intercollegiate (IC) teams are funded through two sources, the IC budget and the Restricted Spending Plan (RSP) budget.
- The IC budget is created based on the anticipated schedules for the upcoming season. The budget from the previous season is used as a reference. OUA and CIS schedules for the next fiscal year are not confirmed until April or May and the university budget process is long completed at that point . so estimates are made based on the information we have and for the most part we are in the ball park.
- Once the budget is set, if the coaches or athletes want to enhance their program beyond what the IC budget can provide, they can do so through the RSP budget.
- The revenues generated in the RSP are categorized as fundraising, alumni and friend donations, and Adopt-a-Blue programs.

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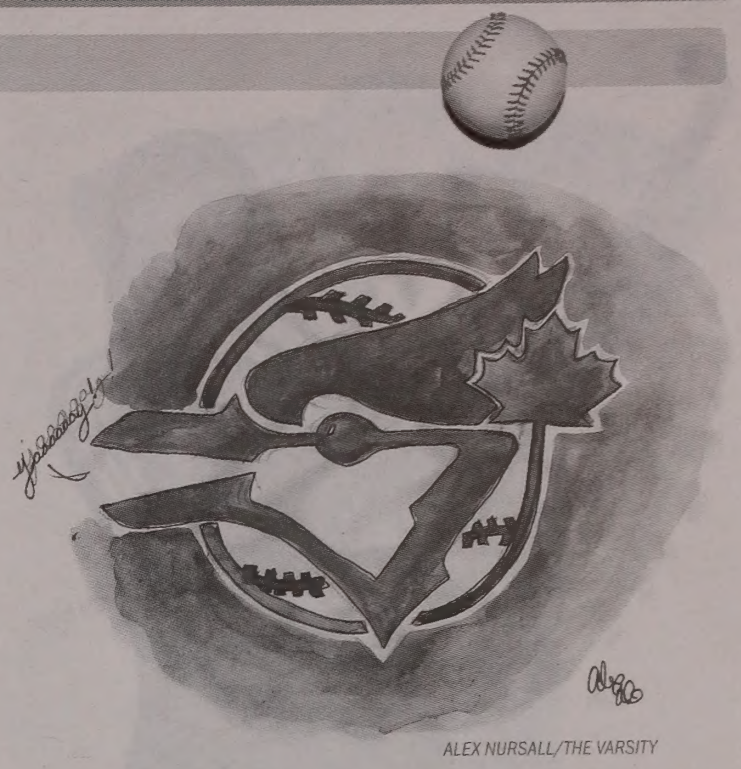
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A good sport

April Fools' Day?

The Jays' dominance on opening night was no joking matter



ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

Kevin Draper
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Minnesota Twins' pitching staff couldn't trick anyone on April Fools' Day at the Rogers Centre, where they kicked off the 2011 season.

The Jays ended the 2010 season in Minnesota beating up on the Twins' pitching staff, much the same way they kicked off 2011 on Friday night in Toronto.

The parallels to last year don't end there, though. The Jays enter 2011, much like they did 2010, with most pundits having picked them to finish the year under .500 and struggle mightily. And, as they did in the early goings of 2010, the Jays are showing every indication of making the so-called experts look silly.

It would be tough to draw up a better beginning to the 2011 season for the boys in Blue.

Staff ace Ricky Romero turned in a gem of a pitching performance and the bats showed the same power that drove the Jays to the top of the league in home runs last year.

But there was one key difference — new manager John Farrell showed a willingness to play aggressive baseball that erstwhile skipper Cito Gaston would have never dreamed of.

We got an early indication of what 2011 might hold for the Jays in the bottom of the first, when Rajai Davis led off the year for Toronto by beating out an infield hit. He then got himself caught in a run down and somehow escaped, later moving up to second on Yunel Escobar's single.

Farrell called a daring double steal of second and third base that was successful, a play so foreign to the Gaston era that anyone who watched the Jays for the past two years could be forgiven for wondering what just happened.

The Jays were off to the races from that point on, cashing in four runs in their first offensive inning of the year.

A sign of things to come? Hopefully. And not improbably, either.

The only drawback last night (other than the closed dome, which is a shortcoming Jays' fans will have to live with for the foreseeable future) was the kind folks who threw their rally towels on the field after every Jays home run delaying the game for at least five minutes at a time.

It's something of an annual embarrassment to Toronto baseball — drunk people who won't attend another game all year throw the free giveaway item onto the field, making all Toronto baseball fans look ridiculous to anyone watching on TV. It's almost enough to make a Jays' fan dread the thought of that happening a future Jays' playoff game televised across North America.

But first, the Jays have to get to the playoffs, and considering they won two out of three games in this weekend's series, that might not be impossible.

Opening night may have been on April Fools' Day, but there's no reason to think that the Jays were tricking anyone with their dominance.

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HOT JOCKS

ROBERTA BELL, MURAD HEMMADI, ELISABETH LARATTA, and DANIEL TSIOKOS take a look at some of this year's hottest Varsity Blues.

Photos by DAVID PIKE



Kaelan Watson

For field hockey player Kaelan Watson, this past year turned out far differently than anticipated. Having played well in her first two years on the team, she expected to be named captain at the beginning of this season, but according to coach John De Souza, she hadn't earned the honours yet. From then on, Watson "took more of a leadership role and realized that it wasn't [her] performance that made [her] worthy of being a captain, it was how [she] could contribute to the team."

This year, she received her first team OUA All-Star, first team CIS All-Canadian, and was named MVP of the CIS tournament.

Watson credits her accomplishments to her teammates.

"It's a team sport and I wouldn't have gotten any of these awards if I didn't have my team pushing me to be better and making me look better than I actually am," she said.

Aside from her personal accomplishments, Watson's season highlight was going undefeated in the CIS tournament.

"It was truly an experience I will never forget because we won the title as a team," she said.

Watson was selected to play on the Women's National Field Hockey Team and was supposed to move to Vancouver to play with them. Having proved herself, Watson was named captain for the upcoming season but chose to remain a Varsity Blue.

"In my mind there was almost no question of where I would rather be. The Varsity Blues are my life right now," she said.

Watson could not be happier with her decision to stay in Toronto and has been named captain for the upcoming season.

— ELIZABETH LARATTA



Drazen Glisic

Fourth-year forward Drazen Glisic was named an OUA Second Team All-Star after the Varsity Blues finished second in the OUA East division. Glisic played 20 games, with an average of 31.9 minutes per game.

According to Glisic, his "best game was probably against Laurentian in the second half," a game where he scored a career-high 22 points."

Glisic said he gets most excited in the lead up to games against the Ottawa Gee-Gees and the Carleton Ravens.

"Carleton's obviously the best team in the country," Glisic said, and considers "finishing second through the year" behind it to be an achievement.

Glisic will be returning for his fifth season as a Blue next year. He played 16 games first season on the team in 2007-08 and has played all 22 games for the last three seasons.

"I'm very excited for next season. We only lost one player, a key player, but we're looking forward to it," he said.

Ranking third on the team with an average of 13 points per game this season, Glisic's career-high 17 rebounds came against Brock on November 20 2009 and career-high five against Laurentian on February 13 2009.

— MH



Sarah Boyle

Varsity Blues high jumper Sarah Boyle earned her fourth national title in five years at this year's CIS Track and Field Championships. The Scarborough, Ontario native won her third consecutive CIS title with a jump of 1.80 m.

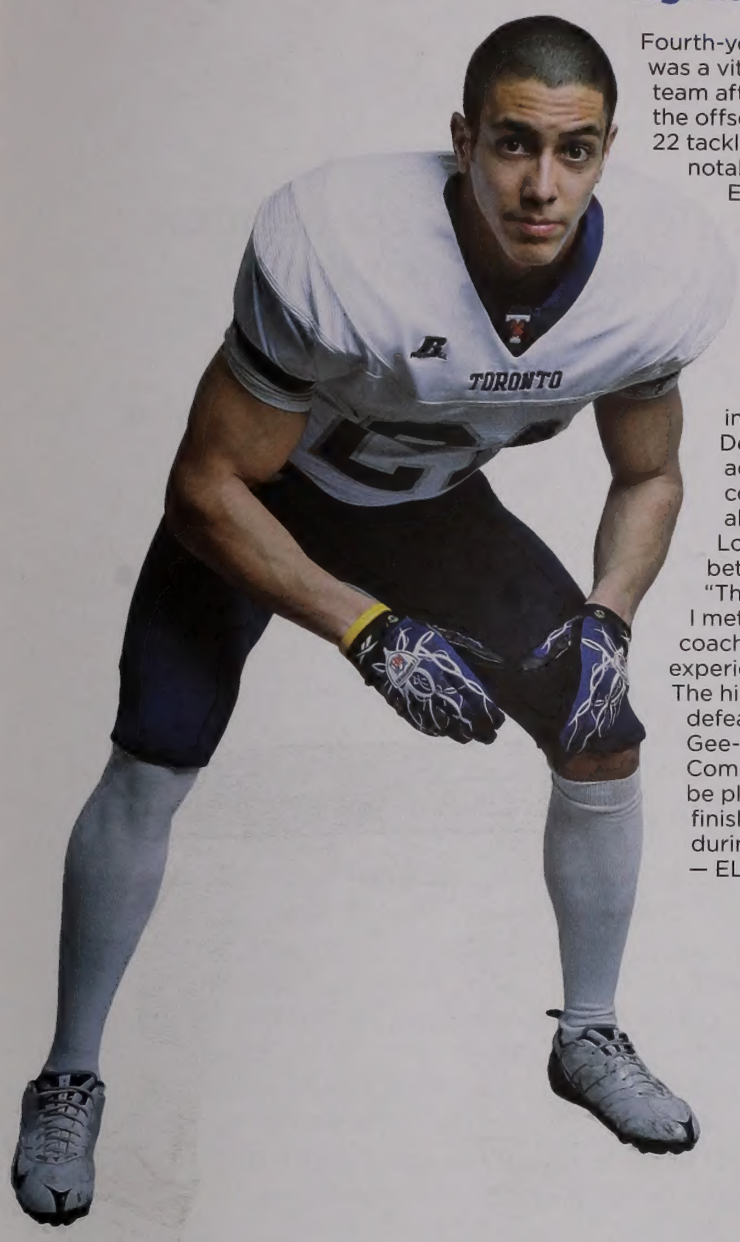
The CIS title won her a place on the all-Canadian Track and Field team.

Boyle won her third consecutive OUA title with a jump of 1.74 m. She has won the OUA title four times.

Boyle also won her second consecutive bronze medal at the Canadian Track and Field Championships, with a personal best of 1.81 m. At the Kane Invitational in Ithaca, New York in February, Boyle jumped 1.70 m and finished second.

At the 2011 Hal Brown at the University of Toronto's Athletic Centre Field House, Boyle won with a CIS-leading 1.78m jump.

— MURAD HEMMADI



Hugo Lopez

Fourth-year defensive back Hugo Lopez was a vital asset to this year's Blues football team after transferring from Waterloo in the offseason. In eight games, Lopez had 22 tackles, one interception, and most notably, was invited to the 2011 CFL Evaluation Camp in Toronto from March 4–6.

Being a tough self-critic, he expected more of himself.

"There are many things I could have improved, one of them being locating the ball in the air sooner as a defensive back, which could have resulted in more interceptions," said Lopez.

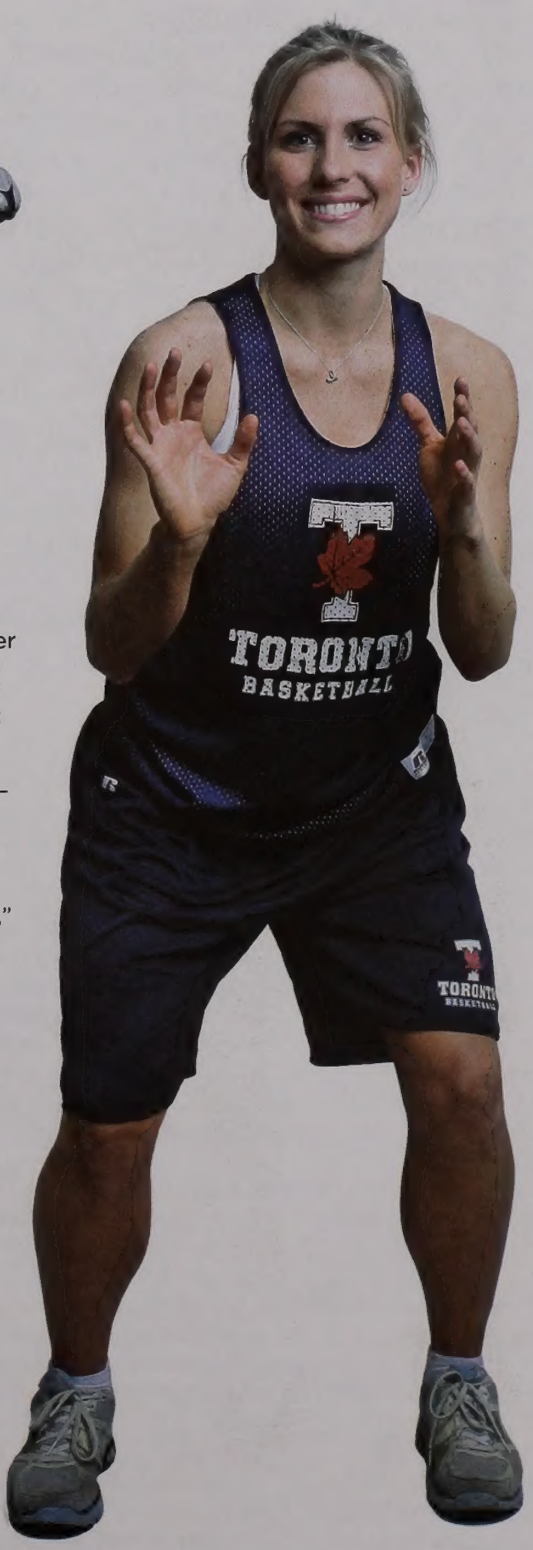
Despite finding the year academically tough, being a commuter and dual athlete (he also competes in Track and Field) Lopez's year at U of T was much better than he expected.

"The experience and the people I met along with teammates and coaches were great and made my U of T experience a memorable one," he said.

The highlight of his season came after defeating then no. 2 ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees.

Come June, Lopez will more than likely be playing for a CFL team and will be finishing his degree in the winter term during the CFL offseason.

— EL



Erin McNeely

Fifth-year guard Erin McNeely finished off her career as a Varsity Blue with a bang, tallying 13 points and seven rebounds in the 2011 CIS women's basketball consolation final against the Laurier Golden Hawks.

The Blues, who went into the competition ranked fifth in the country, ended their 2010–2011 campaign in sixth place.

McNeely attributes the Blues' successful season to their ability to work as a team.

"We all just came together and people just stepped up and did what they needed to do," McNeely said.

In her final year with the Blues, McNeely ranked third on the team in scoring with an average of 10.0 points per game. On February 12, she recorded a season-high 19 points against the Ottawa Gee-Gees to match the career-high she set when she played 39 minutes against the Laurentian Voyageurs on February 13, 2010.

"Statistically, I think I was better this year," McNeely said, but was quick to point out,"If you surround yourself with great players then they elevate you. We had a lot of really good talent."

McNeely's other career-high stats amassed in 2010–2011 season include: eight rebounds against Ottawa on January 7, six assists against the Windsor Lancers on November 27 2010, eight field goals and six three-point attempts against the York Lions on January 14, and five three throws and six free throw attempts against Laurier on November 27 2010.

— ROBERTA BELL



Alan Chung

In just his second year with the Varsity Blues, Alan Chung led the men's water polo team to a third consecutive OUA title.

It was the team's six title in the past seven years.

Chung, who scored 25 goals in just four games during the championship, was named not only a Tournament All-Star, but the Tournament MVP as well.

In the final against the Western Mustangs, Chung lifted the Blues to a 17–11 victory with six goals, including the game-winner.

Against the McMaster Marauders in the semi-final, Chung tallied seven goals, four of them in the first quarter to pave the way to a 15–5 win.

Chung also netted the game-winner in each of Toronto's tournament victories over the York Lions and the Queen's Gaels.

An OUA Second Team All-Star in 2009, Chung came into this season ranked third in the league with 31 goals in 10 games.

— RB

THANK YOU!

The Varsity masthead would like to thank the Varsity Staff and contributors for all your work this year. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Did you contribute this year and your name's not on the list? Send an email to editor@thevarsity.ca to let us know. Varsity Staff are those who have contributed six times in at least five issues.

EVENTS LISTINGS

ON CAMPUS:

ATHLETIC EVENTS:

U of T Bike Tune-Up

The spring is here! That may not be apparent as there is still snow on the ground, but we're told it's here. The U of T Varsity Mountain Bike Team is inviting you to bring your bike in for an on campus tune-up so you can start enjoying the season. You can drop off and pick up your bike on the same day.

- *April 4-8 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.*
- *Athletic Centre Lobby (55 Harbord St.)*
- *$25*

CONCERTS:

Music at Engineering

Come and hear a talented group of engineering students prove that they play more than the Lady Godiva Memorial Band repertoire. This event features The Choir, The Brass Ring, The Empirical Brass, The Iron Strings, and The Jazz Combo. A great way to unwind after final week madness!

- *April 7 at 7 p.m.*
- *Knox College Chapel (105 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

DISCUSSIONS:

Social Media for Social Causes

Join a panel of inspiring minds for a discussion on using social media to fundraise, engage and inspire action for social causes. Panelists include Avril Benoit of Doctors Without Borders Canada, Sara Falconer of WWF Canada, and James Topham of War Child Canada. Seating is limited, so it is recommended that you register beforehand.

- *April 7 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.*
- *Innis College, Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave.)*
- *Free! (register at socialmediacause.eventbrite.com)*

LECTURES:

From Freud to Prozac: American Psychiatry in the Twentieth Century

This three-day lecture series is presented by University College. The lectures examine the development of American psychiatry over the course of the twentieth century. Topics include "Psyche and Soma: Competing Responses to a Crisis in Psychiatric Legitimacy" and "Total War and the Triumph of Psychoanalysis".

- *April 11, 12, and 13 at 4:30 p.m.*
- *University College, Room 140 (15 King's College Circle)*
- *Free!*

Noam Chomsky on the State-Corporate Complex: A Threat to Freedom and Survival

The Hart House Debates Committee, Science for Peace, and Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation present this talk by academic, author and political activist Noam Chomsky. Chomsky will be introduced by Toronto Star columnist and best-selling author Linda McQuaig. A Q&A session will follow the talk.

- *April 7 at 1 p.m.*
- *Hart House, Great Hall (7 Hart House Circle)*
- *$10 with student ID*

TOURS:

Astronomy Public Tour

This tour is offered by the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at U of T. Dr. Nicholas Law will present a lecture titled "Taking the Twinkle Out of the Stars: The Rise of Telescopes with Adaptive Optics and Giant Lasers". The lecture will be followed by an observation session through the telescopes.

- *April 7 at 8:10 p.m.*
- *McLennan Physical Labs, Room 203 (60 St. George St.)*
- *Free!*

OFF CAMPUS:

SHOWS:

Paper Series

paper SERIES is a collection of six short plays that explore how we use paper to create, amuse, define and communicate. It is, at times, quiet and reflective, raucous and violent... changing tone with every fold. Written by David Yee and directed by Nina Lee Aquino.

- *On until April 9*
- *Young Centre for the Performing Arts (55 Mill St.)*
- *$10-$30 (check youngcentre.ca for details)*